



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

Rebecca Mitchell, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ben Wade, Water Supply Planning Section

DATE: September 2, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 25e. Water Plan Grants - Engagement and Innovation

Introduction

In the first round of fiscal year 2021-2022 applications, the CWCB received two application for grants \$100,000 or greater for the Engagement and Innovation category totaling \$545,606. Staff is recommending approval of one grant totaling \$285,356. See the attached Data Sheet for locations and project summaries.

Staff Recommendation

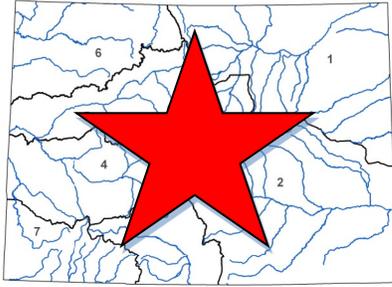
Staff recommends the following Board action for activities listed in the following table regarding Colorado’s Water Plan Grant Program funding. Project approval is contingent on awardees implementing the project consistent with any public health orders and executive orders in effect at the time of implementation.

Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request Amount	Staff Recommendation
e. Colorado Cattlemen’s Association	CCA/CAWA 2 Year Agricultural Water Priorities - Infrastructure Assessment, Storage and Outreach	\$285,356	Approve \$285,356
Total Recommended for Approval			\$285,356





Water Plan Grant Application



L O C A T I O N	
County/Countries:	All
Drainage Basin:	Statewide

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$392,930
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$285,356
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$53,400
Applicant Match:	\$54,174
Project Type(s):	Other
Project Category(Categories):	Agricultural, and Engagement/Innovation
Measurable Result:	5,000 of Coloradoans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other:	Number of irrigated acreage of attendees at outreach events; projects implemented by event attendees with CCA/CAWA assistance; reservoir companies engaged for rehabilitation; reservoir rehabilitation projects undertaken by working group

The applicant, Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) focuses on "keeping Ag water connected with ag land." Through outreach, education, feedback and technical assistance, the applicant engages agricultural producers with in-depth knowledge about Ag water-related challenges and opportunities in Colorado. The applicant will work with the Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA). Together, both organizations represents nearly 30 Ag organizations and their priorities which have been set by the CAWA member organizations and its advisory council.

If approved, water plan grant funds would be used over two years to complete the following objectives:

- Continued education and outreach on water issues important to agriculture. The topics of focus will encompass funding for irrigation infrastructure, watershed and stream management planning, drought contingency planning, efficiency and conservation, and Regulation 85 and related water quality issues. Outreach will include workshops, trainings, presentations, webinars, and publications for agricultural producers around the state, as well as an Ag water symposium. The CWCB has provided past funding for this objective over the past several years through past Water Plan and Water Supply Reserve grant funding.
- The formation of a statewide Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group that would be tasked with identifying agricultural / multi-purpose reservoirs in need of sediment removal and infrastructure improvements. The working group will produce a report describing the needs and estimated cost of rehabilitating impacted reservoirs, along with the benefits.
- Performing an irrigation infrastructure assessment in Custer County to help local producers identify where multi-benefit improvements can be achieved. This pilot project will be accomplished in cooperation with and provide funding to the local conservation district.

The applicants believes this project aligns with the Water Plan by engaging farmers and producers and educating them on critical water issues as well as helping the Ag community to be more efficient and resilient.

Funding Recommendation: Staff is recommending approval of this grant in the amount of \$285,356 from the Engagement and Innovation category.



Last Updated: June 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	Colorado Cattlemen’s Association (Colorado Ag Water Alliance)	
Name of Water Project	CCA/CAWA 2-YR Agricultural Water Priorities - Infrastructure Assessment, Storage and Outreach	
CWP Grant Request Amount	\$ 285,356	
Other Funding Sources <u>Custer County CD</u>	\$ 25,000	
Other Funding Sources <u>Wilson Water Group (In-kind)</u>	\$ 8,400	
Other Funding Sources <u>Storage Working Group (I-k)</u>	\$ 20,000	
Applicant Funding Contribution	\$ 54,174	
Total Project Cost	\$ 392,930	



Last Updated: June 2021

Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Mailing Address	8833 Ralston Road, Arvada, CO 80002
FEIN	84-0174480
Organization Contact	Terry Fankhauser
Position/Title	CCA Executive Vice President
Email	terry@coloradocattle.org
Phone	303-431-6433
Grant Management Contact	Erin Karney
Position/Title	Industry Advancement Director
Email	erin@coloradocattle.org
Phone	303-431-6422
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	Same as Grantee
Mailing Address	NA
Position/Title	NA
Email	NA
Phone	NA
Description of Grantee/Applicant	
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).	
<p>The Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) Agricultural Water NetWORK's (AWN) focuses on "keeping ag water connected with ag land." Through outreach, education, feedback and technical assistance, the AWN equips agricultural producers with in-depth knowledge about ag water-related challenges and opportunities in Colorado.</p> <p>The Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) is an association of agricultural organizations that focuses on education and outreach within the agricultural community. Our goal is to preserve irrigated agriculture by providing farmers and ranchers with information and resources to address water issues and use water to the benefit of their agricultural operations and the state of Colorado.</p> <p>We have continued to focus our efforts, as a team, that represents nearly 30 ag organizations and their priorities which have been set by the CAWA member organizations and the advisory council, composed of water users and other water stakeholders, of the Agricultural Water NetWORK. Together, we have created more focused and achievable outcomes for ag water users that decreases duplicity, confusion and maximizes private and public investments that are result driven.</p>	



Last Updated: June 2021

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

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)	
	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> Note: For Water Sharing Agreements or ATM Projects - please include the supplemental application available on the CWCB's website.
	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>
X	Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
X	Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
	Other Explain:



Last Updated: June 2021

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	All Counties in Colorado
Latitude	37° N to 41° N Latitude
Longitude	102°03' W to 109°03' W Longitude

Water Project Overview
<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>This is a joint application from the Colorado Cattlemen’s Ag Water NetWORK and the Colorado Ag Water Alliance. The project will span two (2) years and will complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and outreach on water issues important to agriculture. The topics of focus will encompass funding for irrigation infrastructure, watershed and stream management planning, drought contingency planning, efficiency and conservation, and Regulation 85 and related water quality issues. Outreach will include workshops, trainings, presentations, webinars, and publications for agricultural producers around the state, as well as an ag water symposium. • The formation of a statewide Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group that will identify agricultural / multi-purpose reservoirs in need of sediment removal and infrastructure improvements. The working group will produce a report describing the needs and estimated cost of rehabilitating impacted reservoirs, along with the benefits. • Irrigation infrastructure assessment in Custer County to help local producers identify where multi-benefit improvements can be achieved. This pilot project will be accomplished in cooperation with and provide funding to the local conservation district.



