



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ben Wade & Dori Vigil
Water Supply Planning Section

DATE: January 12, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: Agenda Item #11a-c, Water Supply Reserve Fund, Grant Funding Recommendations

Staff Recommendation - Action Items: WSRF Grant Requests:

A summary of staff's recommendation for each WSRF application are provided in the first component of the attached table.

Favorable recommendations may be contingent on providing the CWCB with additional information, clarifications, or modifications in the scope of work. Please refer to the Water Activity Summary Sheets contained within this agenda item to find a summary of staff's review and any conditions associated with each recommendation.

Background:

For this agenda item, the Board is provided with a brief overview of applications to the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF). Attachments to this memo include:

- Summary spreadsheet detailing funding requests for the basin and statewide accounts.
- Summary spreadsheet displaying current WSRF Balance Summary of Fund Appropriations and Receipts by Fiscal Year, and Fund Distribution by Basin and Statewide Account.
- Water Activity Summary Sheets, which provide an overview, discussion, issues/additional needs, and staff recommendation regarding funding, partial funding, or not funding the applications.

Staff's review of the applications involves the following steps:

- 1) Applications are reviewed for completeness based on the information requirements, verify that the water activity meets the eligibility requirements and also verifies that the applicant was an eligible entity to receive funding which are primarily outlined in the Grant Guidelines.
- 2) Staff then prepares the Water Activity Summary Sheet which documents the outcome of the review process and contains staff's recommendations.



Water Supply Reserve Fund Balance Summary and Project Status Report:

To provide the Board updates on the status of specific Water Supply Reserve Fund grant applications and projects, staff can provide a status report of the following information upon request:

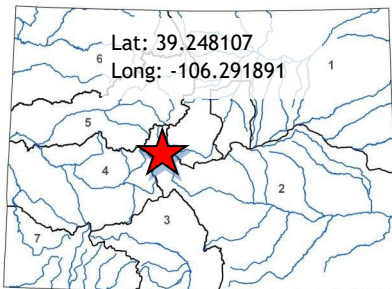
- List of completed WSRF projects;
- List of WSRF projects in progress; and
- List of WSRF projects in the contracting and procurement process.



Water Supply Reserve Fund Applications for Consideration at the January 2024 CWCB Board Meeting																
Agenda Item	Statewide Project Category	Basin	Applicant/Grantee	Name of Water Activity	Basin(s) Account Request	Statewide Account Requests	RT Recommend ed Amount	Non-WSRF Cash Match	Non-WSRF In- Kind Match	Non-WSRF Total Match	Statewide Match (Basin & Non-WSRF)	WSRF Total Project Costs	Basin Only Request Match % (min 25%)	Statewide Match % (Basin min 10%/applicant Match min 15% vs Total Project Cost)	PM	Grants Portal ID
Agenda Item 11a	Drought Resiliency	Arkansas	Lake County	Lake County Water Resource Assessment	\$20,140	\$130,910	\$151,050	\$50,350	\$0	\$50,350	\$70,490	\$201,400	N/A	35.00%		App-01349
Agenda Item 11b	Drought Resiliency	Gunnison	Colorado River Water Conservation District	Airborne Snow Observatory Mapping in the North Fork of the Gunnison River System	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$322,468	\$12,000	\$334,468	\$384,468	\$484,468	N/A	79.36%	Erik Skeie	App-01324
Agenda Item 11c	Aging Infrastructure	Gunnison	Highline Ditch & Enlargement Company	Highline Ditch Pipe Project	\$40,000	\$80,000	\$120,000	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$45,000	\$85,000	\$165,000	N/A	51.52%		App-01320
Director's Report	N/A	Gunnison	Western Landowner's Alliance	Tongue Creek Meander Bend Reconstruction	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$9,000	N/A	\$34,000	26.47%	N/A		App-01307
					\$115,000.00	\$180,000	\$295,000									



Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION
County: Lake
Drainage Basin: Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$201,400
Total WSRF Grant Request:	\$151,050
Arkansas Basin Account Request:	\$20,140
Statewide Account Request:	\$130,910
Recommended Amount:	\$151,050
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$50,350
Project Type: Planning	
Water Use Type: Municipal	
Statewide Category: Drought Resiliency	
Measurable Result: 7,400 feet of pipe or canal built or improved; 7,475 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity & incorporating water saving actions into land-use planning	

The applicant is pursuing WSRF funding for environmental, engineering and analysis services to study the feasibility and future use potential of Lake County's existing water rights portfolio and associated infrastructure and conveyance structures.

