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| Colorado Water Conservation Board |
| Water Plan Grant Application |

| Instructions | | |
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| <p>To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as “project”) funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.</p> <p>If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Water Storage Projects Conservation, Land Use Planning Engagement & Innovation Activities Agricultural Projects Environmental & Recreation Projects </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Matthew.Stearns@state.co.us Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us Ben.Wade@state.co.us Alexander.Funk@state.co.us Chris.Sturm@state.co.us </td> </tr> </table> <p>FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials in one email to <u>waterplan.grants@state.co.us</u> in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents. In the subject line, please include the funding category and name of the project.</p> | Water Storage Projects Conservation, Land Use Planning Engagement & Innovation Activities Agricultural Projects Environmental & Recreation Projects | Matthew.Stearns@state.co.us Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us Ben.Wade@state.co.us Alexander.Funk@state.co.us Chris.Sturm@state.co.us |
| Water Storage Projects Conservation, Land Use Planning Engagement & Innovation Activities Agricultural Projects Environmental & Recreation Projects | Matthew.Stearns@state.co.us Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us Ben.Wade@state.co.us Alexander.Funk@state.co.us Chris.Sturm@state.co.us | |

| Water Project Summary | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Name of Applicant | Boulder County |
| Name of Water Project | Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide |
| CWP Grant Request Amount | \$61,500.00 |
| Other Funding Sources _____ | \$ |
| Other Funding Sources _____ | \$ |
| Other Funding Sources _____ | \$ |
| Applicant Funding Contribution | \$61,698.30 |
| Total Project Cost | \$123,198.30 |



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| Applicant & Grantee Information | |
|--|---|
| Name of Grantee(s): | Boulder County |
| Mailing Address: | P.O. Box 471, Boulder, CO 80306 |
| FEIN: | 84-6000748 |
| Organization Contact: | Susie Strife |
| Position/Title: | Department Head – Office of Sustainability, Climate Action & Resilience (OSCAR) |
| Email: | sstrife@bouldercounty.org |
| Phone: | 303-441-4565 |
| Grant Management Contact: | Hannah Hippely |
| Position/Title: | Long Range Planning Manager |
| Email: | hhippely@bouldercounty.org |
| Phone: | 720.564.2298 |
| Name of Applicant (if different than grantee) | |
| Mailing Address | |
| Position/Title | |
| Email | |
| Phone | |
| Description of Grantee/Applicant | |
| <i>Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).</i> | |
| <p>Boulder County has over 2,000 employees serving the needs of approximately 327,000 residents. Boulder County's 740 square miles includes diverse natural landscapes and smart-growth development along the Front Range. The county has a long held a commitment to being stewards of the land, environment, and community. Staff involved in the county's One Water Advisory Group would play an active role in fulfilling the commitments of the proposed project, including in the Community Planning and Permitting, Parks and Open Space and Public Health Departments and the Office of Sustainability, Climate Action and Resiliency.</p> | |



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| Type of Eligible Entity (check one) | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| X | 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: Private parties may be eligible for funding. |
| | Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature. |
| | Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes . |

| Type of Water Project (check all that apply) | |
|--|---|
| X | Study |
| | Construction |
| | Identified Projects and Processes (IPP) |
| X | Other – Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide |

| Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks) | |
|--|---|
| | Water Storage - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i> |
| | Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i> |
| | Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i> |
| | Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i> |
| X | Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i> All Exhibit A tasks (1-6) together promote watershed health and environmental health, and in turn support recreation. |
| | Other Explain: |

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| Location of Water Project | |
|---|----------------|
| Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable. | |
| County/Countries | Boulder County |
| Latitude | 40.08409° N |
| Longitude | -105.29769° W |

| Water Project Overview |
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| <p>Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. 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, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.</p> <p>The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.</p> |
| <p>Boulder County seeks to promote healthy watersheds and safe, sustainable water resources that can be resilient under changing population, land use, disruptions such as wildfires and changing climate conditions. The proposed project's goals are to: 1) promote healthy watersheds by improving shared knowledge and coordination across watershed stakeholders, and 2) inform future local planning efforts related to watershed health through the use of the best available science, policy, and planning information.</p> <p>This work will assemble available information from ongoing efforts that are working to define the meaning of healthy watersheds within Boulder County, and identify opportunities for partnerships amongst stakeholders to use this foundational work to most effectively protect and enhance the environment, recreation, agriculture, and human health of the Boulder County region.</p> <p>The proposed project will take the science produced by existing local efforts as well as relevant regional policy and planning information and lay the foundation for integrating it at a practical level into local governments' land use planning tools and activities. The project will also help strengthen linkages between local government planning, programming, and resource allocation. Finally, this project will serve as a model for other counties in Colorado facing similar watershed management and planning challenges.</p> |

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| Measurable Results | |
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| To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable: | |
| | 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) |
| | Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms |
| | Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning |
| | Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity |
| 740 square miles | <p>Other</p> <p>Explain: The project will provide watershed health and environmental and recreation benefits for Boulder County (740 mi²). Given the nature of this planning guide it does not define explicit restored areas, but instead will be used as a toolkit for Boulder County and other municipalities (Boulder, Nederland, Lyons, etc.) to characterize watershed health, identify areas of concern, and encourage collaborative engagement to integrate watershed health into local planning. This plan helps to standardize a collaborative vision for healthy watersheds in Boulder County.</p> |

| Water Project Justification |
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| <p><i>Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative, and the applicable Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan. 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).</i></p> <p><i>The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;)</i></p> <p>Many innovative watershed health efforts have occurred in recent years and are underway in Boulder County's watersheds. Examples include the ongoing work of the multi-jurisdictional Keep it Clean Partnership; the stream management plan by the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District; efforts of individual watershed coalitions and conservation groups; and a basin-wide effort currently underway by the Left Hand Watershed Center to gather existing data, establish indicators for watershed health and expand their adaptive management program to the St. Vrain Basin. These efforts represent important progress toward understanding the County's watershed health needs, but they currently lack a strong linkage back to local government planning, programming, resource allocation and management actions. Such a linkage is needed to codify best practices and more effectively support healthy watersheds into the future. In order to ensure that the Colorado Water Plan goals are effectively translated into concrete local government actions within Boulder County, a clearer vision is needed for the division of roles among local governments, local watershed groups and other</p> |

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stakeholders, along with a stronger functional relationship among these stakeholders. The proposed project meets these needs identified by Boulder County and its partners, and it supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative, the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, and the Statewide Water Education Action Plan, as described here.

Colorado's Water Plan

Colorado's Water Plan (CWP)¹ identifies the State's core water values, which include a healthy and thriving economy with sustainable cities, agriculture, and recreation, efficient water use, and a healthy environment that values watersheds, streams, and wildlife (CWP p. 1-6). This project addresses several of these values both directly and indirectly. The project directly supports maintaining a healthy environment and watersheds that will provide future recreational and other benefits. This also aligns with the land and water stewardship of the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) 2019-2023 Strategic Priorities, where the County has prioritized protecting natural areas, contributing to recreation, and preserving agricultural lands (Boulder County BOCC Strategic Priorities, 2018).²

Section 6.6 of the Water Plan states that a goal of the environmental and recreational projects is to "maintain watershed health by protecting or restoring watersheds that could affect critical infrastructure and/or environmental and recreational areas" (CWP p. 6-157). This project will support that goal by convening stakeholders to characterize what watershed health means within Boulder County, and then working to identify policies, regulations and practices to promote healthy watersheds, identifying vulnerable watershed areas, and clarifying roles and responsibilities among stakeholders to help integrate watershed health into local government planning in Boulder County. These project outcomes are also in alignment with actions from Section 6.6 of the CWP, 1. Technical Work and 3. Common Metrics (CWP p. 6-178).

This project will assist with meeting CWP's Watershed Health and Management Goal (Section 7.1) which state that the plan "...promotes watershed health and supports the development of watershed coalitions and watershed master plans that address the needs of a diverse set of local stakeholders" (CWP p. 7-3). Boulder County is home to many active participants in its watersheds. During the development of this project concept, we engaged with all municipalities within the County and received letters of support from stakeholders, including the City of Boulder, Town of Nederland, Town of Lyons, and Town of Superior, as well as watershed coalitions like Left Hand Watershed Center, and Fourmile Watershed Coalition. Boulder County is continually working with stakeholders, and we anticipate participation in the project by those who have not submitted letters of support to ensure their talking points are recognized. Those stakeholders would provide the voices and input that would shape the outcomes of this project, as the project would include stakeholder partners from its inception, and stakeholders wishing to play a more central role in the project would work alongside the County staff and hold decision making authority on key project decisions and direction.