Last Updated: June 2021

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 Non-consumptive
	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
5,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
X	Other Explain: Number of irrigated acreage of attendees at outreach events. Number of projects implemented by event attendees with CCA/CAWA assistance. Number of reservoir companies engaged for rehabilitation. Number of reservoir rehabilitation projects undertaken by working group

Water Project Justification
<p>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).</p> <p>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;)</p> <p>The goals of our outreach and assistance are to provide agricultural producers with the information and resources they need to continue productive operations and preserve irrigated agriculture. According to the Technical Update to the Water Plan (2019) and majority of residents surveyed stated that water for Colorado's farms and ranches was the second most important water-related issue after the quality of water for homes (Volume 2, Section 12, "Observation Regarding Public Perceptions on Water"). Every basin throughout the state highlights the need for education and outreach to the agricultural community.</p> <p>The Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP) 2020-2025 identifies agricultural dry-up as one of the "big water challenges facing Colorado." Our project furthers multiple outcomes outlined in SWEAP. We are working to provide producers the knowledge and skills to take an active role in water stewardship in their communities. Our workshops and outreach revolve raise producer awareness about the value of participating in "community discourse and decision processes about water at the state, regional and local levels."</p> <p>Our goal is to equip producers with knowledge and technical assistance that will result in more flexible and profitable ag water usage and minimize permanent dry-up of irrigated agricultural land in Colorado. We will also be discussing with producers and agricultural water organizations creative opportunities for long-</p>



Last Updated: June 2021

term and sustainable funding. For example, recent efforts by the Colorado River Water Conservation District and St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District.

There is also strong interest among agricultural producers to better understand and participate in stream and watershed planning efforts. According to Colorado Cattlemen’s 2019 survey, seventy (70) percent of producers indicated it would be helpful to have a better understanding of watershed management plans if they were to participate in the planning process. Eighty-eight (88) percent of producers indicated they were at least “somewhat interested” in participating in a local watershed management planning initiative. Almost 1 in 4 indicated that they were “very interested” in participating.

Our organizations are best equipped to conduct this necessary outreach. CAWA and CCA represent the majority of agricultural producers throughout the state. Annually, we host meetings in every river basin, and have presentation to producers in almost every county when we meet with local affiliates, ditch companies, and other agricultural organizations. Under this project, we will continue our outreach throughout the state, covering every river basin, many conservancy districts, and multiple ditch companies. In our outreach, we provide thorough and relevant events and presentations that address the needs and questions of local producers. Because of our relationships and reputation in the agricultural community, we are able to get members of the agricultural community to attend our events. Many of our events are planned directly with producers themselves.

There is a significant need to address aging infrastructure throughout the state. The 2019 Colorado Cattlemen’s Survey on watershed and stream management plans underscores the need within the agricultural community to address aging infrastructure and supporting the ag community in understanding and participating in stream and watershed management planning. The most common water-related challenges cited by producers were the amount of water available for irrigation, delivery infrastructure, irrigation efficiency and water storage.

We will be working with Custer County Conservation District to help them assess aging irrigation infrastructure and hire a coordinator to lead outreach and engage ag producers and other water stakeholders in the district and prepare grant proposals to address local irrigation and other natural resource needs. The coordinator will also work toward securing more long term funding to support district management needs.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the 2020 report card gave Colorado dams a C+ grade, noting that in an average year over 130 dams have storage restrictions due to their structural conditions. It is important to note that “many of the reservoirs under long-standing storage restrictions are owned by agricultural interests that may not have the funds to perform the rehabilitation (Technical Update, Volume 2, Section 10 “Opportunities of Increasing Storage”). While there are no state-wide assessments of irrigation infrastructure, the few regional assessments have shown significant opportunities for improvements to be made. The Eagle County Conservation District surveyed 25 ditches and inventoried over 50 projects to improve headgates and ditch systems. A similar process along the Yampa River is targeting upwards of 40 improvement projects for agricultural ditch systems.

The working group will take a targeted approach to issues related to aging agricultural reservoirs. This project will help us understand the amount of water “lost” due to reservoirs with restrictions, and the difficulty of opportunities for rehabilitation. The goal will also work to implement rehabilitation projects over the two-year period.

Related Studies



Last Updated: June 2021

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.

Through outreach, education and technical assistance, this project complements other CWCB and basin roundtable funded projects in Rio Blanco County, (White River Integrated Water Initiative), Upper Arkansas River (integrated water management planning and agricultural irrigation infrastructure assessments and improvement projects), Delta County (Stewart Ditch diversion / N. Fork of the Gunnison), and several other irrigation districts and water conservancy districts.

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.

1) Colorado Cattlemen's Association
2) Water Plan Grant; Assoc. Engagement and Innovation.
3) Approving RT(s) - N/A
4) 01/10/18
5) POGG1 PDAA 201800000656
6) 50%

1) Colorado Cattlemen's Association
2) Water Plan Grant AG CO Cattlemen's Assoc Outreach/Tech Asst.
3) Approving RT(s) - N/A
4) 12/28/18
5) POGG1,PDAA,201900002548
6) 50%

1) Colorado Cattlemen's Association
2) Water Plan Grant CO Cattlemen's Assoc Engage & Innov Pt 2
3) Approving RT(s) - N/A
4) 1/10/19
5) POGG1,PDAA,201900002621
6) 50%

1) Colorado Cattlemen's Association
2) Water Plan Grant CO Cattlemen's Assoc Outreach/Tech Asst.
3) Approving RT(s) - N/A
4) 12/16/19
5) POGG1,PDAA,202000002612
6) 50%

1) Colorado Ag Water Alliance
2) Outreach & Capacity Building for Ag Water Projects
3) South Platte Basin & Colorado River Basin
4) 5/20/2020
5) POGG1,PDAA,202000003164
6) 75%

Taxpayer Bill of Rights



Last Updated: June 2021

<p>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.</p> <p>No TABOR related-constraints are known or anticipated.</p>

Submittal Checklist	
	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract .
Exhibit A	
	Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾
	Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾
	Engineer’s statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
	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.

