

Last Update: August 3, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application

Instructions		
<p>All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If you have questions, please contact the current CWCB staff Roundtable liaison:</p>		
<p>Arkansas</p> <p>Ben Wade ben.wade@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3238</p>	<p>Gunnison North Platte South Platte Yampa/White</p> <p>Craig Godbout craig.godbout@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3210</p>	<p>Colorado Metro Rio Grande Southwest</p> <p>Megan Holcomb megan.holcomb@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3222</p>

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
	Letters of Support
X	Certificate of Insurance ⁽³⁾ (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.)
Contracting Documents	
X	Certificate of Good Standing ⁽³⁾
X	W-9 ⁽³⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽³⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
X	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.

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

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:	March
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	August 1

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative	
Name of Water Activity	Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Community Education Staff Liaison	
Approving Roundtable(s)	Basin Account Request(s) ⁽¹⁾	
Rio Grande	\$133,500	
Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$133,500.00	
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾	\$	
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)	\$133,500	
Total Project Costs	\$183,900	

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

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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 142 Monte Vista, CO 81144
FEIN	27-1157593
Grantee's Organization Contact ⁽¹⁾	Bethany Howell
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	rgwcei@gmail.com
Phone	719.480.4864
Grant Management Contact ⁽²⁾	<u>Bethany Howell</u>
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	rgwcei@gmail.com
Phone	719.480.4864
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>The Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative (RGWCEI) strives to provide understanding of natural resource stewardship through dynamic conservation education to community members in the San Luis Valley. We achieve this through connections and collaborations with a variety of partners including land management agencies and other NGO's. Our nonprofit began as an educational partner with the San Luis Valley conservation districts and has since become a leading educational resource for teachers, students, and other community members in the San Luis Valley, particularly regarding topics important to agriculture and the wider water community. RGWCEI recognizes that when people understand and are connected to issues surrounding water and other natural resources, they become engaged, informed, and invested community members.</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)	
	Study
X	Implementation

Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
	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/Counties	Alamosa, Mineral, Rio Grande, Costilla, Conejos, & Saguache
Latitude	
Longitude	

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Water Activity Overview
<p>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.</p>
<p>This project enables the public education, participation, and outreach (PEPO) arm of the Rio Grande Roundtable to increase time and effort on projects beneficial to the Rio Grande Basin by using partner and WSRF funds to provide administrative support in the form of a full-time Roundtable staff liaison. These projects will include assisting with Basin Implementation Plan updates alongside the Local Expert and the state contractor, implementing the newly drafted Statewide Water Education Action Plan, and spearheading the projected Water 2022 campaign. As mandated by the Colorado Water Plan, PEPO activities are vital to facilitating community understanding of and engagement with water use, particularly within the Rio Grande Basin. This community engagement is even more important as our Basin assesses and implements the Basin Plan updates as well as the other statewide water education initiatives which will entail a great amount of effort and planning. The Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative is asking the Roundtable for funding for a 3 year cycle of interrelated communication, media, and event strategies on behalf of the Roundtable and other water district partners. The purpose of these strategies is to provide high quality Roundtable projects that raise awareness, provide education, and promote engagement with water issues affecting the Rio Grande Basin and the state of Colorado. The strategies are reflective of the needs of the Roundtable for increasing interaction with the community on a long-term basis. All the strategies have multiple purposes and will include collaborations and partnerships to achieve success.</p>

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)
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved

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X	Other	Explain: Number of events planned and managed, number of newsletters created, number of media engagement pieces, number of print materials produced, time of the staff liaison in participating at the state level.
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Water Activity Justification

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).

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](#)).

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RGWCEI's proposed community education staff liaison position is in direct alignment with Section 9.5 of the Colorado Water Plan whose goal states that it "provide technical & financial assistance for high quality, balanced, & grassroots water education and outreach efforts that inform Coloradans about the issues so that they may engage in determining Colorado's water future." The CWP also advises in their action plan for section 9.5 that funds "prioritize projects that align with CWP goals & assist Roundtables with public education efforts." Since RGWCEI is already deeply involved in educational efforts at the K-12 level and their staff is also the PEPO liaison for the Rio Grande Roundtable, the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable will maximize its ability to effectively and efficiently involve community members across the Basin with water issues identified as major priorities within the Basin Implementation Plan. Section 7.3 of the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan also specifically addresses long-range outreach strategies as necessary for all demographics of water users, including public officials, communities, and other stakeholders. These strategies were intended to further the purposes of the RGBRT, IBCC, and CWCB and include multiple opportunities for forums as well as the use of an active educational liaison to participate in CWCB activities.

Additionally, section 10.2 H of the CWP highlights that these public engagement efforts should "significantly improve the level of public awareness by 2020" and that Coloradoans should be engaged on key water challenges by 2030, with work that is "...collaborative and include[s] state, local, and federal partners." These timelines underscore the need for long-term, strategic education and outreach goals which are best accomplished by utilizing existing communications and public relations skills in a position dedicated to promoting Roundtable projects and events as well as other water district activities which align with Roundtable priorities. These will include engaging a diverse array of water users from agricultural, municipal, environmental, and recreational areas, all of which are represented within the Rio Grande Basin, but which are not necessarily connected with its mission or the broader goals and mission of the Colorado Water Plan. As the Colorado Water Plan, the CWCB, and other statewide water agencies emphasize the necessity of implementing targeted water education to a variety of stakeholders, the Roundtables are tasked with disseminating that information to their regional communities. The time and effort necessary to create a quality, long-term educational and outreach framework for the Basin is difficult to execute with only volunteers. The use of a multi-year position dedicated to the implementation of outreach & engagement strategies outlined in these multiple state plans will effectively support these efforts and increase the ability of the Roundtable to sustainably meet these goals into 2023. A position dedicated to working with the Roundtable as well as other water districts will complement current PEPO outreach activities, create a long-term strategic framework for future communications and outreach projects, and ensure that this information is timely, accurate, engaging, and relevant to this diverse audience.