Also in support of the Watershed Health and Management Goal (Section 7.1), the project would help develop the capacity and effectiveness of watershed coalitions and address the needs of local stakeholders by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the many players active in protecting Boulder County's watersheds. This will enable the groups to work more effectively and efficiently in synch with local government planning, and to have a clearer sense of the local stakeholders' collaborative relationship and collective purpose.

The project will also support water quality considerations as a part of watershed health, in alignment with Section 7.3 of the CWP which "promotes waters that fully support their classified uses by 2050 through strategies designed to meet Colorado's current and future consumptive, recreational, and

¹ Colorado's Water Plan: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cowaterplan/plan>

² Boulder County Board of County Commissioners Strategic Priorities (2019-2023): <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/commissioners-strategic-priorities-2019.pdf>

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environmental water needs” (CWP p. 7-17). Local governments and stakeholders in Boulder County have already been working toward improved water quality, especially by way of the efforts of the Keep it Clean Partnership, and several member communities within the Partnership wrote a letter of support for the proposed project. This project will build on that collaborative effort and include water quality as a part of this watershed health project.

Section 9.4 of the Water Plan outlines the framework for supporting a water project, and “State Support for Projects Aligned with Colorado’s Water Values” (CWP p. 9-43 to 9-44). Here we identify how this project aligns with those values.

- **Committed to Collaboration:** The project is committed to a collaborative framework, where stakeholder engagement is built into every aspect of the project and stakeholder meetings guide the outcomes of the project tasks. Along with this application we provide letters of support from local governments and watershed groups within Boulder County. These letters demonstrate that this project is founded on stakeholder collaboration, and that key stakeholders are interested in strengthening and enhancing working relationships through this project. We have also engaged with the South Platte Basin Roundtable to solicit their support for the project; as described below, the project is in alignment with the South Platte Basin Roundtable’s Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and we believe the project would serve as a model for other watersheds in the South Platte Basin. In addition, the project can serve as a roadmap that local governments operating in other watersheds can follow to translate watershed health ideas into action, and the work resulting from this project may help inform other Colorado counties on how they can pursue their own Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide or similar Water Plan effort.³
- **Addresses an Identified Water Gap:** Section 4 of the South Platte BIP (SP BIP, described further below) discusses projects and methods to support the South Platte Basin Roundtable. Watershed programs (Section 4.2) are identified as an important element to protecting watershed health and water quality in the South Platte Basin, especially for upper watersheds such as Boulder Creek and the St. Vrain (SP BIP p. 4-8). Although this project is not a master plan (Section 4.5.2.6, p. 4-43), it is a toolkit and planning guide within collaborative basin watershed health (Section 4.2.2, p. 4-11). By convening multiple stakeholder groups, the project will help to translate watershed health science into policy and planning action for agencies within Boulder County.
- **Demonstrates Sustainability:** The project demonstrates sustainability by partnering with the local government(s) in Boulder County to incorporate best watershed management practices into land use planning efforts to ensure future development aligns with those best practices. Task 5 of the project seeks to translate healthy watershed characteristics into action by outlining policy, regulation, and best practices which will provide local governments with an easy reference for their own implementation actions. The project’s robust stakeholder group will include multiple local governments (County of Boulder, City of Boulder, Town of Nederland, Town of Lyons, Town of Superior), as well as support from local watershed groups, as described previously. As a part of this application process we have begun engagement with many communities in Boulder County, and hope to include more municipalities to the list above.
- **Fiscally and Technically Feasible:** The project is fiscally and technically responsible, as it will focus the project resources strategically in a way that will help to amplify the effectiveness of other efforts in the watershed by establishing a vision for how local governments in Boulder County can implement watershed health in their planning efforts. It will also help to improve coordination among agencies operating within the watersheds.

³ For instance, as highlighted in discussions during the September 2019 Growing Water Smart workshop facilitated by the Sonoran Institute, many of the challenges facing Boulder County are shared by neighboring counties such as Weld and El Paso who also attended the Growing Water Smart workshop.



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South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)

The environmental and recreation goal of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (Section 1.9.7) is to “support the development of environmental and recreation projects and multipurpose projects that support water availability for ecologically and economically important habitats and focus areas” (SP BIP p. 1-28). This project’s goal of promoting healthy watersheds in Boulder County and incorporating healthy watershed best practices into local government planning is aligned with that BIP goal.

This project addresses one of the challenges listed within the South Platte BIP (Sections S.3.6 and 5.2.3): preserving and enhancing environmental and recreation uses in the South Platte River. This project will develop a unified vision and a toolkit and planning guide for healthy watersheds in Boulder County, which will help preserve favorable environmental conditions in a headwater basin, while enhancing natural resources available for recreation uses. This project also aligns with one of the strategic guidelines for solutions in the South Platte BIP which is to “identify and implement methods to protect and enhance environmental and recreational water uses” (SP BIP p. S-10).

Section S.5.5 of the BIP states that “watershed management programs should also continue and be expanded to focus on additional high priority areas” (SP BIP p. S-14). Task 4 of this project addresses this idea directly, as it will generate interactive mapping of vulnerable and at-risk areas within Boulder County’s watersheds, drawing on available data and collaborative input.

Section 4.2.2 of the South Platte BIP discusses the need for cooperation among multiple agencies operating within the South Platte Basin (SP BIP p. 4-11). Although this project is not on the scale of the entire South Platte Basin, it does provide an opportunity for coordination among agencies operating within Boulder County’s watersheds. Task 5 of this project will include a collaborative effort to identify and define the roles and responsibilities of agencies operating within the watershed to help all parties navigate and coordinate work being completed to improve watershed health.

Section 1.9.7 of the South Platte BIP lists its environmental and recreation goals and measurable objectives. SP BIP measurable objectives addressed by this project are summarized here:

- E&R MO#2: “Protect and Enhance Economic Values to Local and Statewide Economies Derived from Environmental and Recreational Water Uses” (SP BIP p. 1-28). The environmental benefits associated with this project will yield economic benefits to Boulder County residents and communities by supporting sustainable watersheds and healthy ecosystems that are central to community identity, resources and services across the county. Furthermore, the project will include recreation as an element of watershed health, where the strategies that protect and preserve riparian corridors, for instance, can also protect recreational resources in Boulder County.
- E&R MO#3: “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” (p. 1-29). This project will identify healthy watershed characteristics and identify watershed areas that may be vulnerable now and under changing climate conditions. The toolkit and planning guide will also promote healthy conditions for and protection of streams and riparian areas by identifying policy and regulatory strategies and approaches that local governments within Boulder County can readily draw upon as they tailor solutions for their communities going forward. The improved collaboration and clarification of roles and responsibilities among key watershed stakeholders in Boulder County will also serve to better protect, maintain and improve the long-term sustainability of riparian areas.

Statewide Water Education Action Plan

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By bringing together partners and stakeholders with a focus on identifying necessary roles and the optimal ways for those parties to work in collaboration to fulfill those roles, the proposed project will help achieve the following impact objective of the Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP)⁴:

“By 2025, Coloradans are engaged in well-informed community discourse and decision-making regarding balanced water solutions, and are empowered to take thoughtful action regarding critical water challenges facing the state and their communities.” (SWEAP p. 12)

Furthermore, the proposed project is in alignment with the SWEAP’s Systems Change outcome objective (outcome #8): “Where relevant, local and state policies, regulations and practices recognize the importance of water literacy and demonstrate a consideration of impacts on sustainable water resources.” (SWEAP p. 16)

Analysis and Technical Update to the Colorado Water Plan (formerly the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI))⁵

In the key results of the Analysis and Technical Update to the CWP, it is noted that “climate change and its impacts on streamflow will be a primary driver of risk to E&R [environmental and recreational] assets” (CWP p. xxii). As a part of this project, Task 4 will identify areas in Boulder County’s watersheds that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts and changes in land use. The analysis and technical update also notes that “environmental and recreational features in the [South Platte] basin are important to Colorado’s quality of life” (CWP p. 137), which is echoed by the BOCC Strategic Priorities goal to “significantly protect natural areas for flora and fauna, maintain buffers that preserve community identity, preserve important agricultural lands, and contribute to the creation of a recreational trail system” (BOCC Strategic Priorities p. 14).

