



Last Update: August 3, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application

Instructions

All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current [2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#).

To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be approved by a Roundtable(s) **AND** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for Roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly according to the schedule on page 2 of this application.

If you have questions, please contact the current CWCB staff Roundtable liaison:

Arkansas

Ben Wade
ben.wade@state.co.us
303-866-3441 x3238

Gunnison | North Platte | South Platte | Yampa/White

Craig Godbout
craig.godbout@state.co.us
303-866-3441 x3210

Colorado | Metro | Rio Grande | Southwest

Megan Holcomb
megan.holcomb@state.co.us
303-866-3441 x3222

WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)

X	I acknowledge this request for funding was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring Basin Roundtable(s).
X	I acknowledge I have read and understand the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines .
X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract . ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit A	
X	Statement of Work ⁽²⁾ (Word – see Exhibit A Template)
X	Budget & Schedule ⁽²⁾ (Excel Spreadsheet – see Exhibit A Template)
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽²⁾
Exhibit C	
	Map ⁽²⁾
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support
	Certificate of Insurance ⁽³⁾ (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.)
Contracting Documents	
	Certificate of Good Standing ⁽³⁾
	W-9 ⁽³⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽³⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form ⁽³⁾

(1) Click "Grant Agreements". For reference only/do not fill out or submit/required for contracting

(2) Required with application if applicable.

(3) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.

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Schedule		
CWCB Meeting	Application Submittal Dates	Type of Request
January	December 1	Basin Account; BIP
March	February 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
May	April 1	Basin Account; BIP
July	June 1	Basin Account; BIP
September	August 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
November	October 1	Basin Account/BIP

Desired Timeline	
Desired CWCB Hearing Month:	September
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	Immediately after award and contracting is complete

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group	
Name of Water Activity	Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek	
Approving Roundtable(s)	Basin Account Request(s) ⁽¹⁾	
South Platte Basin Roundtable	\$25,000	
Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$ 25,000	
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾	\$ 25,000	
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)	\$ 50,000	
Total Project Costs	\$ 99,165.00	

(1) Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)

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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 1074, Niwot, CO 80544-0210
FEIN	20-1248361
Grantee's Organization Contact ⁽¹⁾	Jessie Olson
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	jolson@lwog.org
Phone	(303) 746-7937
Grant Management Contact ⁽²⁾	Jessie Olson
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	jolson@lwog.org
Phone	(303) 746-7937
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

(1) Person with signatory authority

(2) Person responsible for creating reimbursement invoices (Invoice for Services) and corresponding with CWCB staff.

Description of Grantee
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
<p>Since 2005, Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG), a nonprofit organization based in Boulder County, has been working to restore and protect Left Hand Creek Watershed for future generations. LWOG was founded as a watershed protection group to implement local mine clean-up activities. Since 2016, LWOG secured over ten million dollars to implement twenty flood recovery projects. These projects were designed to reduce flood risks, stabilize streambeds and banks, restore the ecological health of the watershed, and improve human health and safety. Today, LWOG strives to carry our mission under four programs: Watershed Science, Stewardship, Restoration, and Outreach and Education.</p>



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	Public (Government): municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
	Public (Districts): authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises
	Private Incorporated: mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations
	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
X	Non-governmental organizations: broadly, any organization that is not part of the government
	Covered Entity: as defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes

Type of Water Activity (check one)	
X	Study
X	Implementation

Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
X	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
X	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
X	Agricultural	
	Municipal/Industrial	
	Needs Assessment	
X	Education & Outreach	
	Other	Explain:

Location of Water Activity	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Boulder County
Latitude	40° 7' 47" N
Longitude	105° 16' 52" W

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Water Activity Overview

Please provide a summary of the proposed water activity (200 words or less). Include a description of the activity and what the WSRF funding will be used for specifically (e.g. studies, permitting, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the activity. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, area of habitat improvements. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule.

This project aims to support education, knowledge sharing, and dialogue about the context of the 28-mile-long Left Hand Creek Watershed as a “working river” in order to better understand, explain, and compare potential solutions for improving fish passage and stream connectivity by:

1. Exploring on-the-ground solutions for restoring stream connectivity in Left Hand Creek to support fish passage and appreciation of the creek while meeting the goals and needs of water owners, and engaging key stakeholders as needed; and
2. Developing an education initiative focused on educating our community about why diversions are needed and the realities and complexities of living on a working river using information learned from (1) above, input from key stakeholders, compelling illustrative educational materials, and digital and social media platforms.

CWCB funding will be used to hire a consultant team to implement a fish passage feasibility study and to support Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group staff in leading the stakeholder outreach and engagement portion of the study, as well as the education initiative. This multi-objective project will address protection/enhancement of the environment and water-based recreation through the fish passage study while also promoting education and outreach about stream connectivity through the education initiative.

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Measurable Results		
To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.		
		New Storage Created (acre-feet)
		New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
		Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
Potential to be determined by Task 1.		Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
		Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
Potential to be determined by Task 1.		Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
		Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved
X	Other	Explain: Measureable results will be cataloged by the number of realistic conceptual alternatives for fish passage implementation projects we identify. Monitoring throughout the project to quantify results will include surveys of stakeholder and community response to conceptual alternatives; development and wide distribution of educational materials measured by numbers of handouts developed and number of users reached, and surveys of stakeholder and community response to ditch tour and workshop.