Last Updated: June 2021

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)
<p>In a few sentences, what is the overall goal of this project? How does it achieve the stated purpose of this grant fund (above)?</p>
<p>Effectively engage agricultural producers in every river basin, and keep them informed of critical water resource issues. Specifically, this project will increase agricultural producers’ knowledge of infrastructure improvements, grant funding, conservation, efficiency, and water quality. Our meetings are well attended by farmers and ranchers throughout the state. CCA and CAWA are the only groups that target agricultural producers state-wide on water issues of concern because agricultural producers make up the membership of our organizations and our governing boards. Our events are planned with and for agricultural producers.</p>
<p>Who is/are the target audience(s)? How will you reach them? How will you involve the community?</p>
<p>Our audience is farmers and ranchers throughout the state. We have spent years building personal relationships with our constituents, and often plan our events with them in the form of joint events or annual meetings. Content, speakers, and logistics of these events are discussed with local producers. The end products are events that tailored to their schedule and interests of agricultural producers.</p>
<p>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?</p>
<p>CAWA operates like an association of over 15 agricultural organizations. It acts like a forum for the member organizations to focus on topics for education and outreach. As previously mentioned, local producers and other agricultural organizations help plan and implement programming. For this project we will be working with Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers, Colorado Dairy Farmers, Colorado Livestock Association, Colorado Pork Producers Council, Colorado Corn Administrative Committee, Farm Bureau, Rocky Mountain</p>



Last Updated: June 2021

Farmers Union, Colorado Association of Conservation Districts, Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, Colorado Horse Council, Colorado Egg Producers, Colorado Wheat Growers, and dozens of stock growers affiliates throughout the state. We also work with the following conservation districts and conservancy districts: Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, Colorado River Water Conservation District, Jackson County Water Conservancy District, and Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District. We also plan to work with some irrigation districts: North Sterling Irrigation District, Grand Valley Water Users Association, Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company, and Uncompahgre Water Users Association.

Describe how you plan to measure and evaluate the success and impact of the project?

We will evaluate our project through several different metrics. For the education and outreach:

- (1) Survey will be given out at workshops and trainings
- (2) Number of attendees and amount of irrigated acreage
- (3) Projects implemented by even attendees with CAWA/CCA assistance

For the Reservoir Rehabilitation Group:

- (1) Number of reservoir companies engaged
- (2) Number of Number of reservoir rehabilitation projects undertaken by working group

What research, evidence, and data support your project?

CAWA has been using comprehensive surveys to gauge the value of workshops and the desire for similar programming. 35% of regional workshop attendees completed surveys and the majority of responses were positive to CAWA efforts to engages producers:

Key Questions:

I found the following information helpful....	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
Today's workshop as a whole		0%	4%	60%	36%
The role of CAWA and what they are doing		0%	7%	55%	38%

CCA's Ag Water NetWORK surveyed Colorado agricultural producers to assess their familiarity with the watershed and stream management planning process, and to better understand their needs and priorities related to water. Seventy (70) percent of producers indicated it would be helpful to have a better understanding of watershed management plans if they were to participate in the planning process.

According to the recent technical update of the Water Plan, in all scenarios of growth and climate change agricultural producers face water shortages through the state, especially in groundwater dependent regions like the Eastern Plains and the San Luis Valley. In these areas, conservation is one of the tools that will likely be necessary to maintain agricultural viability in these regions.

Describe potential short- and long-term challenges with this project.

With the reservoir rehabilitation working group, there are likely many viable and competitive projects. So far, the main issue will be the group's ability to determine cost of rehabilitation so that reservoir companies at least have some general idea of cost when trying to secure grants and loans.

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



Last Updated: June 2021

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.”

CCA and CAWA represent Colorado’s agricultural water interests. Through workshops, webinars, tours, and presentations, the project will inform participants on pertinent water issues. Meetings targeting ag producers will include topics that affect irrigators, including efficiency, water conservation, demand management, deficit irrigation, and funding for infrastructure improvement. Additionally, the results of our irrigation infrastructure needs survey will be published and outreach and discussed in meetings. This project will push forward on multiple fronts, engaging producers that have thus far not been involved in dialogs about agricultural water issues.

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.

CCA’s and CAWA’s goal is to preserve irrigated agriculture and empower producers to make the best decisions possible regarding how they manage and maximize the value and utility of their water rights. The overarching goal of this project is to help minimize buying and drying of irrigated ag land by creating a knowledgeable ag water right holder community that brings a balanced and innovative perspective to the challenge of closing the demand-supply gap. Topics including storage, conservation, conjunctive use, ATMs, and flow re-timing are of interest to both ag and non-ag interest groups, and ultimately will lead to innovative approaches to increasing conservation, improving watershed health, recreation and the environment, securing irrigated agricultural land near towns and cities, protecting food security, and building a framework which enables a more sustainable ag industry.

Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement goals set forth in the applicable Basin Implementation Plan(s).

The South Platte Basin Implementation Plan calls for efforts to garner community and political support to develop tools to sustain irrigated agriculture (1.9.1). The Yampa/White/Green BIP calls for protecting and encouraging “agricultural uses of water in the YWG Basin within the context of private property rights” (1.2.4). Sustaining, protecting, and promoting agriculture is major theme of the Colorado BIP (16). The Gunnison BIP also emphasizes the goal to “discourage the conversion of productive agricultural land to all other uses within the context of private property rights” (2). The Rio Grande BIP also cites the need for “outreach events designed for *agricultural water users* [emphasis added], public officials, and community members” (160). The focus of the CAWA project is to provide information and support to producers to benefit irrigated agriculture by identifying and supplying information that can address and benefit both the irrigated ag industry and non-ag water uses. The Arkansas River Basin BIP cites a goal of “sustaining a productive agricultural economy in the Basin that sustains viable rural, agricultural-based communities.”

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

Education toward and support for the agricultural community is emphasized in many of the basin Education Action Plans. The South Platte Basin Roundtable and Metro Roundtable Education Action Plan 2016-2018 calls for the long-term goal of hosting events focused on agriculture (page 1). The Arkansas Basin Roundtable PEPO Workgroup Education Action Plan Scope of Work Years 2016-2019 emphasizes partnership in Arkansas Basin specific education, including agriculture (1). The Southwest Basin Roundtable Public Education, Outreach, and Participation Education Action Plan includes a call to “coordinate and implement workshop(s) focused on on-farm efficiencies and improvement” (6). Our



Last Updated: June 2021

workshops, webinars, videos and other outreach provide opportunities for producers to learn more about the various goals expressed among the basin roundtables.

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.



