



Last Updated: May 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant Application

Instructions

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.

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:

Water Storage & Supply Projects	Matthew.Stearns@state.co.us
Conservation, Land Use Planning	Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us
Engagement & Innovation Activities	Ben.Wade@state.co.us
Agricultural Projects	Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Water Sharing & ATM Projects	Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Environmental & Recreation Projects	Chris.Sturm@state.co.us

FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials in one email to

waterplan.grants@state.co.us

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.

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	River Network
Name of Water Project	Piloting Multi-Benefit Project Coordinators – Readiness Assessment Supplemental Ask
CWP Grant Request Amount	\$32,439.00
Other Funding Sources _____	\$2,500.00
Other Funding Sources _____	\$
Other Funding Sources _____	\$
Applicant Funding Contribution	\$8,313.00
Total Project Cost	\$43,252.00



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Applicant & Grantee Information
Name of Grantee(s): River Network
Mailing Address: PO Box 21387
FEIN: 93-0969979
Organization Contact: Nicole Seltzer
Position/Title: Science & Policy Program Manager
Email: nseltzer@rivernetwork.org
Phone: 970-744-0324
Grant Management Contact: Nicole Seltzer
Position/Title: Science & Policy Program Manager
Email: nseltzer@rivernetwork.org
Phone: 970-744-0324
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)
Mailing Address
Position/Title
Email
Phone
Description of Grantee/Applicant
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
<p>River Network unites communities to protect and restore rivers. Since 2017 we've been at the forefront of expanding interest and effectiveness of Stream Management Plans in Colorado, including supporting agricultural involvement.</p> <p>DARCA is a statewide nonprofit servicing water over 200 delivery organizations and other water organizations who collectively represent all sectors of water in the state of Colorado. DARCA's mission is to be the definitive resource for networking, information exchange, and advocacy among its members.</p>



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	Public (Government): Municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
	Public (Districts): Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	Private Incorporated: Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: Private parties may be eligible for funding.
X	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)	
	Study
	Construction
X	Other (identified projects and processes)

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)	
	<p>Water Storage & Supply - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity, multi-beneficial projects, water sharing agreements, Alternative Transfer Methods, and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p> <p>Note: For Water Sharing Agreements or ATM Projects - please include the supplemental application available on the CWCB's website.</p>
	<p>Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, water efficiency, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>
	<p>Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>
X	<p>Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coarse analysis at the HUC8 scale; 2. Development of an online resource hub and directory; 3. Project management.
	<p>Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>



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	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/Counties	Routt, Moffat / Dolores, Montezuma, La Plata
Latitude	40.48669, / 37.346384,
Longitude	-106.833842 / -108.296567

Water Project Overview

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.

The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.



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River Network identified significant demand by local agriculture organizations to become effective advocates for projects that integrate irrigation water management, irrigation infrastructure improvements, river flow restoration or leases, and management of private riparian lands. In response to this need, River Network is teaming up with the Community Agriculture Alliance and the Mancos Conservation District to conduct a two-year pilot that will provide resources to increase the quantity and quality of multi-benefit projects on private lands. A Colorado Water Plan grant in the amount of \$133,179 approved on March 10th, 2021, provides partial funding.

As originally envisioned in the March 2021 CWP grant, River Network scoped a coarse review of local ag organizations at the HUC-8 scale to classify their desire and readiness to implement similar work. Through subsequent conversations with CWCB and the Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance, the original task is proposed to be expanded significantly. Supplemental funding will help identify locations throughout the state that are ripe to scale up this project and place future coordinators. Expanding the scope of this task will result in the development of an interactive map of findings, a technical memo outlining methods and results, and a resource hub and directory.

Measurable Results

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 or water sharing agreement	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity	
NA	Other	Explain: An interactive map of findings from the assessment, and a Resource Hub and Directory that will provide an online, accessible



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		one-stop-shop for ditch companies, irrigators, and other stakeholders seeking assistance to implement
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Water Project Justification

Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of [Colorado's Water Plan](#), the [Analysis and Technical Update to the Water Plan](#), 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).

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;)

Colorado's Water Plan (Ch. 10, p. 10) identifies six critical agricultural actions. By identifying and shepherding priority agricultural projects, this proposal makes meaningful progress on two of them: 1) Encourage ditch-wide and regional planning to explore system-wide conservation and efficiency opportunities and tradeoffs, the potential for water sharing, and long-term infrastructure maintenance needs; and 2) Provide grants, loans, and technical support to update and improve Colorado's aging agricultural infrastructure, especially where improvements provide multiple benefits.