Water Activity Justification
<p>Provide a description of how this water activity supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative, and the respective Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan ⁽¹⁾. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).</p> <p>For applications that include a request for funds from the Statewide Account, the proposed water activity shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan criteria for state support (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;) (Also listed pp. 4-5 in 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines).</p>



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Water Activity Justification

This project supports goals within Colorado's Water Plan, Statewide Water Supply Initiative, South Platte Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan, and South Platte Roundtable Basin Education Action Plan, related to protecting and enhancing the environment and water-based recreation and promoting education and outreach that emphasizes Water Plan priorities. Below we summarize goals achieved in each plan.

Colorado's Water Plan

1. *Section 6.2 (Measurable Outcomes for South Platte, pg. 6-50). Fully recognize the importance of, and support the development of, environmental and recreational projects and multipurpose projects that support water availability for ecologically and economically important habitats and focus areas. **Measurable outcome 2:** Protect and enhance economic values to local and statewide economies derived from environmental and recreational water uses, such as fishing... **Measurable outcome 3:** Protect, Maintain, and Improve Conditions of Streams, Lakes, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas to Promote Self-Sustaining Fisheries and Functional Riparian and Wetland Habitat...*

Our project meets these goals by leveraging our relationships with water rights owners, private landowners, and key stakeholders to fill information gaps about fish passage feasibility (and subsequently environmental and recreational benefits) on a watershed which is primarily privately owned and therefore difficult to access. See response under SPBRT for more details.

2. *Section 6.6 (pg. 6-157) Goals: "Support development of multipurpose projects and methods that benefit environmental and recreational water needs as well as water needs for communities or agriculture." "Understand, protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term sustainability and resiliency." "Maintain watershed health by protecting or restoring watersheds that could affect critical infrastructure and/or environmental and recreational areas."*

Left Hand Creek serves as the primary source of drinking water for 20,000 customers of the Left Hand Water District, as well as a source of irrigation water for farmers and ranchers. Our multipurpose project will meet this goal by exploring on-the-ground solutions for restoring stream connectivity in Left Hand Creek to support fish passage and appreciation of the creek while meeting the goals and needs of water owners.

3. *Section 7.1 (pg. 7-10) **Actions:** "Coordinate statewide watershed-coalition and partnership plans, projects, monitoring, and adaptive management strategies."*

Our project will directly contribute to these actions, by providing key information to support St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District's \$300,000 stream management planning effort Management Plan which is partially funded by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the South Platte Basin Roundtable. Lastly, our watershed coalition led approach is well aligned with this goal.



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Water Activity Justification

4. Section 9.5 (pg. 9-53) Goals: *“Colorado’s Water Plan provides technical and financial assistance for high-quality, balanced, and grassroots water education and outreach efforts that inform Coloradans about the issues so that they may engage in determining Colorado’s water future.”*

Our project will involve developing an education initiative focused on increasing the awareness of the limitations of Colorado’s water supply, and educating our community about why diversions are needed and the realities and complexities of living on a working river using information learned from exploring on-the-ground solutions for restoring stream connectivity, input from key stakeholders, compelling illustrative educational materials, and digital and social media platforms. Lastly, our watershed coalition led approach for water education and outreach is well aligned with the grassroots water education and outreach efforts described in this goal.

Statewide Water Supply Initiative

Section 8 Recommendation 1, 3, 5, 6, and 8 (pg. 8-1):

1. *“Actively encourage projects to address multiple purposes, including municipal, industrial, environmental, recreational, agricultural, risk management, and compact compliance needs.”*
2. *“Continue to lead the dialogue and foster cooperation among water interests in every basin and between basins for the purpose of implementing solutions to Colorado’s water supply challenges.”*
3. *“Support meeting Colorado’s nonconsumptive water needs by working with Colorado’s water stakeholders to help: Promote recovery and sustainability of endangered, threatened, and imperiled species in a manner that allows the state to fully use its compact and decreed entitlements; protect or enhance environmental and recreational values that benefit local and statewide economies; encourage multi-purpose projects that benefit both water users and native species; pursue projects and other strategies, including CWCB’s Instream Flow Program, that benefit consumptive water users, the riparian and aquatic environments, and stream recreation; and recognize the importance of environmental and recreational benefits derived from agricultural water use, storage reservoirs, and other consumptive water uses and water management;*
4. *“Evaluate multi-purpose projects or packages of projects to develop new water supplies for use on the West Slope and the Front Range.”*

This project will address multiple purposes via a fish passage study and education initiative including environmental, recreational, agricultural, and education needs. Through both the fish passage study and education initiative this project will foster cooperation among water owners and stakeholders about water supply challenges for fish passage and stream connectivity, leading to recommendations for solutions that will benefit environmental, recreational, and agricultural aspects of our watershed. We will assess existing conditions and explore opportunities for improvement, including which structures are impassible, which reaches have flow issues, and what types of potential design or operational changes may be possible and practical, as well as water owners’ perspectives for each potential option. This information will be used to guide our education initiative and explain the



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Water Activity Justification

realities and opportunities associated with a working river.

South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (SPBRT)

Below we specify which SPBRT goals and WSRF Funding Category (either Category 4 or 5 is noted) our project will achieve.

