

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street Room 721
Denver, Colorado 80203
Attn: Ben Wade

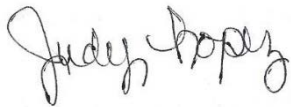
March 20, 2019

RE: CWP GRANTS – Final Report [POGG1 PDAA 2018000]
Enhancing the Colorado Water Plan through Comprehensive Education and Outreach

Dear Ben,

Attached please find our Final report for our Colorado Water Plan Grant - Enhancing the Colorado Water Plan through Comprehensive Education and Outreach. It has been such a positive time here in the Rio Grande Basin, we have folks from all sectors engaged and learning about Colorado's water.

My Best,



Judy Lopez

CWP GRANTS - POGG1 PDAA 2018000

Enhancing the Colorado Water Plan through Comprehensive Education and Outreach

Final Report

The Rio Grande Basin Grant Participants have focused their energy in 5 areas of Education and Outreach. They are Water Education and Engagement, Watershed to Cup Teacher Workshop Series, Intern Placement, Water Leaders, and Basin Project Tours and Seminars. Here is our progress to date;

Water Education and Outreach to Youth: There were three components to this program, to date we have completed two of them. The Envirothon competition finished up on May 7, 2018. Our funds helped train 35 youth in four areas- Aquatics, Wildlife, Soils and a Current Resource Concern. These 35 young people spent time training both in the classroom and in the field. We sent 5 teams of 4 to the state competition where they captured 2nd, 4th and 7th place respectively. The 2nd week of June we held our Youth conservation camp, we had 56 youth attended the 4-day camp where they spent their time learning critical team building skills and exploring Natural Resources. The Camp was held at Beaver Creek Camp in South Fork Colorado. RGWCEI finished their final strand of youth classroom engagement. This strand included trips with the river trailer, our annual pumpkin patch and our macro-invertebrate river health trips.

Watershed to Cup Teacher Workshop : The workshop was held June 4 through June 8, 2018. We had 28 teachers from across the state attend. Every Teacher received 3 graduate credits from Adams State University, as well as over \$400 dollars of Classroom ready curriculum. The teachers spent the 4 days learning about water and watersheds and the critical role that they play in agriculture, rural and urban communities, wildlife and our growing population. Teachers developed lesson plans that get students outside and were ready to be used in their classroom. One particular lesson, One such lesson titled “Tragedy of the Commons” (attached) helped illustrate why Colorado faces a “Gap” in the water that is needed and the water that is available.

Intern Program has placed 12 Interns into Internships that give them skills and experience in working with Natural Resources in a variety of ways. Interns worked in GIS mapping, developing study plots, data analysis and more areas that have brought them deeper understanding of Colorado’s water resources. The Interns will finish up in September.

Water Leaders: The program is currently was completed during the week of March 4 through 8 2019. The week long class had 24 attendees who were in traduced to a variety of subjects and water leaders. The class culminated in celebration dinner and had Fred Bunch of the Great Sand Dunes National Park. The attendees received a certificate of completion for all courses.

Tours: The purpose of the tours is to deepen the understanding of attendees about Colorado's water resource and to show how each basin has used WSRF funds to meet both their Basin Implementation and State Water Plan. To date we have held 1 tour to *the Upper Arkansas Basin* and have the rest scheduled. The Upper Arkansas tour was held on July 26, 2018. There were 18 folks that attended the day long event. On the tour the group learned about how the Arkansas is working to develop water augmentation and storage using the Alluvial fans that skirt the areas mountains near Trout Creek. We also looked at their timed releases to benefit the areas rafting industry and how this collaboration has scored a win-win for the participants. Finally, we headed to Leadville to see how the conservancy is maintaining the areas drinking water supply. We partnered with the Arkansas Basin PEPO team to make this trip happen.

We will be holding our first of two Rio Grande Basin Tours on August 14, 2018. The tour has 40 folks signed up to join the tour. This tour will focus on the Conejos System and how these irrigators have used their awarded basin funds to meet the Rio Grande Compact, build a winter flow program, improve irrigation efficiency and improve storage facilities.