In the basins where we will pilot this project (Southwest and Yampa), the Basin Implementation Plans include multiple goals to encourage and protect ag water uses:

Yampa:

- Identify projects that propose to use at-risk water rights, alternative transfer methods, water banking, and efficiency improvements that protect and encourage continued agricultural water use. (YWG BIP, p. 1-9)
- Recommend possible site-specific solutions in collaboration with local water users including new storage, enlargement or repair of existing reservoirs, infrastructure to improve irrigation system efficiency, etc. (YWG BIP, p. 1-9)
- Identity specific locations in the YWG Basin where infrastructure requires improvement or replacement to preserve existing uses. Recommend potential solutions in collaboration with local water users. (YWG BIP, p. 1-13)

Southwest:

- Support specific and unique new IPPs important to maintaining the quality of life in this region, and to address multiple purposes (SW BIP, p. 12)
- Implement efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and production (SW BIP, p. 13)
- Implement IPPs that work towards meeting agricultural water supply shortages. (SW BIP, p. 13)

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.



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Statewide

- Colorado State Conservation Board SMP Survey of Conservation Districts (2019)

Yampa Basin

- Yampa White Green Basin Implementation Plan IPP lists (2015)
- Yampa IWMP Diversion Infrastructure Assessment (2020)
- Yampa IWMP Agricultural Stakeholder Focus Groups and Interviews (2018-2020)
- Upper Yampa Watershed Plan (2017)

Southwest Basin

- Southwest Basin Implementation Plan IPP lists (2015)
- Mancos Watershed Drought Resilience Planning Draft (2019)
- Mancos River Habitat and Diversion Project Phase I (2009), II (2013) and III (On-going)
- Upper Dolores Watershed Rapid Assessment (2010)
- Climate Change and the Upper Dolores Watershed: A Coldwater-fisheries Adaptive Management Framework (2017)

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.

River Network Grants

Year	Grant Name	CWCB Funding Source (WSRF, CWP, Etc.)	Agreement Number	Amount	Start Date
2017	INCREASING LOCAL ENGAGEMENT FOR COLORADO'S WATER FUTURE	Watershed Restoration	POGG1 PDAA 201700000912	\$95,000	4/14/17
2019	Ensuring Effective Stream Mgt Plans	Watershed Restoration	POGG1,PDAA,202000002139	\$139,376	8/16/19
2021	Piloting Multi-Benefit Proj Coord	CWP	POGG1,PDAA,202100003163	\$133,169.75	6/31/21

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.

None.



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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⁾
	Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
	Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
	Letters of Support (Optional)
	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾
	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾
	W-9 ⁽²⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Water Sharing Agreements and Alternative Transfer Methods ONLY	
	Water Sharing Agreements and Alternative Transfer Methods 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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Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work

Date:	7/01/2021
Name of Grantee:	River Network
Name of Water Project:	Piloting Multi-Benefit Project Coordinators - Readiness Assessment Supplemental Ask
Funding Source:	Colorado Water Plan Grant
Water Project Overview:	
<p>River Network has identified significant demand by local agriculture organizations to become effective advocates for projects that integrate irrigation water management, irrigation infrastructure improvements, river flow restoration or leases, and management of private riparian lands. These local organizations need additional support to overcome challenges such as lack of capacity to conduct meaningful outreach to landowners, lack of knowledge of available funding sources and how to combine them, and lack of access to appropriate technical skills to develop project plans.</p> <p>In response to this need, River Network is teaming up with the Community Agriculture Alliance in Steamboat Springs and the Mancos Conservation District in southwest Colorado to conduct a two-year pilot that will provide resources to increase the quantity and quality of multi-benefit projects on private lands. A Colorado Water Plan grant in the amount of \$133,179 approved on March 10th, 2021, provides partial funding.</p> <p>As originally envisioned in the March 2021 CWP grant, River Network scoped a coarse review of local ag organizations at the HUC-8 scale to classify their desire and readiness to implement similar work. Through subsequent conversations with CWCB staff and the Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance, the original task is proposed to be expanded significantly. Supplemental funding through this grant will help identify locations throughout the state that are ripe to scale up this project and place future agricultural coordinators. Expanding the scope of this task will result in the development of an interactive map of findings, a technical memo outlining methods and results, and a resource hub and directory that will provide resources for ditch companies, irrigators, and other stakeholders seeking assistance in improving irrigation infrastructure and other multi-beneficial projects.</p> <p>River Network will provide project management, will lead efforts to identify the best way to scale up this approach in other basins, lead the development of an interactive map and technical memo, and provide support in the development of the online resource hub and directory.</p> <p>DARCA will support and collaborate with the River Network and other stakeholders to perform the reviewing/mapping process, create a resource hub for information exchange, and will be the connective tissue between the agricultural community and technical support, will ground-truth the mapping results, and will assist River Network as necessary.</p>	
Project Objectives:	



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1. Recommend actions and locations to scale the multi-benefit project coordinators project up after the pilot phase.
2. Develop an online resource hub and directory for ditch companies, irrigators, and other stakeholders seeking assistance in improving irrigation infrastructure and other multi-beneficial projects.

