

WSRF Grant Final Report – Purgatoire Watershed Partnership

Grant: Water Supply Reserve Fund

Project: Purgatoire Watershed Organizational Capacity Building

Order Number: POGG1, PDAA, 201900002101

Line Item: #1, G1000, PDAA 2500 WSRF TRINIDAD RIV WALK IMPROVE IN ARK RIV BASIN

Project Overview (from Project Scope of Work)

OBJECTIVES

1. Build organizational capacity for PWP by hiring a full-time coordinator

TASKS

TASK 1 – Building Purgatoire Watershed Partnership Organizational Capacity

The grant funds will be used to supplement the pay for the Purgatoire Watershed Partnership coordinator. The primary duties of the Watershed Coordinator will include the management of the Trinidad River Walk project and building of organizational capacity for PWP.

Method/Procedure:

1. PWP coordinator will oversee a steering committee comprised of local stakeholders. The steering committee will meet on a regular basis (monthly/bi-monthly) where they will discuss ongoing project developments.
2. PWP coordinator will be the local contact for the consultants who will conduct the scientific analysis of the river.
3. PWP coordinator will identify grant opportunities and write grants to raise funds for project development.
4. PWP coordinator will work with the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative and Purgatoire Watershed Partnership to improve organizational governance and strategy
5. PWP coordinator will organize education and outreach events as necessary to connect the local community with PWP mission and projects.

DELIVERABLES

1. Effective support for the Working Group together with timely and accurate financial operations and reports under the grant.
2. Hiring of a full-time coordinator for PWP.

Summary of Achievement of Project Tasks and Deliverables

TASKS

TASK 1 – Building Purgatoire Watershed Partnership Organizational Capacity

With the funding provided through this grant, the Purgatoire Watershed Partnership - through the efforts of the newly hired full-time coordinator (Julie Knudson) as well as the guidance and direction of the Purgatoire Watershed Partnership Board Members and COCO/ARWC staff – has been able to significantly build up its organizational capacity and provide management for the Trinidad Riverwalk Project, and accomplish all of the objectives and deliverables laid out in the grant Scope of Work associated with these efforts.

Specifically, we have accomplished the following:

Method/Procedure:

1. PWP coordinator will oversee a steering committee comprised of local stakeholders. The steering committee will meet on a regular basis (monthly/bi-monthly) where they will discuss ongoing project developments.
 - Accomplishments: The coordinator has added multiple new members to the steering committee of local stakeholders, and continues to engage with local watershed stakeholders to encourage involvement. Current project developments and updates from stakeholders are discussed at monthly meetings (meetings have now temporarily shifted to monthly conference calls as per COVID-19 restrictions), and we have diversified our discussions to include more aspects of river health and function. The increased diversity in membership and topics of discussion is providing all participants with a broader perspective and education, and we predict that we will continue to see broader representation and increased education and understanding as we move forward.
2. PWP coordinator will be the local contact for the consultants who will conduct the scientific analysis of the river.
 - Accomplishments: The coordinator has served as the local contact and worked closely with consultants conducting scientific analysis of the river. The coordinator ensured that consultants had access to and were connected with all local entities relevant to their work, and provided field assistance and assisted with information gathering as needed to support the consultants work. Recent accomplishments include the finalization of a scientific assessment of the river, with the final report soon to be distributed to stakeholders for discussion and development of next steps.
3. PWP coordinator will identify grant opportunities and write grants to raise funds for project development.
 - Accomplishments: The new coordinator has worked to build local and relevant regional relationships with new partners to develop grant applications in support of key project work along the river and in the watershed. Since her hiring, the new coordinator's work together with multiple partners has resulted in 5 new local grant awards supporting PWP work (Trinidad Community Foundation [2 grants], Bar NI grant, USFS grants supporting PWP monitoring work [2 grants]), plus 2 grant awards from in-state organizations (GOCO, CWCB), and 3 grant awards/funded support from multi-state/regional/national organizations (River Network, Forever Our Rivers, and Wild & Scenic Film).

4. PWP coordinator will work with the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative and Purgatoire Watershed Partnership to improve organizational governance and strategy
 - Accomplishments: Over the course of this grant, the coordinator has significantly improved organizational governance and strategy with the support of the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative in the following ways:
 - The PWP added new Board Members and has diversified the makeup of its Board
 - The PWP secured a bookkeeper that significantly updated bookkeeping strategies for the organization and developed a more efficient bookkeeping system for the organization
 - The PWP filed to change their tax year to a calendar year with the IRS, streamlining funding tracking and reporting efforts.
 - The PWP applied for and received its state Charitable Organization status
 - The PWP secured a new accountant to assist in tax filings and provide relevant consultation as needed
 - The PWP attended a Legal Review Workshop provided by the Colorado Nonprofit Association, in order to conduct a review of the organizations legal documents and ensure that things were/are in order.
 - The PWP is currently finalizing a Strategic Plan, that will provide critical guidance for the organization
 - The PWP has significantly organized and thoughtfully expanded its programming, as a result of significant input from stakeholders and planning with Board Members, as well as the securing of significant new funding (described above) to support these expanded efforts.
 - The PWP is currently finalizing the development of a brand-new website that will serve as a much-improved outreach and engagement tool for the organization, and includes explanation of programming and increased opportunities for
 - The PWP has significantly expanded the number of partners it is working with in the watershed as well as regionally, and continues to work to improve current and new partner relationships.
 - The PWP has been working hard to build new and better relationships and partnerships in the agricultural community in order to develop a better understanding of agricultural issues in the watershed and to work towards more joint projects where together we are collaboratively benefitting both agriculture and riparian health more so than if we were all working separately.
 - The PWP provided multiple public presentations over the course of this grant in order to raise awareness of the organization's work across multiple water user groups/stakeholder groups as well as to develop new relationships
 - The PWP has attended, over the course of this grant, a host of local key meetings and conferences as well as regional educational events to ensure that it stays up-to-date and connected with current issues, as well as to develop new relationships
 - The PWP continues to work hard to ensure all day to day administrative organization operations run smoothly and stay on track, including activities such as funder report writing and invoicing, bill paying, and preparing for and holding Board Meetings.
5. PWP coordinator will organize education and outreach events as necessary to connect the local community with PWP mission and projects.

- Accomplishments: Over the course of the grant, the coordinator organized a host of education and outreach events and opportunities to connect the local community with PWP mission and projects. Specifically, the coordinator:
 - Developed and released multiple Press Releases to the local media sharing PWP accomplishments and discussing upcoming projects
 - Wrote multiple articles for the local newspaper sharing PWP accomplishments and working to engage local stakeholders in PWP projects
 - Worked to keep the local community up to date through organizational Facebook posts (as Facebook is an important communication tool in the Purgatoire River watershed) as well as PWP newsletters
 - Conducted multiple presentations at conferences and workshops locally, regionally, and nationally to a diverse array of stakeholder groups
 - Spearheaded and implemented a local conference and multiple local educational workshops
 - Conducted/participated in a host of local youth education events in support of PWP's mission and projects
 - Has significantly increased organization membership numbers
 - Continue to attend key local monthly meetings to engage with current and new partners and share and get feedback on PWP's ongoing projects and accomplishments

DELIVERABLES

1. Effective support for the Working Group together with timely and accurate financial operations and reports under the grant.
 - Accomplishments: Over the course of the grant, the coordinator consistently provided support for the Working Group, as well as managing the organizations financial operations and conducting reporting efforts.
2. Hiring of a full-time coordinator for PWP.
 - Accomplishments: A full-time coordinator was hired for the organization.