1. (Category 4) *S.5.5 Protect and enhance environmental and recreation attributes.*
Recommendation: Fill existing data gaps regarding protection of environmental and recreational attributes...
2. (Category 4) *1.9.7 Fully recognize the importance of, and support the development of, environmental and recreational projects and multipurpose projects that support water availability for ecologically and economically important habitats and focus areas.* **Measurable outcome 2:** Protect and enhance economic values to local and statewide economies derived from environmental and recreational water uses, such as fishing... **Measurable outcome 3:** Protect, Maintain, and Improve Conditions of Streams, Lakes, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas to Promote Self-Sustaining Fisheries and Functional Riparian and Wetland Habitat...
3. (Category 4) *4.5.2 Cooperative and Multi-Purpose Projects: There are various other types of projects that can assist in protecting or enhancing environmental and recreational attributes...*
Examples of cooperative or multi-purpose projects include: Diversion structure modification to continue operations benefiting the consumptive use, while maintaining flows or connectivity for environmental and recreational attributes near the diversion structure.
4. (Category 4) *4.6.3 Environmental and Recreational Impacts and Benefits from Multi-Purpose Project: Multipurpose projects can address consumptive and environmental and/or recreational needs ... Cooperative multi-purpose projects can help to maintain and enhance environmental and recreational attributes.*
5. (Category 4) *5.5.5 Protect and Enhance Environmental and Recreation Attribute: Environmental and recreational specific projects can be implemented to enhance and protect attributes to contribute to healthier rivers and increase economic benefits...*
6. (Category 5) *5.5.9 Facilitate effective South Platte communications and outreach programs that complement the state's overall program...* **Recommendations:** Design and implement an intensive education, participation and outreach program designed to generate a lasting baseline of public awareness and support.
7. (Category 5) *4.1.3 Suggested Activities: 2015 and Beyond. This section outlines the South Platte Basin's joint strategic communications plan.* **Key elements include:** leverage existing basin resources, complement existing state efforts, as well as develop and maintain basin specific outreach tools and approaches.
8. (Category 5) *5.5.9 Facilitate South Platte Communications and Outreach Programs...*
Implementation and success of future projects will require public support.

Our project meets these goals by (1) leveraging our relationships with water rights owners, private landowners, and key stakeholders to fill information gaps about fish passage feasibility (and subsequently environmental and recreational benefits) on a watershed which is primarily privately owned and therefore difficult to access; and (2) using an education-based approach that includes the use of compelling visuals and digital and social media to get our community excited and engaged about understanding complex water supply challenges and potential solutions. This project is multi-

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Water Activity Justification

objective because it will address protection/enhancement of the environment and water-based recreation through the fish passage study while also promoting education and outreach about stream connectivity through the education initiative. The education initiative will foster a more engaged and informed community better prepared to face the realities and embrace the opportunities involved in living, working, or recreating on a healthy working river. The fish passage feasibility study will provide information about existing conditions and explore opportunities for improvement, including which structures are impassible, which reaches have flow issues, and what types of potential design or operational changes may be possible and practical based on the needs and goals of water owners. Together, these efforts will help provide information and opportunity for collaboration to guide the future of Left Hand Creek as a healthy working river. This project will also leverage basin resources by providing key information to support St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District's \$300,000 stream management planning effort Management Plan which is partially funded by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the South Platte Basin Roundtable. Lastly, this project will build a strong foundation of support for future implementation through our engagement with water owners and education initiative. See response below (Education Action Plan) regarding approaches for building strong public support.

South Platte Basin Implementation Education Action Plan

1. *Overall goals of the Education and Outreach Committee of the South Platte Basin Roundtable include a focus on educating and engaging the public, decision-makers and elected officials on the scope and purpose of the BIP and the State Water Plan, with an overarching theme of focusing on solutions-oriented water supply planning.*

This project will help achieve this goal by use of compelling visuals and digital and social media to get our community excited and engaged about understanding the complex water supply challenges and potential solutions. Our approach of combining illustrative and visually compelling materials with relevant information sharing platforms will ensure the highest chance of success in reaching and engaging and educating diverse audiences about a complicated subject matter. In this way, the education initiative will foster a more engaged and informed community better prepared to face the realities and embrace the opportunities involved in living, working, or recreating on a healthy working river.

(1) Access Basin Implementation Plans or Education Action Plans from Basin drop down menu.



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Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests	
Basin (only) Account grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3 rd party and shall be accompanied by a letter of commitment as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines (submitted on the contributing entity's letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind)
Total Match	
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	

Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests	
Statewide Account grant requests require a 50% match as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. A minimum of 10% match shall be from Basin Account funds (cash only). A minimum of 10% match shall be provided by the applicant or 3 rd party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3 rd party) and shall be accompanied by a letter of commitment . Attach additional sheet if necessary.	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
Cash – CWCB WSRF Grant – South Platte Basin Roundtable (Approved)	\$ 25,000
Cash – Trout Unlimited - Embrace a Stream (Pending)	\$ 10,000
Cash – Healthy Rivers Grant (Pending)	\$13,000
Cash – St. Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District (Approved)	\$ 5,000
Cash – Department of Local Affairs Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBR-DR) Legacy Project (Received)	\$16,165
Cash - Landowner Donations (Received)	\$ 5,000
Total Match	\$ 74,165.00
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	

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Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

The project complements the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District's \$300,000 Stream Management Plan (funded partially by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the South Platte Basin Roundtable) by taking a focused look at on-the-ground solutions related to fish passage, as compared to the stream management plan's more encompassing, broad-scale approach. Looking at both a regional and local scale simultaneously will allow for the development of solutions that are scientifically sound and realistic.

The project builds on the impacts of Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group's current work implementing restoration and stewardship projects. Since 2015, Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group has successfully implemented 20 flood recovery projects to restore the physical components of the stream to improve habitat, water delivery reliability, and more. Ten projects are complete, and the rest are on-going. This project will build upon those efforts by assessing options to improve flow for fish. In November 2017, Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group completed a [Regional Stream Stewardship & Recovery Handbook](#) to engage our community in watershed stewardship by offering a compelling educational resource. This project will build upon that effort by extending water-based educational resources to include water supply and working-river subject matter.