Other Water Plan Grant Water Project Categories

This project is submitted under the Watershed Health and Recreation funding category as watershed health is the primary focus of the project. However, we note that aspects of this project also overlap with other water project funding categories within the Water Plan Grant program, including conservation and land use planning, engagement and innovation, agriculture as discussed below:

- **Conservation and Land Use Planning:** Boulder County is seeking to better integrate water into its land use planning efforts, and many elements of the project are applicable to conservation and land use planning. Task 4 seeks to identify vulnerable areas within the watershed, areas that could benefit from more focused planning, projects, and partnerships. Task 5 of this project seeks to integrate the science of healthy watersheds into policies, regulations, and practices such that Boulder County and other local governments will have a foundation to draw upon to readily implement their own actions. This will be particularly useful to Boulder County’s future updates to its Comprehensive Plan, where more support is needed for land use decision making related to watershed and water resources.
- **Engagement and Innovation:** This project is built around collaboration and engagement with partners and stakeholders. Most of the project work products will be rooted in outcomes from facilitated stakeholder engagement meetings, where technical subgroups will solicit input on related topics, ideas, and concerns. The Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide will serve as a resource for Boulder County and other local governments in the county’s watersheds, but also as a tool for residents of Boulder County to understand watershed health science, and how it can inform decision-making. Furthermore, by better clarifying the roles and responsibilities of those working in support of watershed health, stakeholders working within Boulder County’s watersheds are better coordinated and positioned to engage in meaningful

⁴ Statewide Water Education Action Plan: <https://www.watereducationcolorado.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Statewide-Water-Education-Action-Plan-for-Colorado-2020-2025-1.pdf>

⁵ Analysis and Technical Update to the Colorado Water Plan: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cowaterplan/analysis-and-technical-update>

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dialogue with the community about watershed health topics, leading to a more water literate public.

- **Agricultural:** The technical update to Colorado’s Water Plan (formerly known as the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI)) notes that a loss of 700,000 acres of agricultural land statewide is possible from buy and dry practices (SWSI p. xxv). A goal of the Boulder County BOCC Strategic Priorities is to “preserve important agricultural lands” (BOCC Strategic Priorities p. 14) and “expand and maximize utilization of Boulder County’s water portfolio to support sustainable agriculture and healthy riparian and aquatic ecosystems” (BOCC Strategic Priorities p. 15). This project will address the relationship between watershed health and agriculture, which aligns well with the goals of the CWP and Boulder County BOCC.

Related Studies

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

A number of related studies have been completed within the last eight years and more are currently underway. Those studies will complement the proposed project as the project team will review and integrate outcomes of those projects through Tasks 2 and 3 of the proposed project.

Following the 2013 Flood Event, Boulder County partnered with stakeholders to establish the Comprehensive Creek Planning Initiative to develop post-flood watershed-level master plans impacted by the flood. Each of the master plans listed below identify priority projects to restore and create more resilient watersheds in the face of climate change, increasing population, and water quality and quantity demands. The Boulder County Board of County Commissioners adopted the five watershed master plans in 2015.

Comprehensive Creek Planning Watershed Master Plans:

- Fourmile Creek Watershed Master Plan
- Left Hand Creek Watershed Master Plan
- Little Thompson River Master Plan
- St. Vrain Creek Master Plan
- Upper Coal Creek Master Plan

Additional information pertaining to these watershed master plans can be found on the Comprehensive Creek Planning webpage at: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/disasters/flood/creek-restoration/history-and-background/>

Since the completion of these watershed master plans, Boulder County has transitioned their Comprehensive Creek Planning Initiative to the Creek Recovery and Restoration Program (CRR). This program continues this recovery work by pursuing funding for restoration projects, overseeing the implementation of projects, and coordinating with stakeholders and residents within the region. Several stream restoration projects are complete or are in progress on Boulder County Parks and Open Space property and for areas where reconstruction of flood-damaged county roads has occurred.

Boulder County Transportation restoration and recovery projects:

- North St. Vain Creek
- James Creek
- Fourmile Canyon Creek
- Upper Fourmile Creek
- Lower Fourmile Creek
- Gold Run

Boulder County Parks and Open Space restoration and recovery projects:

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- South St. Vrain Creek
- St. Vrain Creek Restoration – US 36 to Airport Rd
- Beilins-Hock
- Brewbaker
- Geer Creek

Additional information pertaining to these projects can be found on the Creek Recovery and Restoration Program webpage at: <https://www.bouldercountry.org/disasters/flood/creek-restoration/>

The watershed management plans and creek recovery projects demonstrate the collective efforts of the County, watershed coalitions, and stakeholders to ensure the long-term health of the region's important watersheds while providing recreation opportunities for generations to come. This work will assist with the Colorado Water Plan Watershed Health and Management Goal (Section 7.1) which "...promotes watershed health and supports the development of watershed coalitions and watershed master plans that address the needs of a diverse set of local stakeholders."

There are additional projects in the watersheds of Boulder County that are nearing completion, or will be starting work in the near future. Of particular interest are the stream management plans which will be completed in 2020, as well as new projects by the Left Hand Watershed Center that have recently received funding:

- Keep It Clean Partnership – St. Vrain Basin Watershed-based Plan (319 Study)
 - In 2015 the Partnership completed the St. Vrain Basin Watershed Plan to identify water quality issues affecting streams and develop a framework to implement solutions.
- St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District – St. Vrain Creek Stream Management Plan
 - The District has been working on a stream management plan for the past several years. The stream management plan was completed in October 2020.
- Left Hand Watershed Center – Adaptive Management at Scale
 - The Watershed Center was recently awarded funding to implement a shared framework with multiple stakeholder groups for executing adaptive management throughout the larger St. Vrain 8-digit Hydrologic Unit watershed.
- Left Hand Watershed Center – Watershed Management
 - The Watershed Center recently received funding from the US Bureau of Reclamation to develop a watershed restoration plan and develop conceptual plans for restoration projects.
- Left Hand Watershed Center – Adaptive Management Guide: Building Watershed Resilience Through Adaptive Management
 - This guide provides a framework for understanding resilient rivers that will be helpful for guiding this project.
- St. Vrain Wildfire/Watershed Assessment
 - This study analyzed wildfire threats in the St. Vrain Basin with focus on the water supply in the watershed.
- City of Boulder – Source Water Protection Plan
 - The City identifies system vulnerabilities, potential contaminant sources, and actions that can be taken to improve water quality in their source watershed areas.

Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

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; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.



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Grant 1:

1. Applicant Name: Boulder County Parks and Open Space
2. Water Activity Name: Swede Lake Dam & Reservoir Rehabilitation Project
3. Approving RT(s): Approved by the South Platte Basin Roundtable (received funding from South Platte and Statewide) for the Water Supply Reserve Account (\$160,000 statewide account, \$40,000 South Platte Basin account)
4. CWCB Board Meeting date: 9/17/2015
5. Contract#: CTGG1 2016-1023
6. CWCB funding %: CWCB funding was 24.8% of project costs

Grant 2:

1. Applicant Name: Boulder County Parks and Open Space
2. Water Activity Name: Flumegate installation project
3. Approving RT: N/A
4. PO Issuance Date: 4/25/2008
5. PO#: OE PDA 08000000116
6. CWCB funding %: unknown

Grant 3:

1. Applicant Name: Boulder County Parks and Open Space
2. Water Activity Name: Russian Olive removal project
3. Approving RT: N/A
4. PO Issuance Date: 11/10/2009
5. PO#: OE PDA 10000000051
6. CWCB funding %: unknown

Boulder County has also received CWCB funding following the September 2013 flood as CWCB acted as the pass-through agency for Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funding and also provided funding for ditch companies to repair water infrastructure through Northern Water. This funding was unrelated to Colorado's Water Plan Grant and the Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant. The County received over \$10 million in EWP funding and over \$200,000 in funding for ditch repair, managed by Northern Water. Direct funding from CWCB for flood recovery efforts went to the Boulder County Parks and Open Space and Transportation departments totaling \$1,479,372.

Two recent instances where the County participated in CWCB projects but did not receive direct funding:

- 2015-2020: Colorado Hazard Mapping Program (CHAMP). Authorized by Colorado SB 15-245. The county participated in the floodplain remapping by reviewing draft maps, updating floodplain ordinance, adopting new floodplain maps, and organizing local outreach. The county did not directly receive funding through this project.
- 2017-2019: Fluvial Hazard Zone mapping. CWCB pilot study to map fluvial hazards outside the floodplain. The county did not receive funding but benefited from data produced by the CWCB study.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

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

There are no relevant TABOR issues for Boulder County.

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| Submittal Checklist | |
|---|--|
| X | I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract . |
| Exhibit A | |
| X | Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾ |
| X | Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾ |
| N/A | Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000) |
| X | Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾ |
| Exhibit C | |
| N/A | Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾ |
| N/A | Photos/Drawings/Reports |
| X | Letters of Support (Optional) |
| X | Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾ |
| | Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾ |
| X | W-9 ⁽²⁾ |
| | Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization) |
| Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY | |
| N/A | Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application ⁽¹⁾ |

(1) Required with application.