We will be doing a second out of Basin tour was done in collaboration with the Denver Basin and Platte Roundtables. The tour was held on September 27, 2018 and looked at how large municipalities work to provide water to growing urban populations. This included a tour of the Wise Project. The Rio Grande Basin M&I tour was a panel discussion looking at the needs of M&I providers in the San Luis Valley was held in October and looked at the SLV's minimal M&I water demands. The water demand are a small portion of water use here in the SLV, yet the need to upgrade infrastructure is heavy on the minds of city/town administrators who have great monetary need with small rural population make improvement a real challenge. The Upper Rio Grande Basin Tour which will be held on November 2, 2018. The trip looked at the Conejos Water Conservancy Districts water improvements for irrigators and talked about how these improved efficiencies. The trip also went to Platoro reservoir and looked at the challenges faced by the reservoir. The final stop was to the pinnacles and walked participants through the stream management plan process and the winter flow program with Trout Unlimited. The final trip was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts, so we brought in a speaker to the roundtable for to discuss the Aspinall project.



Envirothon
Participants
working on
Forestry Skills.



Youth Camp Kids
in action
working on
Forestry Skills.
And preparing for
a stream activity.



Envirothon Students
participate in an
aquatics study.



PEPO Upper Arkansas PEPO Team explain the alluvial storage project.





Rio Grande Basin Tour





Denver M&I Water Tour

Water Leaders





Teacher Workshop

2019 Rio Grande Water Leaders Course – DRAFT AGENDA

Goal: *To provide the opportunity for community members to engage in education and networking to prepare them to take a future role in safeguarding, developing and managing the water resources of the San Luis Valley.*

Dates: March 4 - March 8, 2019

Location: 8805 Independence Way
Alamosa, CO 81101

Curriculum

Day 1: Monday March 4, 2019

6:00-6:10pm: Welcome, Why We're Here, About the Cooperators
Cleave Simpson, Heather Dutton, Bethany Howell, and Emma Reesor
6:10-7:10pm: San Luis Valley Hydrology
Heather Dutton and Nathan Coombs
7:10-7:30pm: Break
7:30-9:00pm: Water Rights Development, Water Administration, and the Rio Grande Compact
Kip Canty, Deb Sarason, and/or David Hofmann, Colorado Division of Water Resources

Day 2: Tuesday March 5, 2019

6:00-7:00pm: RGWCD: Subdistricts and Closed Basin Project
Cleave Simpson
7:00-7:30pm: Water Supply Forecasting and Radar
Nathan Coombs
7:30-7:45pm: Break
7:45-8:30pm: Conejos River System – History, Compact, and Projects
Nathan Coombs
8:30-9:00pm: Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Interbasin Compact Committee,
Nathan, Heather, and Cleave

Day 3: Wednesday March 6, 2019

6:00-7:20pm: Water Law, Court History and Process, and Critical Cases in the San Luis Valley
Bill Paddock
7:20-7:40pm: Break
7:40-9:00pm: Future Legal Considerations and Why Your Involvement is Critical
David Robbins

Day 4: Thursday March 7, 2019

6:00-6:30pm: Winter Flow Program
Kevin Terry
6:30-7:10pm: RGWCD: SLV Habitat Conservation Plan, RGNA
Cleave Simpson
7:10-7:30pm: Conservation in the San Luis Valley and Beyond
Judy Lopez and Allen Law
7:30-7:45pm: Break
7:45-8:05pm: Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative
Bethany Howell
8:05-9:00pm: Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project
Emma Reesor
8:35-9:00pm: SLVWCD
Heather Dutton

Day 5: Friday March 8, 2019 -- Graduation Celebration at the Bistro Rialto

5:30-6:00pm: Cash bar at the Woody's Q Shack at the Golf Course
6:00-7:00pm: Water and the Great Sand Dunes National Park - Fred Bunch
7:00pm: Graduation Celebration Dinner