This project is also well aligned with recommendations in the Left Hand Creek Master Plan and research by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The Left Hand Creek Watershed Master Plan (AMEC, 2014) identified concerns with overall ecosystem health, particularly in the Plains reaches of Left Hand Creek due in part to diversion structures that act as barriers to fish movement as well as reducing flow in Left Hand Creek. According to the CPW, Left Hand Creek and St. Vrain Creek "are two of the last refuges for a number of state threatened and endangered fish species." (Richer, Kondratieff, and Swigle, 2015). To address issues with fish passage, the Master plan identified the following two important steps: (1) work with Left Hand Ditch Company to identify potential funding sources for retrofitting the diversion structures with fish passage or replacing them altogether; and (2) identify the demand at each diversion to help determine if the structure can be replaced with a multi-purpose structure.

Additional research shows that Left Hand Creek is a good example of a Colorado Front Range creek that provided excellent habitat for fish species in its natural state, and still supports important populations of these fish. These species generally include small-bodied fish such as minnows, darters, and suckers (Myrick 2014). A part of Left Hand Creek near Longmont supported eight native fish species in 2007 (Boulder County, 2012). Among these species are probable populations of johnny darter, plains topminnow, common shiner, and stonecat (Boulder County, 2013a; 2013b). The challenges posed by diversions and by damage from the 2013 flood have resulted in reaches of Left

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Related Studies

Hand Creek being designated as one of five Priority I flood-affected northern Front Range streams for re-establishment of fish passage (Richer, Kondratieff, and Swigle, 2015). This project will address these challenges and recommendations in the Master Plan through a combination of technical study and community education.

References:

Boulder County, 2012, Lagerman-Imel-AHI Open Space Complex Management Plan, June 19, 2012. <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/lagerman-imel-ahi-management-plan.pdf>, accessed 4-23-18.

Boulder County, 2013a, Criteria for Designating Critical Wildlife Habitat (Area 14). <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/bccp-designating-critical-wildlife-habitat-20131112.pdf>, accessed 4-23-18.

Boulder County, 2013b, Critical Wildlife Habitat Descriptions. <http://www.bouldercounty.org/doc/landuse/bccp-whabitat-desc.pdf>, accessed 2013.

Dodds, W.K., Keith Dido, M.R. Whiles, K.M. Fritz, and W.J. Matthews, 2004, Life on the Edge: The Ecology of Great Plains Prairie Streams. Bioscience, Vol. 54, No. 3, March 2004, pages 205-216. <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/54/3/205/223066>, accessed 4-23-18.

Myrick, Chris, 2014, An Introduction to Colorado Front Range Fishes. Presentation given at FEMA Fish Passage Workshop, January 8, 2014, Berthoud, Colorado. <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/fishpassage/>, accessed 4-23-18.

Richer, E.E., M.C. Kondratieff, and B.D. Swigle, 2015, Post-Flood Recovery Assessment and Stream Restoration Guidelines for the Colorado Front Range. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 26 p. <https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Research/Aquatic/pdf/PostFloodAssessmentandGuidelines.pdf>, accessed 4-23-18.



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Previous CWCB Grants

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Assistance Phase II – 2013, Colorado Flood Recovery Project: Plains Reaches: N 41st Street, Haystack, N 63rd Street, N 73rd Street, and N 81st Street
CTPDAA2017-1652

CWCB awarded 12.5% of total project funding

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Assistance Phase II – 2013, Colorado Flood Recovery Project: Foothills Reaches: Upper Left Hand/Streamcrest/Ranch
CTPDAA2017-1635

CWCB awarded 12.5% of total project funding

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group

PDAA5000 grant fundraising support for watershed
POGG1 PDAA 201700000843

CWCB awarded 10% of total capacity funding

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group

Project: Building a Legacy in Left Hand Creek Watershed
CWCB January 2018 Board Meeting
Contracting is currently in progress

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group

Project: Stewardship through Community Science
CWCB May 2018 Board Meeting
POGG1,PDAA,201900000060

Tax Payer Bill of Rights

The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.

As LWOG is a non-profit organization, TABOR issues will not affect our application.

Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 18-20, 2018
Agenda Item 12(m)

Applicant & Grantee: Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group

Water Activity Name: Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek

Water Activity Purpose: Environmental/Recreational/Agricultural & Education and Outreach

County: Boulder

Drainage Basin: South Platte

Water Source: Left Hand Creek

Amount Requested: \$25,000 South Platte Basin Account
\$25,000 Statewide Account
\$50,000 Total request

Matching Funds: Applicant & 3rd Party Match (cash) = \$49,165
• 196% of the Statewide Account request (meets 10% min)
Basin Account Match = \$25,000
• 100% of the Statewide Account request (meets 10% min)
Total Match (Applicant/3rd Party & Basin Account) = \$74,165
• 296% of the Statewide Account request (meets 50% min)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the South Platte Basin Account; and \$25,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek.
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Water Activity Summary: WSRF grant funds, if approved, will assist the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group to hire a consultant team to implement a fish passage feasibility study and to support Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group staff in leading the stakeholder outreach and engagement portion of the study, as well as the education initiative. This multi-objective project will address protection/enhancement of the environment and water-based recreation through the fish passage study while also promoting education and outreach about stream connectivity through the education initiative.