Last Updated: June 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work	
Date:	
Name of Grantee:	Colorado Cattlemen’s Ag Water NetWORK (Colorado Ag Water Alliance)
Name of Water Project:	CCA/CAWA 2-YR Agricultural Water Priorities - Infrastructure Assessment, Storage and Outreach
Funding Source:	Agricultural, Engagement & Innovation
Water Project Overview:	
<p>This proposal represents a combination of projects from both Colorado Cattlemen’s Association (Ag Water NetWORK) and the Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA). The focus of the projects included in this proposal include assessing agricultural infrastructure, supporting conservation district capacity-building and integrated water management planning efforts, outreach and technical assistance on water related topics and funding sources, Regulation 85 and related water quality issues, conservation and efficiency, and creating a storage reclamation working group.</p> <p>Infrastructure Assessment and Conservation District Capacity-Building Assistance : We will work with and provide funds to Custer County Conservation District to create, hire and train a district coordinator who will be charged with outreach and connection with irrigators on voluntary infrastructure assessment opportunities, grant management and capacity building. The coordinator will engage with other water stakeholders in the district, schedule and lead or co-lead public meetings, schedule on-site visits for producer infrastructure assessments, work with the conservation district board president and board members on identifying priorities and pursuing grant funding to address needs, and help lead a visioning effort with the board on identifying and pursuing a permanent source of funding for the district. We will also be providing funds to the district to help accomplish the infrastructure assessments. At the present time, the conservation district board has identified assessment interest from irrigators in the following areas: Ten diversion structures on Grape Creek with additional interest on tributaries, 10 to 15 headgates and measuring devices which could also include waste gates where applicable, 25 sections of ditches where piping is desired or of interest, and field level irrigation improvements on 15 fields.</p> <p>Education and Outreach:</p> <p><u>Thirty-six (36) Outreach Meetings / Presentations for ag producers will be accomplished.</u> At least one in each of the Basins with additional meetings in the Colorado and the South Platte. Some of these meetings will also engage Basin Roundtables to strive for ongoing consistency and focus of messaging and programmatic implementation as outlined in the proposal. These events will connect with agriculture producers and other water stakeholders around the topics identified above.</p> <p><u>Twenty-four (24) Trainings/ Webinars / Mini- Workshops / Publications or Exhibit Booths</u> will offer interactive engagement opportunities that educate producers on topics of importance (as outlined above) and better equip producers to pro-actively engage in integrated water planning, local water-related irrigation multi-benefit projects, demand management, storage recovery, agricultural sustainability in the face of diminishing irrigation water supplies, water quality issues, and other elements addressed in the state water plan.</p>	

Last Updated: June 2021

Publications will be carried in agricultural outlets and other water focused media. Various formats including written, digital and social media will be used to communicate information. If we are able to, the exhibit booths will be at agricultural conferences/events to provide producers with information on water issues impacting agriculture. The exhibits will display projects related to topics of interest as identified previously.

In our workshops, we will also be discussing with producers and agricultural water organizations creative opportunities for long-term and sustainable funding. For example, recent efforts by the Colorado River Water Conservation District and St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District.

Agricultural Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group:

Organize a working group that represents different stakeholder groups (agricultural, municipal, environmental, industrial) to identify agricultural reservoir rehabilitation working group. The group will use the dam safety restricted list, Basin Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), and stakeholder networks to identify reservoirs in need of infrastructure improvements. We will contact and work with the reservoir owners to find and secure funding for reservoir rehabilitation. The purpose of the working group will be to identify how possible municipal, environmental, and industrial interests may benefit from rehabilitating specific projects that may be willing to assist with resources.

Project Objectives:

- Inform agricultural producers about critical water resource issues: infrastructure, grants and funding, conservation, efficiency, and water quality.
- Create a document that outlines the obstacles and benefits for rehabilitating agricultural reservoirs.
- Support multiple reservoir rehabilitation projects.

Tasks

Task 1 – Irrigation Assessment and Conservation District Capacity-Building Assistance

Description of Task:

We will work with and provide funds to Custer County Conservation District to create, hire and train a district coordinator who will be charged with outreach and connection with irrigators on voluntary infrastructure assessment opportunities, grant management and capacity building. The coordinator will engage with water stakeholders in the district, schedule and lead or co-lead public meetings, prepare and distribute a quarterly e-newsletter, schedule on-site visits for producer infrastructure assessments, assist in hiring a qualified professional to conduct the infrastructure assessments and/or work with the USDA-NRCS to lead the assessments, work with the conservation district board on identifying priorities and pursuing grant funding to address needs, prepare and manage budget(s), and lead or co-lead a broad visioning effort with the board and the community focused on identifying and pursuing a permanent source of funding for the district.

We will also be providing funds to the district to help accomplish the infrastructure assessments. At the present time, the conservation district board has identified assessment interest from irrigators in the following areas: Ten diversion structures on Grape Creek with additional interest on tributaries, 10 to 15 headgates and measuring devices which could also include waste gates where applicable, 25 sections of ditches where piping is desired or of interest, and field level irrigation improvements on 15 fields.



Last Updated: June 2021

Method/Procedure:
<p>In the first task we will work with the Custer County Conservation District board to prepare a job description, conduct interviews and hire a contract coordinator for the district. Once hired, we will provide funds that will be combined with district funds to pay the coordinator for an anticipated 18-month contract period. We will work with the district and access NRCS expertise to help train the contract coordinator. Training will occur over several months.</p> <p>We will assist the coordinator and the board in preparing initial outreach information and conducting meetings with irrigators in the Grape Creek watershed to explain, discuss and identify interested participants in the voluntary assessment project. One-on-one meetings with individual producers at their ranch will be part of this process and will help gather input from producers regarding specific infrastructure and improvement(s) needed.</p> <p>We will also be helping the district hire a consulting irrigation engineering expert to conduct the identified infrastructure assessments. A brief report summarizing findings and recommendations will be generated by the engineer for each participating producer. When the assessment process is complete, results will be aggregated and CCA will work with the coordinator to identify and pursue grants to help fund infrastructure improvements at those ranches that confirm interest in upgrading their system.</p> <p>CCA will also be working with the coordinator and the board over the course of the project to expand outreach to all water stakeholders within the district on water topics of relevance and in working to secure more permanent funding for the coordinator position.</p>
Deliverables:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Placement of a contract project coordinator at the district- Agendas and notes from working group meetings and outreach materials- Aggregate results of infrastructure assessments and estimated cost to implement improvements.- Document summarizing project components and possible future direction of like projects as identified by interest expressed by the board and stakeholders.

Tasks
Task 2 – Education and Outreach



Last Updated: June 2021

Description of Task:

Outreach will be conducted over two (2) years with half of the outreach occurring in year one and the other half in year two. Outreach will focus on the following topics:

Irrigation Infrastructure – Discuss opportunities to improve and fund infrastructure. We will be discussing ditch and irrigation inventories that have taken place around the state and helping initiate pilot irrigation assessments in the Grape Creek Watershed. We will also cover the different sources of funding available for infrastructure projects, the initial projects and processes (IPPs) for the basin roundtables, and provide guidance to agricultural producers on how to navigate different funding options with emphasis on synergizing and maximizing funding through multi-benefit projects.