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

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ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION GRANT FUND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

Introduction & Purpose

Colorado’s Water Plan calls for an outreach, education, public engagement, and innovation grant fund in Chapter 9.5.

The overall goal of the Engagement & Innovation Grant Fund is to enhance Colorado’s water communication, outreach, education, and public engagement efforts; advance Colorado’s water supply planning process; and support a statewide water innovation ecosystem.

The grant fund aims to engage the public to promote well-informed community discourse regarding balanced water solutions statewide. The grant fund aims to support water innovation in Colorado. The grant fund prioritizes measuring and evaluating the success of programs, projects, and initiatives. The grant fund prioritizes efforts designed using research, data, and best practices. The grant fund prioritizes a commitment to collaboration and community engagement. The grant fund will support local and statewide efforts.

The grant fund is divided into two tracks: engagement and innovation. The Engagement Track supports education, outreach, communication, and public participation efforts related to water. The Innovation Track supports efforts that advance the water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

Application Questions

*The grant fund request is referred to as “project” in this application.

| Overview (answer for both tracks) |
|---|
| In a few sentences, what is the overall goal of this project? How does it achieve the stated purpose of this grant fund (above)? |
| |
| Who is/are the target audience(s)? How will you reach them? How will you involve the community? |
| |
| Describe how the project is collaborative or engages a diverse group of stakeholders. Who are the partners in the project? Do you have other funding partners or sources? |
| |

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| Overview (answer for both tracks) |
|--|
| Describe how you plan to measure and evaluate the success and impact of the project? |
| |
| What research, evidence, and data support your project? |
| |
| Describe potential short- and long-term challenges with this project. |
| |

Please fill out the applicable questions for either the Engagement Track or Innovation Track, unless your project contains elements in both tracks. If a question does not relate to your project, just leave it blank. Please answer each question that relates to your project. Please reference the relevant documents and use chapters and page numbers (Colorado’s Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plan, PEPO Education Action Plan, etc.).

| Engagement Track |
|--|
| Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement measurable objective set forth in Colorado’s Water Plan to “significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide by 2020, as determined by water awareness surveys.” |
| |
| Describe how the project achieves the other measurable objectives and critical goals and actions laid out in Colorado’s Water Plan around the supply and demand gap; conservation; land use; agriculture; storage; watershed health, environment, and recreation; funding; and additional. |
| |
| Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement goals set forth in the applicable Basin Implementation Plan(s). |

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| |
| Describe how the project achieves the basin roundtable's PEPO Education Action Plans. |
| |

| Innovation Track |
|---|
| Describe how the project enhances water innovation efforts and supports a water innovation ecosystem in Colorado. |
| |
| Describe how the project engages/leverages Colorado's innovation community to help solve our state's water challenges. |
| |
| Describe how the project helps advance or develop a solution to a water need identified through TAP-IN and other water innovation challenges. What is the problem/need/challenge? |
| |
| Describe how this project impacts current or emerging trends; technologies; clusters, sectors, or groups in water innovation. |
| |



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| Colorado Water Conservation Board |
| Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A |

| Statement Of Work | |
|---|---|
| Date: | November 30, 2020 |
| Name of Grantee: | Boulder County |
| Name of Water Project: | Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide |
| Funding Source: | Colorado Water Plan – Environment and Recreation |
| Water Project Overview: | |
| <p>Boulder County, as a local unit of government⁶, seeks to promote healthy watersheds and safe, sustainable water resources that can be resilient under changing population, land use, disruptions such as wildfires and changing climate conditions. The proposed project's goals are to: 1) promote healthy watersheds by improving shared knowledge and coordination across watershed stakeholders, and 2) inform future local planning efforts related to watershed health through the use of the best available science, policy, and planning information.</p> <p>This work will assemble available information from ongoing efforts that are working to define the meaning of healthy watersheds within Boulder County, and identify opportunities for partnerships amongst stakeholders to use this foundational work to most effectively protect and enhance the environment, recreation, agriculture, and human health of the Boulder County region.</p> <p>This proposed project will not create any regulatory or legally binding documents. It is not the intent of this project to alter existing discharge permits or wastewater treatment plant operations. Additionally, it is not the intent of this project to alter existing water rights or change common or statutory federal or state laws governing the management of agricultural ditches and wetlands. Rather, the project will develop a shared understanding of watershed health, the factors that influence it and a toolkit of local and regional science, policy, and planning resources for the local watershed stakeholders in the Boulder County region to use as they see fit.</p> <p>The proposed project aligns with the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners’ strategic priority of land and water stewardship⁷, and directly supports the Colorado Water Plan’s goals for Environmental and Recreational projects (CWP Section 6.6), the funding category under which we submit this proposal.⁸ The proposed project will take the science produced by existing local efforts as well as relevant regional policy and planning information and lay the foundation for integrating it at a practical level into local governments’ land use planning tools and activities. These include ongoing and future work by the include Keep it Clean Partnership, Left Hand Watershed Center, St.</p> | |

⁶ Boulder County refers to the geographical area (region) unless specifically stated as Boulder County staff or the Boulder County governmental organization.

⁷ Boulder County Board of County Commissioners Strategic Priorities 2019-2023 (2018): <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/commissioners-strategic-priorities-2019.pdf>

⁸ Colorado’s Water Plan (2015), Section 6.6: Environmental and Recreational Projects and Methods, p. 6-157.

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Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, and others who are executing ground level efforts and creating science-based frameworks for defining and measuring watershed health within the Boulder County region. As such, the primary audience and direct beneficiaries of the project will be water-focused departments and staff working within the Boulder County government as well as municipalities within the County. Potential outcomes and benefits to these entities include the following:

- **Boulder County**, the convener of this project, wishes to assemble information that can inform future updates to its own land use, public health, open space, and sustainability documents (e.g., the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan). Doing this through an inclusive effort will improve collaboration, help achieve a better product, and identify areas of common interest.
- **Other local government stakeholders** will be able to leverage this information to guide their own local water-related planning but will not be obligated to take any future action based on the outcomes of this work. Boulder County government cannot and will not impose requirements on other local governments through this project.

Although we envision local governments as the primary audience for this project as they have land use regulatory powers, our engagement includes the local watershed coalitions and leverages their existing watershed work to inform this project. This work will help strengthen existing partnerships, highlighting common interests, areas of alignment, and potential complementary roles. The project will also help strengthen linkages between local government planning, programming, and resource allocation. Finally, this project will serve as a model for other counties in Colorado facing similar watershed management and planning challenges.

Project Objectives:

1. Improve agency consensus and coordination within the watershed and help clarify partners' roles in supporting and maintaining healthy watersheds in Boulder County. This will include clarifying the County's, local municipalities', and other entities' existing roles in supporting watershed health including how the various water focused groups fill out this framework. The project will also generate ideas for local government resource allocation to address identified watershed health needs.
2. Define, as local government agencies, healthy watershed characteristics across Boulder County including environmental and recreation-related benefits. Translate the findings of ongoing activities, specifically those of the Left Hand Watershed Center, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, and others, into a list of common characteristics shared by healthy watersheds and a description of how each of these features improves watershed health across the County.
3. Highlight specific areas within the watersheds that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate and land use change and that could benefit from more focused planning, projects, and strategic partnerships to proactively mitigate, prepare for and adapt to those potential impacts.
4. Identify potential land use planning strategies and tools available to help integrate the science of watershed health into local government actions that will support and enhance healthy watersheds in Boulder County. Through this collaborative process, participants would help shape the scope of options explored through the project and would provide a