Tasks
Task 1 – Coarse Analysis at the HUC-8 Scale
Description of Task: <p>River Network and DARCA plan to complement the previously funded placement of Ag Coordinators in the Yampa and Southwest basins with an analysis of agriculture organizations at the HUC-8 scale (mission/purpose, how active they are, recent focus areas, interest in expanding their role, etc) and provide possible locations where this approach could be successfully replicated. Discussions with Colorado Water Conservation Board staff have expanded the coarse analysis task beyond its original scope. To meet CWCB's desired deliverable, a robust identification of locations throughout the state ripe to scale up this approach and place future agricultural coordinators, additional funding is required to complete a more robust assessment and bring on DARCA as a partner.</p>
Method/Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Together, River Network and DARCA will develop a scoring rubric to score the readiness for the placement of future agricultural coordinators throughout the state to successfully scale this approach;• Together, River Network and DARCA will complete a robust assessment of agricultural organizations at the HUC-8 scale to determine the level of readiness for placement of an agricultural coordinator. HUC-8s will be evaluated and scored using the following criteria:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Determine the mission/purpose of local agricultural organizations,○ County drought, flood, and wildfire risk,○ Irrigated acreage,○ Agricultural economic output and socio-economic value,○ Environmental and recreational attributes,○ Level of local agricultural engagement,○ Age of agricultural infrastructure,○ Completed stream and/or watershed management plans,



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- Availability of match resources.
- Results of the assessment will be presented as an interactive map with a memo that explains the results.

Deliverable:

- An interactive map of findings from the assessment,
- Technical memo describing the method and results.

Tasks

Task 2 – Resource Hub & Directory

Description of Task:

To supplement the interactive map, River Network and DARCA, with support from contractors, will develop an online resource hub and directory that will provide resources for ditch companies, irrigators, and other stakeholders seeking assistance in improving irrigation infrastructure and other multi-beneficial projects. The Hub will include a directory of project coordinators, a step-by-step guide to navigating irrigation system modernization projects, frequently updated resources on public funding and technical assistance, and case studies on completed planning initiatives and multi-purpose irrigation projects.



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Method/Procedure:

- DARCA will lead the efforts to develop an online resource hub and directory, with support from contractors who have expertise in the creation of online resource hubs.

Deliverable:

- An online resource hub and directory.

Tasks

Task 3 – Project Oversight

Description of Task:

River Network will ensure completion of all tasks, including project administration and reporting, and ensure that the project is implemented on-time and within budget. River Network will also facilitate effective collaboration with DARCA.

Method/Procedure:



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- River Network will ensure there are regular internal meetings between River Network, DARCA, and other partners to stay on budget and schedule;
- River Network will provide financial accounting services and fund disbursement;
- River Network will create grant progress reports every six months.

Deliverable:

6-month grant progress reports that include financial statements

Budget and Schedule

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.

Reporting Requirements

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.

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.



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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 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.



Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B

Budget and Schedule

Project End Date: 05/31/2022

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Coarse Analysis at the HUC-8 Scale	4/1/2021	5/31/2022	\$ 7,070.00	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 10,320.00
2	Resource Hub & Directory	04/01/2021	05/31/2022	\$ 22,437.00	\$ 7,563.00	\$ 30,000.00
3	Project Oversight	04/01/2021	05/31/2022	\$ 2,932.00	\$ -	\$ 2,932.00
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
Total				\$32,439	\$10,813	\$43,252



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant - Detailed Budget Estimate
Fair and Reasonable Estimate

Prepared Date: 07/01/2021

Name of Applicant: River Network

Name of Water Project: Piloting Multi-Benefit Project Coordinators – Readiness Assessment Supplemental Ask



June 28, 2021

Alex Funk
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St. Suite 718
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Piloting Multi-Benefit Project Coordinators – Readiness Assessment Supplemental Ask

Dear Alex and Colorado Water Conservation Board and Staff;

The Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance is pleased to collaborate with the River Network on the Piloting Multi-Benefit Project Coordinators – Readiness Assessment Supplemental project. This project will directly impact ditch and reservoir companies, their systems, communities, and overall water community. DARCA believes in the project and is eager to work with the River Network team and other stakeholders to make this project a reality for many who need a Coordinator in their area and truly assessing the need in each HUC 8.

As a part of the collaboration with the River Network, DARCA will contribute \$2,500 match, both in-kind and cash, to the grant project.

We look forward to this project moving forward and to fully understand the needs of irrigators statewide.

Sincerely,

Amber Weber, Executive Director
Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance



Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St
Denver, CO 80203

July 1, 2021

Dear CWCB Grant Committee,

I am writing this letter to express River Network's support and confirm a financial commitment for River Network's Colorado Water Plan Grant Application - Piloting Multi-Benefit Project Coordinators Readiness Assessment Supplemental Ask.

Over the one year course of this grant, River Network will provide \$2,000 of in-kind matching funding in the form of personnel time, travel, meeting and supply costs and \$6,313 in cash match.

River Network is excited to expand the original scope of the project to include a robust assessment to identify locations throughout the state that future agricultural coordinators could be placed. Furthermore, this proposal helps River Network accomplish our mission, which is to unite people to protect and preserve rivers.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions by email kbaer@rivernetwork.org or by phone at (410) 292-4619.

Sincerely,

Katherine Baer
Director of Science and Policy