Efficiency and Conservation – Focus on how specific and regionally relevant efficiency improvements can help irrigators with diminished stream flows and snowpack. Specific issues such as soil moisture monitoring, irrigation scheduling, automated gated pipe, and other research will be communicated to attendees. In areas under severe water shortages, topics will include conservation, conservation programs, deficit irrigation and highlight practices and irrigated operations that have consumed less water without negative economic impacts.

Regulation 85 and related water quality issues – Discuss Regulation 85, incentives for implementing voluntary BMPs to manage nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), and the results of current and recent studies to better understand water quality issues related to agriculture.

Ballot Initiatives and Water Projects – Discuss recent ballot initiatives by Conservancy and Conservation districts meant to address water resources issues. Describes these processes and how the process may be a tool to support other agricultural water projects.

Thirty six (36) Outreach Meetings / Presentations for ag producers will be accomplished. At least one in each of the Basins with additional meetings in the Colorado and the South Platte. Some of these meetings will also engage Basin Roundtables to strive for ongoing consistency and focus of messaging and programmatic implementation as outlined in the proposal. These events will connect with agriculture producers and other water stakeholders around the topics identified above.

Twenty-four (24) Trainings/ Webinars / Mini- Workshops / Publications or Exhibit Booths will offer interactive engagement opportunities that educate producers on topics of importance (as outlined above) and better equip producers to pro-actively engage in integrated water planning, local water-related irrigation multi-benefit projects, demand management, storage recovery, agricultural sustainability in the face of diminishing irrigation water supplies, water quality issues, and other elements addressed in the state water plan.

Method/Procedure:

Last Updated: June 2021

Both organizations (CCA and CAWA) have developed an extensive network among farmers and ranchers throughout the state. Every year we meet with conservancy districts, ditches, county stock growers, conservation districts, and our member groups cover every county and all the major agricultural industries. Many of our member organizations have chapter affiliates throughout the state. Part of the purpose of CAWA is to communicate and coordinate between all of these groups. This network is essential for helping us determine which organization to engage and where to host events.

Presentations: There are many agricultural entities with which we engage on an annual basis. We will be reaching out to them to gauge and cultivate interest in discussing any of the topics we are focusing on during our outreach. Interests identified in initial conversations typically lead to outreach and innovation opportunities through meetings and presentations. Often initial presentations will be at an annual meeting or a board meeting, and will be followed by more in-depth outreach engagement as interest is spurred.

Workshops/Trainings: For larger meetings, we will partner with CAWA member organizations, conservation districts, and conservancy districts. Working with those partner organizations, we put together workshop and training programs that meet our goals and those of the local district or organization. Many of these meetings will be planned for the winter when agricultural producers are more available. However, some meetings can take place at other times of the year depending on the agricultural season. CCA, CAWA, and member organizations will work with the local district to help advertise the event among the agricultural community.

Webinars: Depending on the issue and time of year, webinars have been an effective method to engage the agricultural community. This format also allows us to focus on specific locations, or provide a platform for speakers that are unable to travel to the rural locations where we normally have presentations and host workshops.

Publications: Similar to webinars, publications allow us another method to engage the agricultural community. Publications will address specific issues and opportunities related to irrigated agriculture and the multiple water-related issues that affect irrigators. Publications will be circulated throughout CAWA's and CCA's networks and our member organizations.

Deliverable:

- As part of our outreach, we will track the number of agricultural water users we engage and the total number of irrigated acreages they cover. Workshops, trainings, and presentations will include a survey about the quality of the outreach, importance of information provided, and we will also ask attendees for the number of acres they irrigate.
- We will also include a "lessons learned" from our outreach with agricultural producers. This will cover everything from the outreach format to information on specific water related topics.
- Often, our outreach has led to the implementation of larger projects. CAWA and CCA are able to provide valuable initial meetings on certain subjects that over time will lead to project implementation. For example, our outreach played a critical role in the Integrated Water Management Plan now ongoing in the White River Basin, and the expansion of the Master Irrigator Program into the San Luis Valley. Before the end of the project, we will circle back with attendees and keep track of projects that have spawned as a result of this outreach.

Tasks

Task 3 - Agricultural Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group

Description of Task:



Last Updated: June 2021

Organize a working group that represents different stakeholder groups (agricultural, municipal, environmental, industrial) to identify agricultural reservoir rehabilitation working group. The group will use the dam safety restricted list, Basin Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), and stakeholder networks to identify reservoirs in need of infrastructure improvements. We will contact and work with the reservoir owners to find and secure funding for reservoir rehabilitation. The purpose of the working group will be to identify how possible municipal, environmental, and industrial interests may benefit from rehabilitating specific projects that may be willing to assist with resources.

Method/Procedure:

The group will be comprised of representatives of the agricultural, environmental, and industrial communities. We will also have representation from municipal water providers, water conservation and conservancy districts, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources, National Resources Conservation Service, and consulting firms.

The first task of the group will be to develop criteria for understanding what do other stakeholder groups need in order to participate in rehabilitating reservoirs predominantly used for agriculture. What questions do environmental organizations need answered to participate in a project? What questions do municipal water providers need answered to participate? These criteria will be essential for when we contact reservoir owners and will help the group understand what possible partners (if any) there are for potential projects. These criteria will eventually be part of a document that outlines the benefits of reservoir rehabilitation to other stakeholder groups.

The group will focus on reservoirs that predominantly serve irrigated agriculture. Recent projects like Kendall Reservoir in Mesa County, Panama Reservoir in Boulder County, and Vouga Reservoir in Saguache County provide discussion examples. We will reach out to reservoir owners on the restricted list, Initially Planned Processes (IPPs), the Basin Roundtables, and CAWA member organizations. We will also be open to projects that have issues with sedimentation. The previously mention criteria will also be used for the “in-take” process when CAWA engages reservoir owners. We will contact reservoirs, and those interested in seeking partnerships for rehabilitation will have a short meeting with CAWA. The meeting will consist of CAWA learning more about the reservoir, its conditions, and ask questions developed by the working group to assess if the project has multiple benefits. Then the results of that “interview” will be reviewed at the next working group meeting to assess if the project has potential partners from different sectors and possible sources of funding. CAWA will not be the proponent of these individual projects. Either the reservoir owners, or an interested stakeholder will be the project proponent and fiscal agent.