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| <p>valuable diversity of perspectives to illuminate the potential strengths and limitations of various options.</p> <p>5. The project team will develop a succinct, user-friendly Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide that will summarize the outcomes of all project objectives.</p> |
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| Tasks |
|---|
| <p>Task 1 – Kickoff Project and Create Stakeholder Engagement Plan</p> |
| <p>Description of Task:</p> <p>This task will focus on carefully planning an engagement structure and processes to incorporate ideas and gain buy-in from watershed stakeholders. This task will clarify and refine the project objectives, structure, team roles and schedule, and will solidify a plan for effectively integrating stakeholders into the project.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement is critical to ensuring that the project is successful and reflects the needs and priorities of the many groups interested in watershed health in the Boulder County region.⁹ A distinguishing feature of this project is its focus on tying the science of watershed health to local government planning. As such, the primary partners for the project are local governments operating within the County (e.g., representatives from municipalities with a focus on water and wastewater). Watershed coalitions and non-governmental groups working to address watershed topics will also provide valuable input and information for the project.</p> <p>Key activities for this task will include: 1) an initial kickoff meeting and work session with County staff, the technical consulting team and any core partners that have expressed interest in actively engaging in the project; 2) an external facing kickoff to provide an overview of the project to a broader audience of other interested stakeholders who may wish to become engaged in the project; 3) development of a brief partner and stakeholder engagement plan that will identify project stakeholders (grouped by area of expertise and/or interest) and define the purpose, format and schedule for a series of stakeholder meetings.</p> |
| <p>Method/Procedure:</p> <p>The project team, which includes the technical consulting team and initial project participants will initiate the project with a kickoff meeting (“work session”) for project participants (e.g., County staff and interested municipalities. The kickoff work session will provide an opportunity for the project team to formally review and discuss the project objectives, process flow and deliverables, as well as the structure and priorities for the partner and stakeholder engagement process. The kickoff work session will also serve to solicit feedback and address questions from the initial project team.</p> <p>After the kickoff work session, the project team will develop a partner and stakeholder engagement plan to formalize the vision for cooperative action on the project tasks. The partner and stakeholder engagement plan will serve as a roadmap for the series of partner and stakeholder meetings that will take place throughout the project, and will include a description of roles, expectations, meeting schedules and deliverables. The stakeholder engagement plan will outline the format of the</p> |

⁹ This project will focus on engaging “stakeholders” who play an active in watershed health-related activities and who may have the greatest ability to act in a way that advances watershed health through feasible means.

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| Tasks |
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| <p>meetings in Tasks 3 through 5 in more detail. The initial project team would develop the stakeholder engagement plan collaboratively and the plan would be subject to refinement if project needs evolve.</p> <p>An additional external-facing kickoff meeting is anticipated to follow, with the purpose of sharing information about the project with those interested in becoming involved either project team member, or an ancillary stakeholder who wishes to stay informed of developments and provide feedback at key points in the project. In the interest of keeping stakeholders informed throughout the project the County would also post a simple web page with a project summary, schedule and updates.</p> |
| <p>Deliverable:</p> <p>The Task 1 deliverables will be meeting minutes from the kickoff meeting and a stakeholder engagement plan. The stakeholder engagement plan will outline the purpose and objectives of the project and the engagement process, stakeholder roles and expectations, and meeting schedule and format.</p> |

| Tasks |
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| <p>Task 2 – Review and Analyze Existing Watershed Plans</p> |
| <p>Description of Task:</p> <p>Understanding the purpose, scope, and findings of the many existing studies related to watershed conditions in Boulder County is important to developing a Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide that is in line with existing projects. Through this task the project team will review existing science, policy and planning documents and summarize the findings in a short technical memorandum. The team will use this information to inform the documentation of watershed health characteristics in Task 3. A few example plans include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-flood creek master plans (various authors) • St. Vrain Basin Watershed-based Plan (Keep it Clean Partnership and Wright Water Engineers, 2015) • Regional Stream Stewardship and Recovery Handbook (Left Hand Watershed Center et al., 2017) • Building Watershed Resilience through Adaptive Management (Left Hand Watershed Center and Lynker, 2018) • St. Vrain and Left Hand Stream Management Plan (St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District et al., 2020) • St. Vrain Wildfire/Watershed Assessment (JW Associates, Inc., 2012) |
| <p>Method/Procedure:</p> |

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| Tasks |
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| <p>The project team, with input from stakeholders and partners, will develop a list of studies, policies, and planning documents to review and summarize at the beginning of the project. The project team will then work to review and summarize project reports relevant to watershed health in Boulder County. The team will synthesize findings from this review and analysis task into a summary document to inform future project work, most notably the documentation of characteristics of healthy watersheds in Boulder County.</p> |
| <p>Deliverable:</p> |
| <p>The team will summarize findings from the review and analysis of existing studies and plans in a brief technical memorandum.</p> |

| Tasks |
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| <p>Task 3 – Characterize Healthy Watersheds within Boulder County</p> |
| <p>Description of Task:</p> |
| <p>To achieve the project objectives, it is critical for Boulder County and other municipalities and agencies to align their understanding of healthy watershed characteristics. This shared vision and definition of healthy watershed characteristics will serve as the foundation for the remainder of the project. To collectively define a set of indicators of healthy watersheds within the Boulder County region the project team will begin with the results of the St. Vrain Stream Management Plan, Left Hand Watershed Center Adaptive Management Plan, and other local watershed health efforts and bring in additional experts from a more broad range of disciplines and geographies to build off of these foundational efforts. This will draw upon the ongoing work of the Left Hand Watershed Center, Keep it Clean Partnership, Fourmile Watershed Coalition, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, and other partners. The goal will be to develop a list of common characteristics shared by healthy watersheds, a description of how each of these features improves watershed health, a summary of how these characteristics address the needs of a range of user groups across the County, This information will be included in a watershed health summary that will serve as the conceptual framework for the project.</p> |
| <p>Method/Procedure:</p> |
| <p>Due to the wide range of topics that can be included in watershed health, it is anticipated that watershed characterization work will be completed by smaller subgroups of project partners and stakeholders representing particular areas of expertise. The project team will identify partner and stakeholder subgroups that can focus on specific elements of watershed health (or watershed health characteristics). These watershed health sectors may include, for instance, ecology & forests, riparian zones & water quality, public health, agriculture, and recreation. We anticipate having up to four partner and stakeholder topic-focused groups that will meet to engage in different aspects of watershed health, leading to more efficient and productive meetings.</p> <p>The characteristics of watershed health will be developed from these topic-focused meetings and then formalized by the project team in coordination with the project stakeholders. We expect that this effort will be informed by previous work completed by local agencies, as well as ongoing projects such as Left Hand Watershed Center’s Adaptation at Scale, which seeks to define</p> |

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| Tasks |
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| <p>watershed health parameters for future monitoring as a part of a larger adaptive management program. Additionally, work completed by other agencies such as Keep it Clean Partnership (St. Vrain Basin Plan), City of Boulder (Source Water Master Plan), among others, will be considered. The draft watershed characteristics will be distributed to the partner and stakeholder subgroups for comment before the development and approval of the final summary.</p> |
| <p>Deliverable:</p> |
| <p>The Task 3 deliverable will be a watershed health summary, which will include the characteristics of healthy watersheds, a description of their benefits, a description of the technical partner and stakeholder input that informed the content. Task 3 deliverable will ultimately be incorporated in the Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide (see Task 6).</p> |

| Tasks |
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| <p>Task 4 - Assess Vulnerable Watersheds in Boulder County</p> |
| <p>Description of Task:</p> |
| <p>After project stakeholders identify the healthy watershed characteristics, the project team will consider at a high level the areas within the Boulder County region that are most vulnerable to projected changes in land use and climate change, from a watershed health perspective, particularly in light of the recent wildfires. Based on this analysis, the project team will highlight specific areas within the County's watersheds that could benefit from more focused planning, projects, and strategic partnerships to proactively mitigate, prepare for, and adapt to those potential impacts. This will be valuable to the County because by identifying vulnerable areas now, before a hazard, event, or disaster occurs, agencies operating within the watersheds in Boulder County can proactively identify actions and mitigation efforts that could help make those areas more resilient to future climate and land use impacts. This proactive approach will also help the County streamline restoration funding and implementation to help those areas recover more quickly if and when future hazards occur.</p> |
| <p>Method/Procedure:</p> |
| <p>The project team will compile relevant geospatial information relevant to assessing the watershed health elements identified in Task 3. These layers will be added to a map of watersheds in Boulder County that can be printed or digitally exported to allow markups or digital comments to facilitate partner and stakeholder input. The team will then meet with the stakeholders to participate in one or more brainstorming sessions to identify current and future watershed vulnerabilities based on a combination of these background data and additional stakeholder input. This will likely involve a map-based exercise that leverages a combination of GIS resources and community knowledge to extract and identify important features. The stakeholders will also identify areas in the watershed that are known to be areas of interest, vulnerable, or high-risk areas. As these vulnerabilities cut across watershed sectors and characteristics, we envision one engagement meeting that all project stakeholders can attend and provide input based on their technical and geographic expertise.</p> |

