



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441
F (303) 866-4474

Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive
Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ben Wade & Dori Vigil
Water Supply Planning Section

DATE: July 1, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda Item #1a-b, 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:

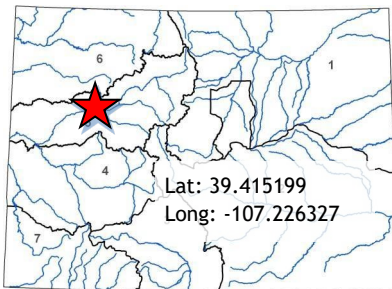
To provide the Board updates on the status of specific Water Supply Reserve Fund grant applications and projects, staff can provide a status report of the following information upon request:

- 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 Grant Application



| LOCATION |
|---------------------------------|
| County: Garfield |
| Drainage Basin: Colorado |

| DETAILS | |
|--|-----------|
| Total Project Cost: | \$128,944 |
| Total WSRF Grant Request: | \$88,944 |
| Colorado Basin Account Request: | \$44,472 |
| Statewide Account Request: | \$44,472 |
| Recommended Amount: | \$88,944 |
| Other CWCB Funding: | \$0 |
| Other Funding Amount: | \$0 |
| Applicant Match: | \$40,000 |
| Project Type: Construction/Implementation | |
| Water Use Type: Agricultural | |
| Statewide Category: Aging Infrastructure | |
| Measurable Result: 100 linear feet of pipe or canal built or improved; 500-acre feet of efficiency savings. | |

According to a ditch inventory completed by the Middle Colorado Stream Management Plan, the Thompson Glen Ditch irrigates approximately 1,250 acres of grass pasture. The ditch inventory identifies significant transit losses, approximately 50%, throughout the ditch system and portions of the ditch would benefit from being piped and lined, including sections where pipe has failed.

An outlet pipe owned by the Colorado Department of Transportation drains stormwater around the culvert, causing the ground to heave and push part of the culvert upwards. The applicant is currently working with the Colorado Department of Transportation to help replace the pipe and fix the situation.

If approved, the applicant will use WSRF grant funds to replace a 100-foot steel culvert with 100-feet of high density polyethylene pipe that can tolerate shifts with the soil and not break or heave.

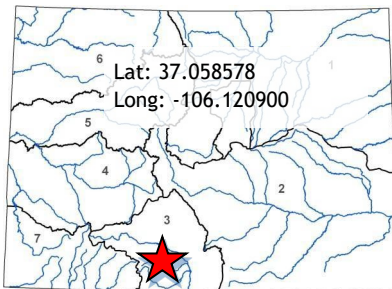
The project aligns with the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan.

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

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$44,472 from the Colorado Basin Account and up to \$44,472 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: Conejos |
| Drainage Basin: Rio Grande |

| DETAILS | |
|---|-----------|
| Total Project Cost: | \$215,294 |
| Total WSRF Grant Request: | \$78,981 |
| Rio Grande Basin Account Request: | \$23,695 |
| Statewide Account Request: | \$55,286 |
| Recommended Amount: | \$78,981 |
| Other CWCB Funding: | \$0 |
| Other Funding Amount: | \$136,313 |
| Applicant Match: | \$0 |
| Project Type: Construction/Implementation | |
| Water Use Type: Agricultural | |
| Statewide Category: Aging Infrastructure | |
| Measurable Result: 1,226 linear feet of stream restored or protected; 1,226 linear feet of pipe built or improved; 980-acre feet of efficiency savings/year. | |

The Las Mesitas Ditch on the Conejos River is made up of twenty shareholders and irrigates approximately 2,000 acres of agricultural land of diverse uses and irrigation methods. All the shareholders are located downstream from a segment of the ditch that faces significant losses due to porous soil, ditch blow outs, and muskrat activity. These factors contribute to a loss of about 10 cfs or 25% of the nearly 39 cfs adjudicated to these water users in a half mile segment of the ditch.

The proposed project would include the installation of 1,226 feet of pipeline to mitigate the ditch losses and deliver more water to the shareholders below that segment. The applicant believes the pipeline would also work to prevent any risks of well contamination from ditch bank flooding and avoid flooding of pastures not served by the ditch. The ditch shareholders have been awarded funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Services to provide as match for the project. WSRF funds will be used to install the inlet structure and pipeline.

The project aligns with multiple goals in the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan including improving the health of watersheds, supporting agriculture resiliency, and supporting adaptive, flexible, and creative water administration in the Basin.

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

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$23,695 from the Rio Grande Basin Account and up to \$55,286 from the Statewide Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.