This project will also include an analysis of the current reservoirs with restrictions: where are they located, and the storage capacity that is “lost” due to current restrictions. This will be included in our document with criteria for multi-beneficial reservoir rehabilitation projects.

The ultimate goal of this working group is to help organize competitive reservoir rehabilitation projects for funding over the two-year period

Deliverable:



Last Updated: June 2021

- Agendas and notes from working group meetings
- Document that includes criteria for achieving multi-benefit outcomes of agricultural reservoir rehabilitation projects. This document will also include analysis of the current reservoirs with storage restrictions, and other lessons learned throughout the process.
- Reservoir Rehabilitation Projects with either funding secured in the process of securing funding.

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.

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.



Last Updated: June 2021

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.



COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant - Exhibit C Budget and Schedule

Prepared Date: 6/20/2021

Name of Applicant: Colorado Ag Water Alliance

Name of Water Project: CCA/CAWA 2-yr Agricultural Water Priorities - Infrastructure Assessment, Storage and Outreach

Project Start Date: 10/1/2021

Project End Date: 10/1/2023

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Infrastructure Assessment & CD Coordinator	10/1/2021	10/1/2023	\$86,200	\$35,000	\$121,200
3	Educational Outreach and Training	10/1/2021	10/1/2023	\$119,600	\$19,000	\$138,600
3	Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group	10/1/2021	10/1/2023	\$31,500	\$38,900	\$70,400
4	Project Activity Expenses	10/1/2021	10/1/2023	\$16,500	\$1,150	\$17,650
5	CCA Staff	10/1/2021	10/1/2023	\$31,556	\$13,524	\$45,080
Total				\$285,356	\$107,574	\$392,930



ADVANCING THE LEGACY

8833 Ralston Road
Arvada, CO 80002
303.431.6422
info@coloradocattle.org
www.coloradocattle.org

June 30, 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Matching Funding

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, we intend to match \$33,400 to CCA/CAWA 2-YR Agricultural Water Priorities - Infrastructure Assessment, Storage and Outreach. Additionally, Brink, Inc will be contributing \$1,440 of in-kind match to the grant project. CCA will guarantee these funds through our organization but reserves the right to add/replace match with approved matching funding sources from other entities such as (foundations, donations, etc.).

Sincerely,

Terry Fankhauser
Executive Vice President

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203



June 21, 2021

RE: CCA / CAWA Agricultural Infrastructure Assessment and Outreach Project

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board members:

On behalf of Wilson Water Group, we support the project proposed by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and the Colorado Ag Water Alliance entitled "Agriculture Water User Priorities (2022-2023): Infrastructure Assessment & Outreach. The two-year project will include:

- Education and outreach on water issues important to agriculture. The topics of focus will encompass funding for irrigation infrastructure, watershed and stream management planning, drought contingency planning, efficiency and conservation, and Regulation 85 and related water quality issues. Outreach will include workshops, trainings, presentations, webinars, and publications for agricultural producers around the state, as well as an ag water symposium.
- The formation of a statewide Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group that will identify agricultural / multi-purpose reservoirs in need of sediment removal and infrastructure improvements. The working group will produce a report describing the needs and estimated cost of rehabilitating impacted reservoirs, along with the benefits.
- Irrigation infrastructure assessment in Custer County to help local producers identify where multi-benefit improvements can be achieved. This pilot project will be accomplished in cooperation with and provide funding to the local conservation district.

Wilson Water Group will contribute \$8,400 of in-kind services to support this project over the two-year process. Our primary role will be participation on the Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group, providing technical information regarding potential reservoir rehabilitation and improvement projects. Expanding and rehabilitating water storage infrastructure is a key issue in sustaining irrigated agriculture throughout the state, and we are enthusiastic about the potential of this new working group in improving storage capacity.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our support and in-kind contribution to the proposed project.

Sincerely,
Wilson Water Group

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kara Sobieski".

Kara Sobieski, Principal



Administrative Committee
PO Box 1286
Englewood, CO 80150
Phone: (970) 351-8201
www.coloradocorn.com

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

June 25, 2021

RE: CCA / CAWA Agricultural Infrastructure Assessment and Outreach Project

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board members:

On behalf of the Colorado Corn Administrative Committee, we support the project proposed by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and the Colorado Ag Water Alliance entitled "Agriculture Water User Priorities (2022-2023): Infrastructure Assessment & Outreach. The two-year project will include:

- Education and outreach on water issues important to agriculture. The topics of focus will encompass funding for irrigation infrastructure, watershed and stream management planning, drought contingency planning, efficiency and conservation, and Regulation 85 and related water quality issues. Outreach will include workshops, trainings, presentations, webinars, and publications for agricultural producers around the state, as well as an ag water symposium.
- The formation of a statewide Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group that will identify agricultural / multi-purpose reservoirs in need of sediment removal and infrastructure improvements. The working group will produce a report describing the needs and estimated cost of rehabilitating impacted reservoirs, along with the benefits.
- Irrigation infrastructure assessment in Custer County to help local producers identify where multi-benefit improvements can be achieved. This pilot project will be accomplished in cooperation with and provide funding to the local conservation district.

The project component described above will advance the Colorado Corn Administrative Committee's goal of supporting and sustaining irrigated agriculture in Colorado.

We anticipate the outreach and training component of the project will improve awareness and understanding among producers about the myriad water-related issues Colorado's agricultural industry is facing, and help prepare ag-oriented coordinators and volunteers to lead and represent agriculture's interests locally while engaging with other water stakeholders.

Expanding and rehabilitating water storage infrastructure is a key issue in sustaining irrigated agriculture throughout the state, and we are enthusiastic about the potential of this new working group in improving storage capacity. Finally, piloting an irrigation infrastructure assessment project with a conservation district will identify opportunities for multi-benefit improvements and build capacity within the conservation district to lead on local natural resource issues of importance.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our support of the proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas J. Colglazier".