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| Tasks |
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| <p>Deliverable:</p> <p>A summary of watershed vulnerabilities (both general and location-based) will be developed from the stakeholder engagement meeting. A written narrative will accompany annotated map(s) that will include features of interest and stored within a geodatabase or shapefile. The material from the summary documents will also be included in the final Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide (Task 6).</p> |

| Tasks |
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| <p>Task 5 – Develop Framework for Collaboration and Ideas for Integrating Watershed Health into Local Government Planning</p> |
| <p>Description of Task:</p> <p>This task will help lay the foundation that will enable local governments in Boulder County to ultimately convert best available science, planning, and policy on healthy watersheds (assembled through Tasks 2-4) into future local government action as they see fit. The team will draw on the watershed health summary developed in Task 3, as well as best practices in other jurisdictions, to highlight policy topics, strategies, and approaches that Boulder County staff and other local governments can reference and apply through efforts separate from this project as they choose. This task will make context-specific resources and information readily available to County and other local government staff and partners. This project will not produce any policy or regulatory documents, nor prescribe any specific language or strategies.</p> <p>Additionally, Task 5 will help identify the ways various entities work towards achieving healthy watersheds. There are many different agencies operating in the watersheds in Boulder County, and in the case of local governments, often many departments working in the domain of watershed health. A table or graphic describing the roles and domains of each of these agencies will help to improve coordination throughout the Boulder County region. Task 5 will assist the County in better understanding its role in watershed health and identify opportunities for strategic, comprehensive, and coordinated efforts to support watershed health.¹⁰</p> |
| <p>Method/Procedure:</p> <p>This task will include a review of best practices from peer jurisdictions, partner and stakeholder engagement meetings, and analysis by the project consultants and core team staff. The best practice research will encompass both a review of land use planning tools, as well as the collaborative efforts used by other peer local governments to protect watershed health. The best practice research will focus on other local governments with characteristics similar to Boulder County’s (i.e., the County does not serve as a water provider, but rather as a collaborative partner supporting regional efforts to maintain watershed health). The project team will prepare a summary of findings from the best practices research as well as an initial analysis of the County’s needs, then review those ideas with project stakeholders for discussion and feedback. This may involve holding topic-focused meetings but will include at least one cross-cutting stakeholder discussion (unified across</p> |

¹⁰ In defining roles for local governments and in clarifying the County’s role, this project will not be used to advocate for more stringent discharge limits for providers of wastewater services to residents within Boulder County watersheds, hence the need for a consensus-based approach to decision making.

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| Tasks |
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| <p>multiple practice areas) to synthesize ideas and ensure there is comprehensive coverage of key topics. The project team will coordinate with and leverage the existing research and progress of ongoing efforts, such as ongoing updates to the Boulder County Land Use Code and Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>The second component of Task 5 will be to identify roles and responsibilities. The team will identify one-time and ongoing tasks and responsibilities related to achieving and maintaining healthy watersheds across the Boulder County region. Meeting participants will work to populate an agency-department, watershed sector, and geographic location crosswalk of roles and responsibilities within the watershed.</p> |
| <p>Deliverable:</p> <p>The team will prepare a summary of policy and planning topics, strategies and approaches available as potential tools to support the watershed health characteristics identified in Task 3 and incorporates a discussion of the strengths and potential limitations of the ideas presented. The team will also highlight areas of alignment in interests across local governments in Boulder County, and the opportunities and benefits of cooperative planning to further watershed health, environment, and recreation goals across agencies working within Boulder County.</p> <p>The team will also prepare a table or graphic depicting the roles and responsibilities associated with maintaining watershed health as well as the entities that could potentially serve those roles. A summary narrative will accompany the graphic. This will include agency-department listings, watershed sector or relevant watershed characteristics, and the geographic scope of the work. This will help all parties navigate and coordinate the work being done to improve watershed health in the county.</p> |

| Tasks |
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| <p>Task 6 – Develop and Communicate Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide</p> |
| <p>Description of Task:</p> <p>The team will synthesize the work of the previous five tasks into a user-friendly, graphics-forward toolkit and planning guide that Boulder County staff and other agencies can use to help guide future local government planning actions within the watersheds. The final project deliverable will serve the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define healthy watershed characteristics across Boulder County and define the benefits to the environment, recreation, agriculture opportunities, and human health of the Boulder County region. • Provide insight into watershed vulnerabilities given potential changes in land use and climate change that could benefit from more focused planning, projects, and strategic partnerships to mitigate proactively, prepare for and adapt to those potential impacts. • Provide policy ideas that will position Boulder County and other agencies to readily translate healthy watershed science into action within the county’s watersheds. |

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| Tasks |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve agency consensus and coordination within the watershed and help to clarify future projects by providing a clear picture of Boulder County’s role, as well as other governmental and non-governmental agencies within the County, as it relates to watershed health, within the parameters discussed herein. |
| <p>Method/Procedure:</p> <p>The project team will work collaboratively with project stakeholders to synthesize the project task findings, summaries, and graphics into a concise, comprehensive, and user-friendly reference document. The project team will present an initial concept-level draft to the Boulder County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at a joint study session after foundational stakeholder meetings and analyses are complete. The purpose of the joint study session would be to provide a progress update and gather feedback and ideas. Depending on the number of municipalities that choose to engage in this process, the project team and County staff would explore inviting other municipal leaders to participate in this discussion. The team will review feedback and make revisions as appropriate before preparing a final document. The final work product will be an informational resource and will not require adoption by any local government officials.</p> |
| <p>Deliverable:</p> <p>The primary Task 6 deliverable will be the final deliverable for the project, a Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide based on the parameters discussed herein. The graphically-oriented document will serve as a user-friendly resource for the Boulder County organization, municipalities within the County, and other potential jurisdictions that may look to the resource as a model. The project team will also prepare a presentation for the joint study session to communicate key concepts and gather feedback from the Planning Commission, BOCC, and other municipal leaders.</p> |

| Budget and Schedule |
|--|
| <p>This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format.</p> |

| Reporting Requirements |
|---|
| <p>Progress Reports: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.</p> |

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Reporting Requirements

Final Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

Payment

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this contract are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this contract must be provided to CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation.

Performance Measures

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit B. Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.



Board of County Commissioners

October 27, 2020

Mr. Chris Sturm
Watershed Protection Director,
Watershed & Flood Protection
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Dept. of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80303

Dear Mr. Sturm:

This letter is being submitted to confirm the matching funds that Boulder County will be providing in support of our Water Plan Grant application, "the Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide". Boulder County is committed to this project and furthering the goals of watershed health in our community. As a part of this grant, Boulder County has committed to providing \$37,500 in direct cash funding and \$24,198.30 contributed in the form of in-kind Boulder County staff hours.

Boulder County seeks to promote healthy watersheds and safe, sustainable water resources that can be resilient under changing population, land use, and climate conditions. The proposed project aligns with the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners' strategic priority of land and water stewardship and supports the Colorado Water Plan's goal for Environmental and Recreational projects. The proposed project will take the science produced by existing local efforts as well as relevant regional policy and planning information and lay the foundation for integrating it at all practical into local governments' land use planning tool and activities.

Sincerely,

Deb Gardner, Chair
Boulder Board of County Commissioners

Deb Gardner County Commissioner

Elise Jones County Commissioner

Matt Jones County Commissioner



City of Boulder Public Works

July 14, 2020

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm,

The City of Boulder's Utilities Department supports Boulder County's Water Plan grant application for a Watershed Health Action Plan, which will formulate a vision for watershed health across Boulder County's watersheds to inform policy and identify future needs. This project will build on existing efforts by the Four Mile Watershed Coalition, Left Hand Watershed Center, Keep it Clean Partnership, and others that are creating a science-based framework for defining and measuring watershed health in Boulder County. The proposed project will take the science produced by these existing efforts and work toward integrating it at a practical level into the County's, and potentially other Boulder County local governments', policies and practices. This project will be completed with robust stakeholder engagement to further the relationships and connections between agencies and groups working in Boulder County's watersheds. We support this effort in part because it will:

- In a stakeholder-driven manner, and in coordination with other watershed health efforts, coalesce common characteristics shared by healthy watersheds and describe how these features improve watershed health across the County.
- Address prioritized watershed health topics by identifying actions that may include enhanced policies, practices, regulatory amendments, and intergovernmental agreements.
- Help develop a roadmap that identifies the best ways the County and other local governments can allocate their staff and other resources and policies to support watershed health needs.
- Ensure that the Colorado Water Plan goals related to watershed health and recreation are effectively translated into concrete local government actions.

