



January 25, 2024

Ben Wade, Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St. Suite 718  
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: POGG1 PDAA 2023-2046**

Dear Ben,

This letter serves as the final report and reimbursement, for the CWCB Colorado Water Plan Engagement and Innovation grant in the amount of \$98,375.00 that the Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance (DARCA) received on July 14, 2022.

The grant scope addresses Colorado's Water Plan, its identified concerns, provides education, and promotes action through multiple outreach mechanisms. The projects/programs include:

TASK 1: Ambassador Program

TASK 2: Grant and Project Management

The total amount for reimbursement totals \$20,805.50 and the cash match amount totals \$7,970.75. In-kind match totals \$1,400.

### **Task 1- Ambassador Program**

Seven Ambassadors were selected for the first iteration of the DARCA Ambassador Program. Of those, five are active in the Program. The Program is near the end as we wrap up the advocacy section of our program. This is the most exciting section for our Ambassadors, however we are waiting on our partner, the Colorado Water Congress, for details on the tour and information that will be shared there. Once the Ambassadors receive more in depth and in person content, it will be easier for the Ambassadors to share their perspectives and projects.

Feedback has already been received by the Executive Director that the content is helpful and the Ambassadors are learning a great deal in the Program. The Ambassadors are happy and willing to "dig in" to the content and perform additional research.

The only remaining items in the program for the Ambassadors to complete are a tour to the Capitol in person, two videos, and a presentation on their advocacy project. All final projects will be uploaded by each Ambassador.

You can find the content here: <https://darcaambassadors.thinkific.com/courses/your-first-course>  
After signing up for free, all content will be accessible. A reference page was included for the Ambassadors and can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/12VbmzNGxy7oCM1aJ7fXEhkQy8MLH2zadGQKPZ2shhow/edit>



### **The Future of the Ambassador Program**

While the DARCA Board and Executive Director found the information compelling and helpful for the participants and it was well-received by the Ambassadors, at the annual in-person board meeting for the DARCA board, it was discussed in detail. It was then decided that the content we can really help and provide lies in the direct management and maintenance of water delivery structures and systems and that isn't something we can provide in video form. In addition, there are so many wonderful programs existing that we do not want to oversaturate the existing market. We will, however, provide these videos for our members in addition to our resource guides and handbook and will be shared with additional partners. The Colorado Department of Agriculture has already asked to see the Water 101 videos and those have been shared. Additional partnerships are being formed. We see this venture as a positive one and one that will continue to live on, just not in the same format moving forward. We are able to reach more people in a non-structured format for our members and partners rather than a whole program which allows us to support other entities who have their own programs.

### **Task 2 – Grant and Project Management**

Amber Weber, Executive Director, has communicated and worked with all partners who are responsible for providing in-kind support and for the implementation of the work detailed in this grant.

Weber performed the organization, coordination, task management, and reporting on all Ambassador Program details and work related to such. The Executive Director has monitored and reported on all DARCA grant-related activities to CWCB and the DARCA board of directors.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. Thank you for your time, effort, and most of all for the support you have provided these important projects and programs.

Sincerely,

Dawn Jewell, DARCA President

Amber Weber, DARCA Executive Director

Chapter 1- History of Water and the Prior Appropriation  
Systeme



Chapter 1.5- Conference and Networking



Chapter 2- Compacts



Chapter 3- Where We Are Now- Colorado River



Chapter 4- Who Do You Need In Your Corner?



Chapter 5- Community and Crisis



Show more



### About this course



Free



11 lessons



4.5 hours of video content

**Resources:**

<https://www.darca.org/resources-> start here.

- Water Education Colorado has some links on our site that will answer many questions and provide opportunities for additional research
- Funding Guide has opportunities for funding for ditch projects
- Irrigation Resource Hub is additional information for projects and funding for ditch and reservoir companies
- I'll send the handbook separately
- 

**Questions/Commentary** (*please initial or make your comments in different colors to designate who is who in the comments*):

**Lesson 1: Colorado Water Law Discussion Questions:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0jJhs480k9F6zPkoWcMvcPsHPdZFree6R6Y2jREzIIDBxmW/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0jJhs480k9F6zPkoWcMvcPsHPdZFree6R6Y2jREzIIDBxmW/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**Lesson 2: Compacts:** <https://forms.gle/WXsQRpNvoMQiLdYW7>

**Lesson 3: Colorado River:** In your own Document via Word or Google, answer the following questions and share directly with me. Remember you get out what you put in. Go as deep as you feel you'd benefit from.

Act as though you are a consultant to the CO River taskforce. There is a larger taskforce for the entire CO River basin as well as one for the state alone.

1. Would you suggest a change to the compact for the current situation or the future? What changes would you suggest? If no changes, what would you encourage for water users?
2. Who would you add to both taskforce groups?
3. How would you approach conversations for managing the River, climate, aridification, precipitation, changes to the compact, etc. among taskforce members?
4. What kinds of projects/approaches would you study or enact in regards to the above information and your suggestions to leverage "good years"?

Review the Colorado Water Plan. Is this plan actionable? Where did they "miss the mark"? Where did they excel in this plan?

**Lesson 4: Community Building:** <https://forms.gle/PcVx732XxkQMxEj8>

**Lesson 5: Who do you rely on in crisis?**

Video link is here: [DARCA presentation.mp4](#)

If you have issues with authentication or any others, please let Amber know.

Please think about who you can connect to in your community both locally and at large who can help you in crisis. How do you go about building this community and sustaining relationships? Do you have a plan in times of crisis? This can all be included in your advocacy plan.

**Lesson 6: How to be a Good Shareholder**

**Lesson 7: Advocacy**

**Lesson 8: Advocacy in Action**

**Lesson 9: Share Your Advocacy Plan**