Nicholas J. Colglazier
Colorado Corn Administrative Committee
Executive Director
(970) 580-0922 (c) | (970) 351-8201 (o)
ncolglazier@coloradocorn.com



Colorado Association of Conservation Districts

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1175, Lamar, CO 81052

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

SCOTT JONES

President
Colorado River Watershed
Gypsum, CO

*Colorado Water
Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St.,
Room 718
Denver, CO 80203*

TYLER NEELY

Vice President
Rio Grande River Watershed
Del Norte, CO

MIKE CLEARY

Director
Gunnison-Dolores River Watershed
Crawford, CO

June 30, 2021

GARY THRASH

Director – NACD CO Rep
San Juan Basin Watershed
Durango, CO

RE: CCA / CAWA Agricultural Infrastructure Assessment and Outreach Project

JIM CECIL

Director
Republican River Watershed
Cope, CO

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board members:

CHARLIE CARNAHAN

Director
Upper South Platte River Watershed
Kiowa, CO

On behalf of the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Board of Directors, we support the project proposed by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and the Colorado Ag Water Alliance entitled "Agriculture Water User Priorities (2022-2023): Infrastructure Assessment & Outreach. The two-year project will include:

GEORGE FOSHA

Director
Upper Arkansas River Watershed
Calhan, CO

- **Education and outreach** on water issues important to agriculture. The topics of focus will encompass funding for irrigation infrastructure, watershed and stream management planning, drought contingency planning, efficiency and conservation, and Regulation 85 and related water quality issues. Outreach will include workshops, trainings, presentations, webinars, and publications for agricultural producers around the state, as well as an ag water symposium.

JOE POPE

Director
Lower Arkansas River Watershed
Olney Boone, CO

- **The formation of a statewide Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group** that will identify agricultural / multi-purpose reservoirs in need of sediment removal and infrastructure improvements. The working group will produce a report describing the needs and estimated cost of rehabilitating impacted reservoirs, along with the benefits.

NICK CHARCHALIS

Director
North Platte-White-Yampa Watershed
Craig, CO

NANCY BERGES

Director
Lower South Platte Watershed
Julesburg, CO

BOBBI KETELS

Executive Director

CACD

P.O. Box 1175
Lamar, CO 81052

Phone: 719-686-0020
executivedirector4cacd@gmail.com

- **A Pilot Project** to increase local conservation district capacity and implement a voluntary irrigation infrastructure assessment initiative. It is our understanding that the first pilot project will be implemented with the conservation district in Custer County. Funding and on-going support will be provided via CCA to implement the outreach and assessment activities. It is anticipated by CACD that this pilot approach has potential to be duplicated in other districts around the state.

CACD's mission is to serve as the unified voice for the Conservation Districts of Colorado, facilitating outreach, education and support of landowners in their stewardship of natural resources.

The project component described above will advance Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) goal of supporting and sustaining irrigated agriculture in Colorado.

We anticipate the outreach and training component of the project will improve awareness and understanding among producers about the myriad water-related issues Colorado's agricultural industry is facing and help prepare ag-oriented coordinators and volunteers to lead and represent agriculture's interests locally while engaging with other water stakeholders.

Expanding and rehabilitating water storage infrastructure is a key issue in sustaining irrigated agriculture throughout the state, and we are enthusiastic about the potential of this new working group in improving storage capacity. Finally, piloting an irrigation infrastructure assessment project with a conservation district will identify opportunities for multi-benefit improvements and build capacity within the conservation district to lead on local natural resource issues of importance. CACD is optimistic that this has strong potential to serve as a model for other districts to follow and to restore and/or strengthen district functional capacity.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our support of the proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

*Scott Jones, President
Colorado Association of Conservation Districts*

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

7/1/2021

RE: CCA / CAWA Agricultural Infrastructure Assessment and Outreach Project

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board members:

On behalf of the Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA), we support the project proposed by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and the Colorado Ag Water Alliance entitled "Agriculture Water User Priorities (2022-2023): Infrastructure Assessment & Outreach. The two-year project will include:

- Education and outreach on water issues important to agriculture. The topics of focus will encompass funding for irrigation infrastructure, watershed and stream management planning, drought contingency planning, efficiency and conservation, and Regulation 85 and related water quality issues. Outreach will include workshops, trainings, presentations, webinars, and publications for agricultural producers around the state, as well as an ag water symposium.
- The formation of a statewide Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group that will identify agricultural / multi-purpose reservoirs in need of sediment removal and infrastructure improvements. The working group will produce a report describing the needs and estimated cost of rehabilitating impacted reservoirs, along with the benefits.
- Irrigation infrastructure assessment in Custer County to help local producers identify where multi-benefit improvements can be achieved. This pilot project will be accomplished in cooperation with and provide funding to the local conservation district.

The project component described above will advance CAWA's goal of supporting and sustaining irrigated agriculture in Colorado.

We anticipate the outreach and training component of the project will improve awareness and understanding among producers about the myriad water-related issues Colorado's agricultural industry is facing, and help prepare ag-oriented coordinators and volunteers to lead and represent agriculture's interests locally while engaging with other water stakeholders.

Expanding and rehabilitating water storage infrastructure is a key issue in sustaining irrigated agriculture throughout the state, and we are enthusiastic about the potential of this new working group in improving storage capacity. Finally, piloting an irrigation infrastructure assessment project with a conservation district will identify opportunities for multi-benefit improvements and build capacity within the conservation district to lead on local natural resource issues of importance. We will be providing \$19,430 cash match from our 319 grant title "Nutrient Management on Irrigated Pastures," which has funds to conduct education and outreach on issues related to water quality and agriculture. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our support of the proposed project.

Sincerely,



Greg Peterson, Executive Director
Colorado Ag Water Alliance



Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

June 24, 2021

RE: CCA / CAWA Agricultural Infrastructure Assessment and Outreach Project

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board members:

As Deputy Director for Water Resources at the City of Greeley Water and Sewer Department, I want to share my enthusiastic support for the Agriculture Water User Priorities (2022-2023): Infrastructure Assessment & Outreach Project proposed by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and the Colorado Ag Water Alliance. This two-year project will include:

- Education and outreach on water issues important to agriculture. The topics of focus will encompass funding for irrigation infrastructure, watershed and stream management planning, drought contingency planning, efficiency and conservation, and Regulation 85 and related water quality issues. Outreach will include workshops, trainings, presentations, webinars, and publications for agricultural producers around the state, as well as an ag water symposium.
- The formation of a statewide Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group that will identify agricultural / multi-purpose reservoirs in need of sediment removal and infrastructure improvements. The working group will produce a report describing the needs and estimated cost of rehabilitating impacted reservoirs, along with the benefits.
- Irrigation infrastructure assessment in Custer County to help local producers identify where multi-benefit improvements can be achieved. This pilot project will be accomplished in cooperation with and provide funding to the local conservation district.

Specifically, I will be involved in the Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group, and I commit to providing 20 to 30 hours towards this project. Additional water storage is urgently needed in Colorado to better manage the state's water resources. Rehabilitating water storage infrastructure is a key issue in sustaining irrigated agriculture throughout the state, and Greeley is enthusiastic about the potential of this new working group in improving storage capacity for agriculture and other purposes.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our support of the proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Jokerst".