The City of Boulder has a strong relationship with Boulder County, frequently collaborating on land use, climate, water supply & quality, and watershed health-related initiatives. We believe the County is assembling a strong stakeholder network and will call upon a qualified technical support team to accomplish the objectives outlined in the grant application. We look forward to supporting the County and being a project stakeholder. As such, we anticipate receiving regular project updates from the County and participating in key decisions as necessary. We will help ensure the County is aware of related efforts we participate in and help align goals across the projects. We share in Boulder County's vision to help define the characteristics of healthy watersheds within the county and identify and align policy to meet a common set of goals.

Sincerely,

Kate Dunlap

Kate Dunlap

dunlapk@bouldercolorado.gov

Source Water Quality Program Manager

City of Boulder



Town of Nederland, Colorado

45 West First Street – P.O. Box 396
Nederland, CO 80466-0396

Phone: (303) 258-3266

FAX: (303) 258-1240

July 30, 2020

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm,

The Town of Nederland extends its support for Boulder County's Water Plan Grant application for a Watershed Health Action Plan. The proposed project will formulate a vision for watershed health across Boulder County's watersheds to inform policy and identify future needs. This project will build on existing efforts by the Left Hand Watershed Center and others (e.g., Keep it Clean Partnership, Fourmile Watershed Coalition) that are creating a science-based framework for defining and measuring watershed health in Boulder County. The proposed project will take the science produced by these existing efforts and work toward integrating it at a practical level into the County's, and potentially other Boulder County local governments', policies and practices. This project will be completed with robust stakeholder engagement. It will make existing partnerships more effective by establishing strong functional relationships and linkages between local government planning, programming and resource allocation, as well as between diverse stakeholder groups across the county. Specifically, we support this effort because it will accomplish the following objectives:

- In a stakeholder-driven manner, and in coordination with other watershed health efforts, document common characteristics shared by healthy watersheds and describe how these features improves watershed health across the county
- Develop a list of prioritized watershed health topics to address through enhanced policies, practices, regulatory amendments, and intergovernmental agreements to codify actions that will enhance Boulder County's watershed health
- Highlight specific areas most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and land use that could benefit from more focused planning, projects, and strategic partnerships
- Clarify the County's and other stakeholders' roles in supporting watershed health and identify the best ways the County and potentially other local governments can allocate their staff and other resources to support identified watershed health needs
- Ensure that the Colorado Water Plan goals related to watershed health and recreation are effectively translated into concrete local government actions

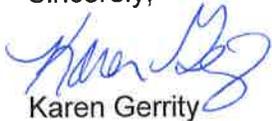
The Town of Nederland has a strong relationship with Boulder County and believes the County is assembling a strong stakeholder network and will call on a qualified technical support team to accomplish the objectives outlined in this grant application. We have worked together with the

County in a variety of capacities and we look forward to having the opportunity to continue to build this strong working relationship by supporting the County with this project.

Town of Nederland looks forward to participating in the proposed project as an interested stakeholder. As such, we anticipate receiving regular project updates. We will help ensure the County is aware of related efforts we participate in and help align goals across the projects. We will also do our part to let other relevant organizations and individuals know about the County's project and help gather feedback to inform the project's success.

We share in Boulder County's vision to help define the characteristics of healthy watersheds within the county and identify and align policies and actions to meet a common set of watershed goals over time. We believe this work will play an important role in translating Colorado Water Plan goals related to watershed health and recreation into concrete local government actions within Boulder County. We look forward to having the opportunity to partner with the County and other stakeholders in this project.

Sincerely,



Karen Gerrity

Nederland Town Administrator



9/14/2020

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm,

The Left Hand Watershed Center would like to express support for Boulder County's Water Plan Grant application for a Watershed Health Action Plan. The proposed project will build off of the Left Hand Watershed Center's Adaptive Management at Scale in order to implement concepts from the Watershed Center's project on a practical level within the County's policies and procedures. It will make the Adaptive Management at Scale project even more effective by establishing strong functional relationships and linkages between local government planning, programming and resource allocation, as well as between diverse stakeholder groups across the county. Ultimately, this project provides a critical linkage between the science and the on the ground application.

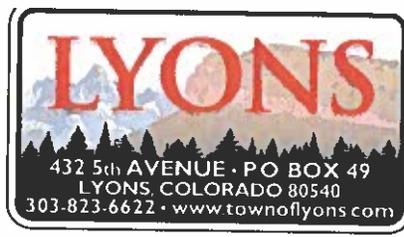
Left Hand Watershed Center looks forward to participating in the proposed project to help the County take concepts and science developed as part of our project and implement them within the County's policy. We will help ensure the County is aware of related efforts we participate in and help align goals across the projects. We will also do our part to let other relevant organizations and individuals know about the County's project and help gather feedback to inform the project's success.

We share in Boulder County's vision to help define the characteristics of healthy watersheds within the county and identify and align policies and actions to meet a common set of watershed goals over time. We believe this work will play an important role in translating Colorado Water Plan goals related to watershed health and recreation into concrete local government actions within Boulder County. We look forward to having the opportunity to partner with the County and other stakeholders in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Olson", written in a cursive style.

Jessica J. Olson
Executive Director
[Left Hand Watershed Center](#)
6800 Nimbus Road, Longmont CO 80503 (office)
P.O. Box 1074, Niwot, CO 80544-1074 (mailing)
303.530.4200 (office) | 303.746.7937 (cell)
jolson@watershed.center | www.watershed.center



10/5/2020

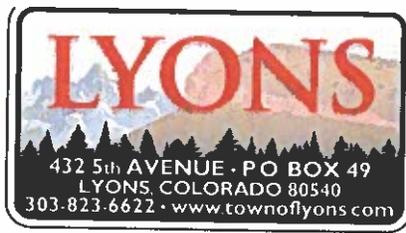
Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm,

The Town of Lyons would like to express support for Boulder County's Water Plan Grant application for a Watershed Health Action Plan. The proposed project will formulate a vision for watershed health across Boulder County's watersheds to inform policy and identify future needs. This project will build on existing efforts by the Left-Hand Watershed Center and others (e.g., Keep it Clean Partnership, Fourmile Watershed Coalition) that are creating a science-based framework for defining and measuring watershed health in Boulder County. The proposed project will take the science produced by these existing efforts and work toward integrating it at a practical level into the County's, and potentially other Boulder County local governments', policies, and practices. This project will be completed with robust stakeholder engagement. It will make existing partnerships more effective by establishing strong functional relationships and linkages between local government planning, programming, and resource allocation, as well as between diverse stakeholder groups across the county. Specifically, we support this effort because it will accomplish the following objectives:

- In a stakeholder-driven manner, and in coordination with other watershed health efforts, document common characteristics shared by healthy watersheds and describe how these features improves watershed health across the county
- Develop a list of prioritized watershed health topics to address through enhanced policies, practices, regulatory amendments, and intergovernmental agreements to codify actions that will enhance Boulder County's watershed health
- Highlight specific areas most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and land use that could benefit from more focused planning, projects, and strategic partnerships
- Clarify the County's and other stakeholders' roles in supporting watershed health and identify the best ways the County and potentially other local governments can allocate their staff and other resources to support identified watershed health needs
- Ensure that the Colorado Water Plan goals related to watershed health and recreation are effectively translated into concrete local government actions

Located in Boulder County, the Town of Lyons has a strong relationship with the County, and the Town's processes are tied to priorities and decisions made at the County level through intergovernmental agreements, among other ways. The Town of Lyons believes the County is assembling a strong stakeholder network and will call on a qualified technical support team to accomplish the objectives outlined in this grant application. We have worked together with the County in a variety of capacities and



we look forward to having the opportunity to continue to build this strong working relationship by supporting the County with this project.

The Town of Lyons looks forward to participating in the proposed project as an interested stakeholder. As such, we anticipate receiving regular project updates and look forward to providing input if requested. We will help ensure the County is aware of related efforts we participate in, such as our comprehensive plan update, and will help align goals across the projects. We will also do our part to let other relevant organizations and individuals know about the County's project and help gather feedback to inform the project's success.