This project aims to support education, knowledge sharing, and dialogue about the context of the 28-mile-long Left Hand Creek Watershed as a “working river” in order to better understand, explain, and compare potential solutions for improving fish passage and stream connectivity by:

1. Exploring on-the-ground solutions for restoring stream connectivity in Left Hand Creek to support fish passage and appreciation of the creek while meeting the goals and needs of water owners, and engaging key stakeholders as needed; and
2. Developing an education initiative focused on educating our community about why diversions are needed and the realities and complexities of living on a working river using information learned from (1) above, input from key stakeholders, compelling illustrative educational materials, and digital and social media platforms.

Discussion: This effort will assist the South Platte Basin Roundtable achieve their goals to: Protect and enhance environmental and recreational attributes (S.5.5); Fully recognize the importance of, and support the development of, environmental and recreational projects and multipurpose projects that support water availability for ecologically and economically important habitats and focus areas (1.9.7); Facilitate effective South Platte communications and outreach programs that complement the state's overall program (S.5.9) as outlined in the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, while also assisting Colorado achieve the Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation goals (Chapter 10, Section F), and Education, Outreach, and Innovation goals (Chapter 10, Section H) as highlighted in Colorado's Water Plan.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, Water Activity Eligibility, and Eligibility Based on Match Requirements.

Evaluation Criteria: This activity has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to Basin Roundtable Chair's Recommendation Letter and the WSRF Grant Application for applicant's detailed response.

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Status</u>
Trout Unlimited	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Pending
Healthy Rivers Fund Grant	\$13,000	\$0	\$13,000	Pending
St. Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	Secured
DOLA CDBG Disaster Recovery	\$16,165	\$0	\$16,165	Secured
<u>Landowner Donations</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>Secured</u>
Sub-total	\$49,165	\$0	\$49,165	
WSRF South Platte Basin Account	\$25,000	n/a	\$25,000	Secured
<u>WSRF Statewide Account</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>	
Total	\$99,165	\$0	\$99,165	

CWCB Project Manager: Craig Godbout

South Platte Basin Roundtable
Garrett Varra, Chair
July 11, 2018

Craig Godbout
Water Supply Planning Section
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: Approval Recommendation for the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant
Application: Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek**

Craig,

I am writing to recommend approval of the project, "Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek" submitted by Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group for the Water Supply Reserve Statewide Fund Grant. The South Platte Basin Roundtable recommended funding for this project at the July 10th, 2018 meeting. A quorum of members was present at the meeting. The funding request is for \$25,000 from the basin fund and \$25,000 from the statewide fund. This project is well aligned with South Platte Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado Water Plan priorities related to collaboration, multi-benefit approaches, education, and environment.

The primary goal of this project is to support education, knowledge sharing, and dialogue about the context of Left Hand Creek as a "working river" to better understand, explain, and compare potential solutions for improving fish passage and stream connectivity in Left Hand Creek Watershed. Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group aims to help make Left Hand Creek a healthier working river by: (1) completing a fish passage study that addresses the goals and needs of water owners; and (2) developing an education initiative focused on explaining why diversions are needed and the context of Left Hand Creek as working river.

This multi-beneficial approach addresses protection and enhancement of the environment through the fish passage study while also promoting education and outreach about stream connectivity through the education initiative. The results of the feasibility study, combined with a better informed constituency through the education initiative, are key for achieving the level of negotiation and compromise needed to improve health in Left Hand Creek while protecting water rights.

We feel that Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group has done a good job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table to deliver a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the South Platte Basin Roundtable.

We believe that this project should be funded, and the Roundtable looks forward to working with Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group to build resiliency into the Left Hand Creek Watershed.

Sincerely,



Garrett Varra



6800 Nimbus Road, Longmont, CO 80503
(303) 746.7937 • jolson@lwog.org

August 1, 2018

Craig Godbout
Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Craig,

The Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group is excited to submit our application for the Water Supply Reserve Fund – Statewide Account Grant. Our project, entitled “Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek,” is vital to our community as we continue to build resiliency in the Left Hand Creek Watershed for future generations.

The primary goal of this project is to support education, knowledge sharing, and dialogue about the context of Left Hand Creek as a “working river” to better understand, explain, and compare potential solutions for improving fish passage and stream connectivity in our watershed. We believe that our mission and the goals of this project are well aligned with WSRF priorities in four main respects:

- **Collaborative:** Collaboration is key to our mission and the success of this project. Therefore, the scope includes integrating water owners in the fish passage study process and key stakeholders and community members in the education initiative.
- **Addresses an identified water gap:** Our approach is well-aligned with South Platte BIP priorities in the categories of collaboration, multi-benefit approaches, education, and environmental benefits.
- **Demonstrates sustainability:** Our project integrates the human and ecological needs of our watershed by exploring ways that our working river can balance these sometimes conflicting priorities. We address protection and enhancement of the environment through the fish passage study while promoting education and outreach about stream connectivity through the education initiative.
- **Fiscally and technically feasible:** Our community has demonstrated their support of this project by providing \$51,165 in match funds. With these funds committed or in-hand, Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group is ready to hit the ground running using our cost-effective, coalition-based approach.

Thank you for considering our request and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JO", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jessie Olson

Executive Director

[Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group | LWOG](#)

303.530.4200 (office) | 303.746.7937 (cell)

jolson@lwog.org | www.lwog.org



April 24, 2018

South Platte Basin Roundtable
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Project for Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek

Dear Selection Committee,

The Left Hand Water District is pleased to write in support of the South Platte Basin Round Table Water Supply Reserve Fund application being submitted by Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG), entitled **"Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek."** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to improve watershed health and educate the public on the realities and complexities of living on a "working river."