Adam Jokerst, PE
Deputy Director, Water Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

06-18-21

RE: CCA / CAWA Agricultural Infrastructure Assessment and Outreach Project

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board members:

On behalf of the Colorado Dairy Farmers, we support the project proposed by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and the Colorado Ag Water Alliance entitled "Agriculture Water User Priorities (2022-2023): Infrastructure Assessment & Outreach. The two-year project will include:

- Education and outreach on water issues important to agriculture. The topics of focus will encompass funding for irrigation infrastructure, watershed and stream management planning, drought contingency planning, efficiency and conservation, and Regulation 85 and related water quality issues. Outreach will include workshops, trainings, presentations, webinars, and publications for agricultural producers around the state, as well as an ag water symposium.
- The formation of a statewide Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group that will identify agricultural / multi-purpose reservoirs in need of sediment removal and infrastructure improvements. The working group will produce a report describing the needs and estimated cost of rehabilitating impacted reservoirs, along with the benefits.
- Irrigation infrastructure assessment in Custer County to help local producers identify where multi-benefit improvements can be achieved. This pilot project will be accomplished in cooperation with and provide funding to the local conservation district.

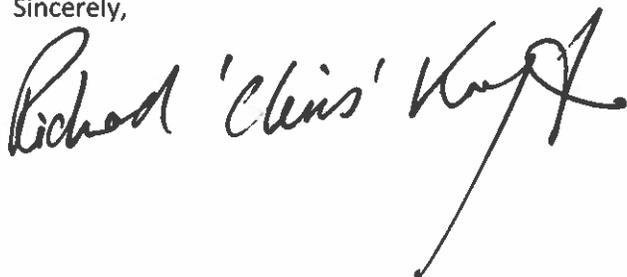
The project component described above will advance Colorado Dairy Farmers goal of supporting and sustaining irrigated agriculture in Colorado.

We anticipate the outreach and training component of the project will improve awareness and understanding among producers about the myriad water-related issues Colorado's agricultural industry is facing, and help prepare ag-oriented coordinators and volunteers to lead and represent agriculture's interests locally while engaging with other water stakeholders.

Expanding and rehabilitating water storage infrastructure is a key issue in sustaining irrigated agriculture throughout the state, and we are enthusiastic about the potential of this new working group in improving storage capacity. Finally, piloting an irrigation infrastructure assessment project with a conservation district will identify opportunities for multi-benefit improvements and build capacity within the conservation district to lead on local natural resource issues of importance.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our support of the proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard 'Chris' Kuff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "f".



PO Box 208
Eaton, CO 80615
303.594.3827
admin@coloradoproduce.org
<https://coloradoproduce.org>

Growing Resources
Cultivating Success

June 21, 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

The Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association is writing today in strong support of the project proposed by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and the Colorado Ag Water Alliance entitled "Agriculture Water User Priorities (2022-2023): Infrastructure Assessment & Outreach. The two-year project will include:

- Education and outreach on water issues important to agriculture. The topics of focus will encompass funding for irrigation infrastructure, watershed and stream management planning, drought contingency planning, efficiency and conservation, and Regulation 85 and related water quality issues. Outreach will include workshops, trainings, presentations, webinars and publications for agricultural producers around the state as well as an ag water symposium.
- The formation of a statewide Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group that will identify agricultural / multi-purpose reservoirs in need of sediment removal and infrastructure improvements. The working group will produce a report describing the needs and estimated cost of rehabilitating impacted reservoirs along with the benefits.
- Irrigation infrastructure assessment in Custer County to help local producers identify where multi-benefit improvements can be achieved. This pilot project will be accomplished in cooperation with and provide funding to the local conservation district.

Irrigation water is vital to the Colorado produce industry, and this project will advance the Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association goal of supporting and sustaining irrigated agriculture in Colorado. The proposed outreach and training component of the project will improve awareness and understanding among growers about the myriad water-related issues Colorado's agricultural industry is facing and help prepare ag-oriented coordinators and volunteers to lead and represent agricultural interests locally while engaging with other water stakeholders.

Expanding and rehabilitating water storage infrastructure is key to produce production throughout the state, and we are enthusiastic about the potential of this new working group in improving storage capacity. Finally, piloting an irrigation infrastructure assessment project with a conservation district will identify opportunities for multi-benefit improvements and build capacity within the conservation district to take the lead on local natural resource issues of importance.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our support of the proposed project.

Sincerely,

David Harold

David Harold, CFVGA Water Committee Chair
970.323.6874

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

June 25, 2021

RE: CCA / CAWA Agricultural Infrastructure Assessment and Outreach Project

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board members:

On behalf of the Custer County Conservation District, we support the project proposed by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and the Colorado Ag Water Alliance entitled "Agriculture Water User Priorities (2022-2023): Infrastructure Assessment & Outreach. The two-year project will include:

- Education and outreach on water issues important to agriculture. The topics of focus will encompass funding for irrigation infrastructure, watershed and stream management planning, drought contingency planning, efficiency and conservation, and Regulation 85 and related water quality issues. Outreach will include workshops, trainings, presentations, webinars, and publications for agricultural producers around the state, as well as an ag water symposium.
- The formation of a statewide Reservoir Rehabilitation Working Group that will identify agricultural / multi-purpose reservoirs in need of sediment removal and infrastructure improvements. The working group will produce a report describing the needs and estimated cost of rehabilitating impacted reservoirs, along with the benefits.
- Irrigation infrastructure assessment in Custer County to help local producers identify where multi-benefit improvements can be achieved. This pilot project will be accomplished in cooperation with and provide funding to the local conservation district.

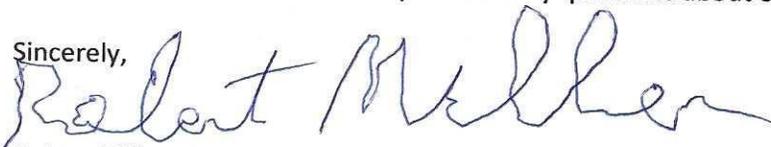
The project component described above will advance Custer County Conservation District's goal of supporting and sustaining agriculture in Custer County.

If the proposed project is approved by the CWCB, we will be partnering with CCA to plan and implement a pilot voluntary infrastructure assessment of irrigation conveyance infrastructure within the Grape Creek Watershed.

Presuming that we receive stimulus funds from the CDA, the District will be contributing **\$25,000** in cash to this project to combine with grants funds from CCA. This money will be used to hire a contract coordinator for the project, and will provide some funds for expenses. The District will work cooperatively with CCA to lead the project and train the new coordinator, who will also be responsible for leading local outreach and writing grants to obtain additional funding to support their position and advance irrigation infrastructure improvement.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our support of the proposed project.

Sincerely,



Robert Miller, Custer County Board President