The proposed project work will entail two interrelated parts:

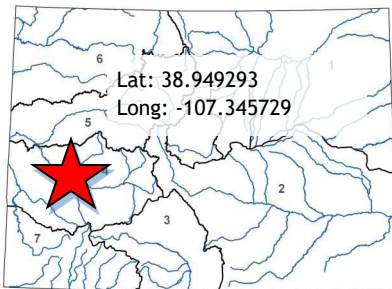
- 1) An assessment of the county's water resource portfolio to determine the most efficient use of this limited resource, including an assessment of existing and potential storage facilities for Lake County water and how they would benefit the implementation of Lake County's Blanket Augmentation Plan decree.
- 2) A more focused assessment of the De Lappe Ditch, determining the work needed to rehabilitate the ditch to a usable state, understanding the financial investment needed to rehabilitate the ditch to transport water, and evaluating how it may be integrated into the Blanket Augmentation Plan and Lake County's broader water resource development goals.

The proposed project meets the goals of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan by allowing Lake County to serve its agricultural, residential, and recreational users in an efficient way that respects its sensitive environment and location at the headwaters of the Arkansas River.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$20,140 from the Arkansas Basin Account and up to \$130,910 from the Statewide Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.

Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION
Counties: Delta, Gunnison, Mesa
Drainage Basin: Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$484,468
Total WSRF Grant Request:	\$150,000
Colorado Basin Account Request:	\$50,000
Statewide Account Request:	\$100,000
Recommended Amount:	\$150,000
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$322,468
Applicant Match:	\$12,000
Project Type: Planning	
Water Use Type: Agricultural	
Statewide Category: Drought Resiliency	
Measurable Result: 50,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity & incorporating water-saving actions into land use planning	

The proposed project will support the acquisition of the most accurate real-time measurement of mountain snowpack via the Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement (CASM) flights across the Upper North Fork of the Gunnison River watershed to support runoff forecast improvement and better management decision-making.

If approved, this funding will support both a snow-free baseline survey in 2024 and up to two snow surveys (over the Muddy Creek and Ruby-Anthracite basins) in 2025. The high-resolution data from these snow surveys provide a spatially complete measure of the snow water equivalent (SWE) in the watershed, more accurately defining water supply conditions for water managers.

Annually, these snow surveys will be conducted close to peak SWE and another midway through melt season. From these surveys, CASM will produce publicly available, high-quality data, reports, and forecasts via an easily accessible web portal. Near-real time data processing will enable Airborne Snow Observatory informed streamflow forecasting to provide critical decision-support for basin water managers and operators.

This project aligns with the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan as it is part of a larger LiDAR-based snow mapping project in the Upper Gunnison and Roaring Fork Basins.

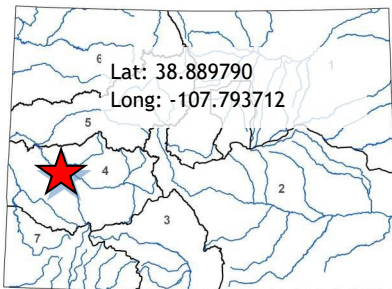
Issues/Additional Needs: Prior to contracting, the applicant must secure matching funds. The applicant had applied for US Bureau of Reclamation funding for a significant portion of the match at the same time as applying for WSRF funding. After submitting the proposal to CWCB, the applicant was notified they were not awarded BOR funding. While local partners are contributing \$87,000 (\$12,000 from the applicant, \$75,000 from the North Fork Water Conservancy District), the applicant will require other sources of funding (approximately \$247,468) to meet the matching requirement of \$322,468.

No other issues or additional needs have been identified.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$50,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account and up to \$100,000 from the Statewide Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicant's abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.



Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION
County: Delta
Drainage Basin: Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$165,000
Total WSRF Grant Request:	\$120,000
Gunnison Basin Account Request:	\$40,000
Statewide Account Request:	\$80,000
Recommended Amount:	\$120,000
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$45,000
Project Type: Construction/Implementation	
Water Use Type: Agricultural	
Statewide Category: Aging Infrastructure	
Measurable Result: 450 feet of pipe or canal built or improved; 82 Coloradans impacted by incorporating water-saving actions into land use planning;	

The applicant is a ditch company that relies on the Highline Ditch to provide irrigation and domestic water to the Town of Hotchkiss, 500 acres of orchard lands and ranches on Rogers Mesa in Delta County.

Highline Ditch is an open ditch across slide prone hillsides. The ditch was breached by a landslide in the summer of 2022. The ditch was restored for temporary use through the summer, but a permanent repair is needed.

If approved, WSRF funds would be used to purchase the pipe needed to install in the existing ditch for a length of 450 feet across the slide area to preserve their water supply and allow for safe and continued use for irrigation of orchards, ranches, and domestic use.

The proposed project has been listed in the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$40,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account and up to \$80,000 Statewide Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.