The District has contributed substantial time and financial resources in the creation and ongoing support of LWOG. Our Board of Directors has been impressed with how Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group has brought together the appropriate stakeholders and has continually proven that they can be successful. Moving beyond the many structural projects completed to recover from our regions mining legacy, and more recently the 2013 flood, the proposed project under consideration aims to (1) identify options for restoring stream connectivity and fish passage within in recent and on-going flood recovery restoration project areas (2) develop an education initiative and materials focused on engaging and educating the community about the realities and complexities of living on a "working river" or hybrid ecosystem. While the focus of this project is on Left Hand Creek Watershed, the project has regional transferability and could be applied and modified as needed by other Colorado watersheds.

LWOG has put in the work to create a great network of community support which puts the organization in a unique position to pull together private and public property owners, local governments, and water rights holders. Through the collaborative efforts of LWOG's staff and volunteer board, we see the potential for finding successful solutions at an all-time high. We urge you to put a high priority on this funding request, and look forward to working with Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group to build resiliency into Left Hand Creek Watershed.

Sincerely,

Left Hand Water District
Christopher Smith, P.E.
General Manager

Left Hand Ditch Company

P.O. Box 229 Niwot, Co. 80544 (Office: 303-652-9965)

4/30/2018}

South Platte Basin Roundtable
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Project for Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek

Dear Selection Committee,

Left Hand Ditch Company is pleased to write in support of the South Platte Basin Round Table Water Supply Reserve Fund application being submitted by Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG), entitled "**Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek.**" Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to improve watershed health and educate the public on the realities and complexities of living on a "working river."

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group recently completed 10 flood recovery restoration projects along Left Hand Creek and have 10 more projects underway, working with over 100 private landowners. While these projects take a great step forward in restoring the physical components of the project site, flow or stream connectivity restoration has yet to be completed. The proposed project under consideration aims to (1) identify options for restoring stream connectivity and fish passage within in recent and on-going flood recovery restoration project areas (2) develop an education initiative and materials focused on engaging and educating the community about the realities and complexities of living on a "working river" or hybrid ecosystem. While the focus of this project is on Left Hand Creek Watershed, the project has regional transferability and could be applied and modified as needed by other Colorado watersheds.

We feel that LWOG has done a good job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table and developing a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the South Platte Basin Round Table and the stakeholders. By completing this project, LWOG will increase its effectiveness in improving the watershed health and contributing to implementing the water plan. Timing of this project is particularly well-suited as LWOG can take advantage of the 20 on-going project areas and engagement with over 100 private residents to complete a project that takes all points of view into consideration.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with LWOG to build resiliency into Left Hand Creek Watershed.

Sincerely,


Terry L. Plummer
Vice President of
Maintenance & Operations



ST. VRAIN AND LEFT HAND WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

9595 Nelson Road, Suite 203 • Longmont, CO 80501 • 303-772-4060 • www.svlhwcd.org

May 1, 2018

South Platte Basin Roundtable
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Project for Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek

Dear Needs Committee,

The St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (District) is pleased to write in support of the South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) Water Supply Reserve Fund application being submitted by Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG), entitled **"Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek."** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to improve watershed health and educate the public on the realities and complexities of living on a "working river".

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group recently completed 10 flood recovery restoration projects along Left Hand Creek and have 10 more projects underway, working with over 100 private landowners. While these projects are a great step forward in restoring the physical components of the project site, flow or stream connectivity restoration has yet to be completed. The proposed project under consideration aims to (1) identify options for restoring stream connectivity and fish passage within recent and on-going flood recovery restoration project areas (2) develop an education initiative and materials focused on engaging and educating the community about the realities and complexities of living on a "working river".

While the focus of this project is on Left Hand Creek Watershed, the project has regional transferability and could be applied and modified as needed by other Colorado watersheds. This project also will feed nicely into the District's Stream Management Plan, that has already been partially funded by the SPBRT.

The District believes this project aligns with the goals and values of the SPBRT Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado's Water Plan. For these reasons, the District fully supports this application and feels it should be given strong consideration for funding by the SPBRT.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean T. Cronin".

Sean T. Cronin
Executive Director



PUBLIC WORKS & NATURAL RESOURCES

(303) 651-8416 | LONGMONTCOLORADO.GOV/PWNR

April, 27 2018

South Platte Basin Roundtable
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Project for Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek

Dear Selection Committee,

The City of Longmont supports the South Platte Basin Round Table Water Supply Reserve Fund application being submitted by Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG), entitled **"Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek."** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to improve watershed health and educate the public on the realities and complexities of living on a "working river."

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group recently completed 10 flood recovery restoration projects along Left Hand Creek and have 10 more projects underway, working with over 100 private landowners. While these projects take a great step forward in restoring the physical components of the project site, flow or stream connectivity restoration has yet to be completed. The proposed project under consideration aims to (1) identify options for restoring stream connectivity and fish passage within the recent and on-going flood recovery restoration project areas (2) develop an education initiative and materials focused on engaging and educating the community about the realities and complexities of living on a "working river" or hybrid ecosystem. While the focus of this project is on the Left Hand Creek Watershed, the project can be transferable regionally and could be applied and modified as needed by other Colorado watersheds.