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

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)
CWCB PEPO Basin Budget Allocation	\$19,500
RGWCEI	\$12,000 hard cash

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Rio Grande Watershed Association of Conservation Districts	\$4,500 hard cash
Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Partners	\$14,400 in kind
Total Match	\$50,400
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 3rd party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3rd 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):
Total Match	\$
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	

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.

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The activity is complementary to the implementation of the CWCB's Public Education & Public Outreach program, assists in the implementation of the updated Basin Implementation Plan, assists in the implementation of the Statewide Water Education Action Plan as mandated by the Colorado Water Plan and which is a response to the Colorado Water Plan's Outreach & Engagement stated goals, and anticipates being complementary to the implementation of the upcoming Water 2022 campaign. These educational campaigns will depend on regional efforts to promote and assist with community engagement to integrate actions & objectives.

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

- 1) Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative
- 2) 2018-2021 Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Media & Communications Outreach Grant
- 3) Rio Grande Basin Roundtable
- 4) January 27, 2018 Board Meeting
- 5) POGG1/CTGG1 2018-737
- 6) 3%

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.

NA

**Water Supply Reserve Fund
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 11-12, 2020
Agenda Item 23(n)**

Applicant & Grantee: Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative
Water Activity Name: Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Community Education Liaison
Water Activity Purpose: Education/Implementation
County: Alamosa, Mineral, Rio Grande, Costilla, Conejos & Saguache
Drainage Basin: Rio Grande
Water Source: n/a
Amount Requested: \$133,500 Rio Grande Basin Account
Matching Funds: Applicant Match = \$50,400
• 38% of Basin Account request (meets 25% min)

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$133,500 from the Rio Grande Basin Account to help fund the project: Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Community Education Liaison.

Water Activity Summary: WSRF Funds, if approved will assist the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative (RGWCEI), the public outreach arm of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, to increase time and effort on projects beneficial to the Rio Grande Basin by using partner and WSRF funds to provide administrative support in the form of a full-time Roundtable staff liaison. These projects will include assisting with Basin Implementation Plan updates alongside the Local Expert and the state contractor, implementing the newly drafted Statewide Water Education Action Plan, and spearheading the projected Water 2022 campaign. As mandated by the Colorado Water Plan, PEPO activities are vital to facilitating community understanding of and engagement with water use, particularly within the Rio Grande Basin. This community engagement is even more important as our Basin assesses and implements the Basin Implementation Plan updates as well as the other statewide water education initiatives which will entail a great amount of effort and planning. The Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative is asking the Roundtable for funding for a 3 year cycle of interrelated communication, media, and event strategies on behalf of the Roundtable and other water district partners. The purpose of these strategies is to provide high quality Roundtable projects that raise awareness, provide education, and promote engagement with water issues affecting the Rio Grande Basin and the state of Colorado. The strategies are reflective of the needs of the Roundtable for increasing interaction with the community on a long-term basis. All the strategies have multiple purposes and will include collaborations and partnerships to achieve success.

Discussion: This effort will assist the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable achieve the goals of: Operate, maintain, rehabilitate, and create necessary infrastructure to meet the Basin's long-term water needs, including storage; Support the development of projects and methods that have multiple benefits for agricultural, municipal and industrial, and environmental and recreational water needs; and Establish a

long-term education and outreach effort for water use and needs in the San Luis Valley/Rio Grande Basin as called for in the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan.

Issues/Additional Needs: Prior to entering into a grant contract with the state, the applicant must submit all letters of matching commitment, otherwise there are no additional issues or needs.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components.

Evaluation Criteria: Staff has determined this activity satisfies the Evaluation Criteria.

Funding Sources/Match	Cash	In-kind	Total	Status
RGWCEI	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000	Secured
CWCB PEPO Basin Allocation	\$19,500	\$0	\$19,500	Pending
Rio Grande Watershed Association of Cons Districts	\$4,500	\$0	\$4,500	Pending
Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Partners	\$0	\$14,400	\$14,400	Pending
Sub-total	\$36,000	\$14,400	\$50,400	
WSRF Rio Grande Basin Account	\$133,500	\$0	\$133,500	Secured
Total Project Costs	\$169,500	\$14,400	\$183,900	

CWCB Project Manager: Craig Godbout



623 4th Street
Alamosa, CO 81101

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

February 26, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, we would like to express our support for the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative's grant application of the project "Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Community Education Staff Liaison."

We believe this project will enhance the mission and goals of the Rio Grande Basin's implementation plan and the goals and mission of the Colorado Water Plan, specifically in regard to Outreach and Education.

The Roundtable supports the proposed use of Basin funds in the amount of \$133,500 in order to accomplish this project's tasks and objectives and has satisfied its members as to the relevance and need for this particular project in the Rio Grande watershed. This project was approved during the January 14, 2020 Roundtable meeting and as there was no opposition during the vote, the majority present approved.

Thank you for your support of Rio Grande Basin projects and for your dedication to safeguarding and administering Colorado's water resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nathan Coombs".

Nathan Coombs
Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Chairman