We share in Boulder County's vision to help define the characteristics of healthy watersheds within the county and identify and align policies and actions to meet a common set of watershed goals over time. We believe this work will play an important role in translating Colorado Water Plan goals related to watershed health and recreation into concrete local government actions within Boulder County. We look forward to having the opportunity to partner with the County and other stakeholders in this project.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Angelo, Mayor
The Town of Lyons Board of Trustees



November 23, 2020

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm:

The Town of Superior would like to express support for Boulder County's Water Plan Grant application for a Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide. The proposed project will formulate a vision for watershed health across the watersheds within Boulder County to: 1) promote healthy watersheds by improving knowledge and coordination, and 2) inform future local planning efforts related to watershed health through the use of the best available science, policy, and planning information. This project will build on existing efforts by the Left Hand Watershed Center, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, and others (e.g., Keep it Clean Partnership, Fourmile Watershed Coalition) that are creating a science-based framework for defining and measuring watershed health in Boulder County. The proposed project will take the science produced by these existing local efforts as well as relevant regional policy and planning information and lay the foundation for integrating it at a practical level into local governments' land use planning tools and activities. This project will be completed with robust stakeholder engagement. It will make existing partnerships more effective by establishing strong functional relationships and linkages between local government planning, programming and resource allocation, as well as between diverse stakeholder groups across the county. Specifically, we support this effort because it will accomplish the following objectives:

- Improve agency consensus and coordination within the watershed and help clarify partners' roles in supporting and maintaining healthy watersheds in Boulder County.
- Define, as local government agencies, healthy watershed characteristics across Boulder County including environmental and recreation-related benefits. Translate the findings of ongoing activities, specifically those of the Left Hand Watershed Center, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, and others, into a list of common characteristics shared by healthy watersheds and a description of how each of these features improves watershed health across the County.

- Identify potential land use planning strategies and tools available to help integrate the science of watershed health into local government actions that will support and enhance healthy watersheds in Boulder County.
- Highlight specific areas within the watersheds that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate and land use change and that could benefit from more focused planning, projects, and strategic partnerships to proactively mitigate, prepare for and adapt to those potential impacts.
- Develop a succinct, user-friendly Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide that will summarize the outcomes of all project objectives.

The Town of Superior has a strong relationship with Boulder County. Superior believes the County is assembling a strong stakeholder network and will call on a qualified technical support team to accomplish the objectives outlined in this grant application. We have worked together with the County in a variety of capacities and we look forward to having the opportunity to continue to build this strong working relationship by supporting the County with this proposed project.

The Town of Superior looks forward to participating in the proposed project as an actively engaged core stakeholder. As such, we anticipate receiving regular updates, participating in work sessions as they pertain to topics of relevance to Superior, and participating in key decisions. We will help ensure the County is aware of related efforts we participate in and help align goals across projects. We will also do our part to let other relevant organizations and individuals know about the County's proposed project and help gather feedback to inform the project's success.

We share in Boulder County's vision to promote healthy watersheds and safe, sustainable water resources that can be resilient under changing population, land use, and disruptions such as wildfires and changing climate conditions. We believe this work will play an important role in translating Colorado Water Plan goals related to watershed health and recreation into a toolkit and planning guide that can inform future local planning efforts. We look forward to having the opportunity to partner with the County and other stakeholders in this project.

Sincerely,



Public Works & Utilities Director
Town of Superior

C: Erin Dodge, Boulder County Public Health



July 29, 2020

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm,

The Fourmile Watershed Coalition would like to express support for Boulder County's Water Plan Grant application for a Watershed Health Action Plan. The proposed project will formulate a vision for watershed health across Boulder County's watersheds to inform policy and identify future needs. This project will build on existing efforts by the Left Hand Watershed Center and others (e.g., Keep it Clean Partnership, Fourmile Watershed Coalition) that are creating a science-based framework for defining and measuring watershed health in Boulder County. The proposed project will take the science produced by these existing efforts and work toward integrating it at a practical level into the County's, and potentially other Boulder County local governments', policies and practices. This project will be completed with robust stakeholder engagement. It will make existing partnerships more effective by establishing strong functional relationships and linkages between local government planning, programming and resource allocation, as well as between diverse stakeholder groups across the county. Specifically, we support this effort because it will accomplish the following objectives:

- In a stakeholder-driven manner, and in coordination with other watershed health efforts, document common characteristics shared by healthy watersheds and describe how these features improves watershed health across the county
- Develop a list of prioritized watershed health topics to address through enhanced policies, practices, regulatory amendments, and intergovernmental agreements to codify actions that will enhance Boulder County's watershed health
- Highlight specific areas most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and land use that could benefit from more focused planning, projects, and strategic partnerships
- Clarify the County's and other stakeholders' roles in supporting watershed health and identify the best ways the County and potentially other local governments can allocate their staff and other resources to support identified watershed health needs
- Ensure that the Colorado Water Plan goals related to watershed health and recreation are effectively translated into concrete local government actions

The Fourmile Watershed Coalition has a strong relationship with Boulder County. The Fourmile Watershed Coalition believes the County is assembling a strong stakeholder network and will call on a qualified technical support team to accomplish the objectives outlined in this grant application. We have worked together with the County in a variety of capacities and we look forward to having the opportunity to continue to build this strong working relationship by supporting the County with this project.

The Fourmile Watershed Coalition looks forward to participating in the proposed project [as an actively engaged core stakeholder. As such, we anticipate receiving regular project updates,



participating in work sessions as they pertain to topics of relevance, and participating in key decisions. We will help ensure the County is aware of related efforts we participate in and help align goals across the projects. We will also do our part to let other relevant organizations and individuals know about the County's project and help gather feedback to inform the project's success.

We share in Boulder County's vision to help define the characteristics of healthy watersheds within the county and identify and align policies and actions to meet a common set of watershed goals over time. We believe this work will play an important role in translating Colorado Water Plan goals related to watershed health and recreation into concrete local government actions within Boulder County. We look forward to having the opportunity to partner with the County and other stakeholders in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maya MacHamer".

Maya MacHamer
Watershed Coordinator
Fourmile Watershed Coalition

November 23, 2020

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for Boulder County's Water Plan Grant application

Dear Mr. Sturm,

The South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) is pleased to write in support for Boulder County's Water Plan Grant application for a Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide. We believe this work will play an important role in translating Colorado Water Plan goals related to watershed health, environment and recreation into a toolkit and planning guide that can inform future local planning efforts for the stakeholders within the county and beyond. The South Platte Roundtable met on November 10, 2020 and approved support of this application unanimously.

The proposed project will formulate a vision for watershed health across the watersheds within Boulder County to: 1) promote healthy watersheds by improving knowledge and coordination, and 2) inform future local planning efforts related to watershed health through the use of the best available science, policy, and planning information. This project will build on existing efforts by the Left Hand Watershed Center, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, and others (e.g., Keep it Clean Partnership, Fourmile Watershed Coalition) that are creating a science-based framework for defining and measuring watershed health in Boulder County.

The proposed project will take the science produced by these existing local efforts as well as relevant regional policy and planning information and lay the foundation for integrating it at a practical level into local governments' land use planning tools and activities. This project will be completed with robust stakeholder engagement. It will make existing partnerships more effective by establishing strong functional relationships and linkages between local government planning, programming and resource allocation, as well as between diverse stakeholder groups across the county.

The SPBRT believes the County is assembling a strong stakeholder network and will call on a qualified technical support team to accomplish the objectives outlined in this grant application. We share in Boulder County's vision to promote healthy watersheds and safe, sustainable water resources that can be resilient under changing population, land use, and climate. We look forward to having the opportunity to partner with the County and other stakeholders in this project.

On behalf of the South Platte Basin Roundtable, we are pleased to recommend Boulder County's Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide proposal for approval by the CWCB.

Sincerely,



Garrett Varra

South Platte Basin Roundtable, Chair

July 17, 2020

Chris Sturm - Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm,

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) enthusiastically supports Boulder County's Water Plan Grant application for a Watershed Health Action Plan. The proposed project will formulate a vision for watershed health across Boulder County's watersheds to inform policy and identify future needs. This project will build on existing efforts to create a science-based framework for defining and measuring watershed health in the county. Additionally, the proposed project will integrate this framework into policies and practices throughout the county. Specifically, this effort will accomplish the following objectives:

- document common characteristics shared by healthy watersheds and describe how these features improve watershed health across the County; and
- develop a list of prioritized watershed health topics to address through enhanced policies, practices, regulatory amendments, and intergovernmental agreements to codify actions; and
- highlight specific areas most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and land use that could benefit from more focused planning, projects and strategic partnerships; and
- clarify roles in supporting watershed health and identify the best ways the County and potentially other local governments can allocate their staff and resources to support watershed health.

The County is assembling a strong stakeholder network and will call on a qualified technical support team to accomplish the objectives outlined in this grant application. DRCOG's unanimously adopted Metro Vision plan notes the importance of collaborative efforts to promote water conservation and responsible water-management and land use practices. Additionally, in our role as a regional convener, we can expand the reach of the project by bringing together stakeholders from across the region to learn about the County's project and advance the practice planning for watershed health throughout our planning area.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposal initiated by Boulder County. We fully support their efforts and look forward to the opportunity to partner with Boulder County and other stakeholders in this project.

Sincerely,



Douglas W. Rex
Executive Director