We feel that LWOG has done a good job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table and developing a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the South Platte Basin Round Table and the stakeholders. By completing this project, LWOG will increase its effectiveness in improving the watershed's health which will contribute to implementing the water plan. Timing of this project is particularly well-suited, as LWOG can take advantage of the 20 on-going project areas and engagement with over 100 private residents which will take all points of view into consideration.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with LWOG to build resiliency into the Left Hand Creek Watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James E. Angstadt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Angstadt" being more prominent than the middle initial "E.".

James E. Angstadt
Director of Engineering Services
City of Longmont



Transportation Department

2525 13th Street, Suite 203 • Boulder, Colorado 80304 • Tel: 303.441.3900 • Fax: 303.441.4594

April 26, 2018

South Platte Basin Roundtable
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Project for Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek

Dear Selection Committee,

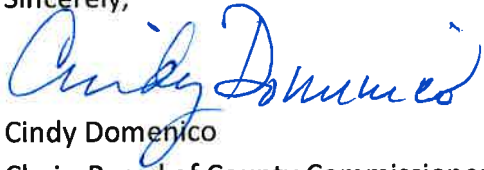
Boulder County is writing in support of the grant application being submitted by the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG) to the South Platte Basin Round Table Water Supply Reserve Fund, entitled **"Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek."** Completion of this project is important to our community as we work to improve watershed health and educate the public on the realities and complexities of living on a river with multiple uses, including ecological functions.

Since the September 2013 flood event, Boulder County and LWOG have completed several flood recovery restoration projects along Left Hand Creek. While these projects have stabilized the channel, restored the natural floodplain, and revegetated the stream corridor, comprehensive stream connectivity restoration has yet to be completed. The proposed project under consideration aims to: (1) identify options for restoring stream connectivity and fish passage within recent and on-going flood recovery restoration project areas; and (2) develop an education initiative focused on engaging and educating the community about the realities and complexities of living on a hybrid ecosystem. While the focus of this project is on Left Hand Creek Watershed, the project has regional transferability and could be applied and modified as needed by other Colorado watersheds.

LWOG has played an important role in restoring the Left Hand Creek Watershed through the flood recovery process and is prepared to continue successful project implementation of the **"Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek"** project, which is well aligned with the goals of the South Platte Basin Round Table and its stakeholders. By completing this project, LWOG will increase its effectiveness in improving the watershed health and contributing to the implementation of the state water plan.

Boulder County supports this application and encourages you to fully fund it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cindy Domenico". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cindy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Domenico".

Cindy Domenico
Chair, Board of County Commissioners



April 26, 2018

South Platte Basin Roundtable
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Project for Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek

Dear Selection Committee,

The Boulder Flycasters are pleased to write in support of the South Platte Basin Round Table Water Supply Reserve Fund application being submitted by Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG), entitled **"Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek."** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to improve watershed health and educate the public on the realities and complexities of living on a "working river."

The Boulder Flycasters are a Chapter of Trout Unlimited, North America's premier coldwater conservation group, and Colorado Trout Unlimited, a leading conservation group in our state. A 501c3 corporation, the Flycaster's mission is to conserve, protect, and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. We currently have near 1,500 members in the Boulder area and implement our mission with outreach events, youth education, and conservation projects. Boulder Flycasters have been involved in many conservation projects over the years. In the last five years we have implemented major stream and riparian habitat improvements on Middle Boulder Creek, South Boulder Creek, and Jenny Creek in the upper Boulder Creek watershed.

As a result of the devastating flood in September 2013, many streams along the Front Range sustained overwhelming damage. Left Hand Creek is one such waterway that suffered. Much has been accomplished on Left Hand Creek since the flood to restore and repair the flood's damage. Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group recently completed 10 flood recovery restoration projects along Left Hand Creek and have 10 more projects underway, working with over 100 private landowners. While these project take a great step forward in restoring the physical components of the project site, flow or stream connectivity restoration has yet to be completed. The proposed project under consideration aims to (1) identify options for restoring stream connectivity and fish passage within in recent and on-going flood recovery restoration project areas (2) develop an education initiative and materials focused on engaging and educating the community about the realities and complexities of living on a "working river" or hybrid ecosystem. While the focus of this project is on Left Hand Creek Watershed, the project has regional transferability and could be applied and modified as needed by other Colorado watersheds.



We feel that LWOG has done a good job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table and developing a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the South Platte Basin Round Table and the stakeholders. By completing this project, LWOG will increase its effectiveness in improving the watershed health and contributing to implementing the water plan. Timing of this project is particularly well-suited as LWOG can take advantage of the 20 on-going project areas and engagement with over 100 private residents to complete a project that takes all points of view into consideration.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with LWOG to build resiliency into Left Hand Creek Watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Robert McCormack", with a stylized loop at the end.

Robert McCormack
President, Boulder Flycasters
PO Box 541
Boulder, CO 80306
cell-201-213-7295
troutrobert@gmail.com
Boulderflycasters.org



Thursday, April 26, 2018

South Platte Basin Roundtable
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Project for Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek

Dear Selection Committee,

I am pleased to write in support of the South Platte Basin Round Table Water Supply Reserve Fund application being submitted by Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG), entitled **“Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek.”** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to improve watershed health and educate the public on the realities and complexities of living on a “working river.”

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group recently completed 10 flood recovery restoration projects along Left Hand Creek and have 10 more projects underway, working with over 100 private landowners. While these projects take a great step forward in restoring the physical components of the project site, flow or stream connectivity restoration has yet to be completed. The proposed project under consideration aims to (1) identify options for restoring stream connectivity and fish passage within in recent and on-going flood recovery restoration project areas, and (2) develop an education initiative and related materials focused on engaging and educating the community about the realities and complexities of living on a “working river” or hybrid ecosystem. While the focus of this project is on Left Hand Creek Watershed, the project has regional transferability and could be applied and modified as needed by other Colorado watersheds.

I feel that LWOG has done a good job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table and developing a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the South Platte Basin Round Table and the stakeholders. By completing this project, LWOG will increase its effectiveness in improving the watershed health and contributing to implementing the water plan. Timing of this project is particularly well-suited as LWOG can take advantage of the 20 on-going project areas and engagement with over 100 private residents to complete a project that takes all points of view into consideration.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project and look forward to working with LWOG to build resiliency into Left Hand Creek Watershed.

Sincerely,

Chris J. Wiorek
Resident along Left Hand Creek

April 26, 2018

South Platte Basin Roundtable
Colorado Water Conservation
Board 1313 Sherman St., Room
721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Project for Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek

Dear Selection Committee,

We are pleased to write in support of the South Platte Basin Round Table Water Supply Reserve Fund application being submitted by Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG), entitled **“Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek.”** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to improve watershed health and educate the public on the realities and complexities of living on a “working river.”

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group recently completed 10 flood recovery restoration projects along Left Hand Creek and have 10 more projects underway, working with over 100 private landowners. While these project take a great step forward in restoring the physical components of the project site, flow or stream connectivity restoration has yet to be completed. The proposed project under consideration aims to (1) identify options for restoring stream connectivity and fish passage within in recent and on-going flood recovery restoration project areas (2) develop an education initiative and materials focused on engaging and educating the community about the realities and complexities of living on a “working river” or hybrid ecosystem. While the focus of this project is on Left Hand Creek Watershed, the project has regional transferability and could be applied and modified as needed by other Colorado watersheds.

We feel that LWOG has done a good job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table and developing a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the South Platte Basin Round Table and the stakeholders. By completing this project, LWOG will increase its effectiveness in improving the watershed health and contributing to implementing the water plan. Timing of this project is particularly well-suited as LWOG can take advantage of the 20 on-going project areas and engagement with over 100 private residents to complete a project that takes all points of view into consideration.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with LWOG to build resiliency into Left Hand Creek Watershed.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Cypher, LWOG Board of Directors, Town of Ward, Colorado

April 27, 2018

South Platte Basin Roundtable

Colorado Water Conservation Board

1313 Sherman St., Room 721

Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Project for Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek

Dear Selection Committee,

I am pleased to write in support of the South Platte Basin Round Table Water Supply Reserve Fund application being submitted by Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG), entitled **“Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek.”** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to improve watershed health and educate the public on the realities and complexities of living on a “working river.” As a 35 year resident along Left Hand Creek, I have witnessed the pressure of development and the 2013 flood event has taken on the overall health of the ecosystem. An overall entire ecosystem to the management of the waterway from peak to eventually the flow into the St. Vrain creek represents the best future approach to improve the operational management of the working rivers.

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group recently completed 10 flood recovery restoration projects along Left Hand Creek and have 10 more projects underway, working with over 100 private landowners. While these project take a great step forward in restoring the physical components of the project site, flow or stream connectivity restoration has yet to be completed. The proposed project under consideration aims to (1) identify options for restoring stream connectivity and fish passage within in recent and on-going flood recovery restoration project areas (2) develop an education initiative and materials focused on engaging and educating the community about the realities and complexities of living on a “working river” or hybrid ecosystem. While the focus of this project is on Left Hand Creek Watershed, the project has regional transferability and could be applied and modified as needed by other Colorado watersheds.

I feel that LWOG has done a an excellent job for the stakeholders tin developing a proposal that could manage a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the South Platte Basin Round Table and the stakeholders. By completing this project, LWOG will increase its

effectiveness in improving the watershed health and contributing to implementing the water plan. Timing of this project is particularly well-suited as LWOG can take advantage of the 20 on-going project areas and engagement with over 100 private residents to complete a project that takes all points of view into consideration.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with LWOG to build resiliency into Left Hand Creek Watershed.

Sincerely,

Rick Kauvar

LWOG Board of Directors

Creek Resident since 1983

April 26, 2018

South Platte Basin Roundtable
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Project for Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek

Dear Selection Committee,

As a landowner along Lefthand Creek and a Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG) Board member, I am pleased to write in support of the South Platte Basin Round Table Water Supply Reserve Fund application being submitted by LWOG, entitled **“Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek.”** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to improve watershed health and educate the public on the realities and complexities of living on a “working river.”

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group recently completed 10 flood recovery restoration projects along Left Hand Creek and have 10 more projects underway, working with over 100 private landowners. While these project take a great step forward in restoring the physical components of the project site, flow or stream connectivity restoration has yet to be completed. The proposed project under consideration aims to (1) identify options for restoring stream connectivity and fish passage within in recent and on-going flood recovery restoration project areas (2) develop an education initiative and materials focused on engaging and educating the community about the realities and complexities of living on a “working river” or hybrid ecosystem. While the focus of this project is on Left Hand Creek Watershed, the project has regional transferability and could be applied and modified as needed by other Colorado watersheds.

I feel that LWOG has done an excellent job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table and developing a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the South Platte Basin Round Table and the stakeholders. By completing this project, LWOG will increase its effectiveness in improving the watershed health and contributing to implementing the water plan. Timing of this project is particularly well-suited as LWOG can take advantage of the 20 on-going project areas and engagement with over 100 private residents to complete a project that takes all points of view into consideration.

I urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Sue Schauffler