



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	City of Glenwood Springs
Name of Water Project	Glenwood Springs Municipal Water Efficiency Plan Update
Grant Request Amount	\$45,000.00
Primary Category	\$45,000.00
<i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$15,000.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$15,000.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00
Total Project Cost	\$60,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: City of Glenwood Springs
Mailing Address: 101 W 8th St Glenwood Springs CO 81601

Organization Contact: Matthew Langhorst
Position/Title: Public Works Director Email: matthew.langhorst@cogs.us
Phone: 970-384-6438

Grant Management Contact: Matthew Langhorst
Position/Title: Public Works Director Email: matthew.langhorst@cogs.us
Phone: 970-384-6438

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Municipal, Class A

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☒ Public (Municipality)
- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☐ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

☐

- ☐ Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- ☒ Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- ☐ Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- ☐ Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- ☐ 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 and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	39.550500
Longitude	107.324800
Lat Long Flag	Water provider location: Coordinates based on address of water provider
Water Source	Most of Glenwood Springs' water sources come from No Name Creek and Grizzly Creek, through senior water rights. The Roaring Fork River acts as a reliable backup. In addition, the City has reserve supply available in Ruedi Reservoir.
Basins	Colorado
Counties	Garfield
Districts	38-Roaring Fork River Basin

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Study
Scheduled Start Date - Design	1/6/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	<p>The City of Glenwood Springs is seeking \$45,000 in Colorado Water Plan Grant Funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), with \$15,000 in local match from the City's Water Department Fund, to update the City's "Municipal Water Efficiency Plan" (Plan). The Plan was last updated in 2015 and updating the Plan is critical for the sustainability of Glenwood Springs as growing demand for water and climate change are creating a more uncertain future for the City's water supply.</p> <p>Glenwood Springs uses the Water Efficiency Plan and Source Water Protection Plan to assess the City's water usage and demand and for long-term sustainability planning of the City's water needs. The Plan (created in 2015) measures the City's historical and current annual water use and provides water efficiency programs and measures to assist the city in reaching its water efficiency goal of (0.5%) yearly savings. The Plan identifies the City's short and long-term conservation goals and holistically examines water efficiency planning, drought planning, and water supply reliability. The Plan needs to be updated on a regular basis to account for how water supply and demand changes and to assess the need for and the costs of new water supplies and other investments. The City has set the goal to update the plan every seven years (before the last update in 2015, the plan was updated in 2009), but the City is now more than two years overdue for an update.</p>

Since the Plan was last updated, various climate-related events and development has altered the City's water usage. For example, climate change has increased drought and altered weather patterns; wildfires (such as the Grizzly Creek Fire) have damaged essential watersheds; and development and population growth have altered water demands. Additionally, various forecasts from the previous plan have proven to be inaccurate. For example, the population growth trend was significantly overestimated.

Plan Successes and Outcomes: Since the last update in 2015, the City has used the Plan in identifying and implementing highly-successful water conservation projects. The Plan predicted the City's water usage would increase, but because of various efficiency and conservation projects, the City's annual water usage has dropped. When the Plan was last updated, the City's annual water delivery was averaging 1,998 (acre-feet), and it is currently 1,921 (acre-feet). Many of the plans/projects/programs that were identified in the last plan have been either been implemented, deemed irrelevant or inefficient due to new external factors, or are in progress. Throughout the decade, the Plan has outlived its useful life, and the City needs an update to help prioritize water conservation projects. Examples of successful projects from the 2015 plan include the following:

- The City has implemented a turf buyback program, along with providing other rebate programs that encourage use of water efficient home products.
- The City has upgraded all water meters to the Badger Orion system with automated metering reading (AMR), meaning the City is better able to track water efficiency measures and activities.
- The City constructed the 500,000 gallon Cardiff tank.
- The City has updated landscape development regulations for new construction to place emphasis on water efficiency in residential developments.
- The City is looking to upgrade its billing system and move to a meter size rate structure, following recommendations on keeping rates set to encourage less wastewater usage.

The City hopes that by revisiting the Plan, the City will be able to prioritize and identify water-related projects and programs to conserve and protect water, provide a robust framework for sustainable water use that accommodates future growth and development while protecting water resources, and enhance the City's ability to resilience to the effects of climate change. The plan will have a strong focus on education, incentives to drive innovation, right-pricing to facilitate efficient water use, and regulatory components to create water-efficient development, as well as to reduce water waste.

The Plan will also benefit surrounding communities. The Plan will help to guide the update of the Roaring Fork Water Conservancy 's "Regional Water Efficiency Plan," which includes information from local plans from Aspen, Snowmass, Carbondale, Basalt, and Glenwood Springs.

With CWCB funding, the City will procure consultants to update the Plan following guidelines set by the CWCB (see Attachment A for more details). Note, the City of Glenwood Springs provides less than 2,000 acre-feet on an annual basis, and therefore, is not subject to HB04-1365.

Measurable Results

New Storage Created (acre-feet)
New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
New Storage Created (acre-feet)
Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)

Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)

10,264 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning

10,264 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

The City of Glenwood Spring's population is 10,264. The updated Water Efficiency Plan will help promote efficiency savings by providing guidance on water efficiency saving projects; however, there is no quantifiable efficiency saving directly related to the plan update.

Water Project Justification

The City of Glenwood Springs seeks Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Water Plan funding to update the City's Municipal Water Efficiency Plan (Plan). Updating the Plan will allow the City (and the larger regional basin) to make better-informed decisions regarding water conservation and water-related projects that will support goals set by the CWCB and the Colorado Roundtable Basin.

The updated Water Efficiency Plan directly aligns with the Colorado Water Plan Resilient Planning Action Area because the plan will provide the City of Glenwood Springs with valuable context about water demand and usage that will help conserve water. Since Glenwood Springs' Plan was last updated in 2015, the City has experienced several natural disasters related to anthropogenic climate change (such as the Grizzly Creek Wildfire) that have showcased the need to have a more resilient water. The updated Plan will act as a water security roadmap, that will inform local leadership of chronic risks to water supply and various strategies and steps that can be taken to build a resilient system. Additionally, updating the Plan will directly support the following goals identified by the CWCB:

1.2 Enhance municipal water efficiency reporting and data integration: Updating the water efficiency provides new opportunities to use updated water efficiency reporting and data integration. Glenwood Springs will get feedback from the CWCB for the final Plan, to ensure the best reporting and data integration practices are being utilized.

4.7 Update Scenarios: As mentioned, the Plan has not been updated since 2015. The updated Plan will take a holistic approach to looking at the City's water efficiency based on various local drivers (including climate change, population projections, social values, and municipal needs) to help the City with its long-term planning and sustainability.

4.8 Update climate adaptation-related decision support tools: Updating the Plan will assist the city in making decisions related to climate action, especially as it relates to water conservation and needs. Climate change has already significantly altered the City's relationship to water supply, as droughts have become more frequent and severe. Updating the Plan will directly assist the city by providing more data to make informed decisions.

In addition to aligning with overall goals set in the Colorado Water Plan Goals, updating the City's Plan will assist in meeting goals and themes that are identified in the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan. The updated Plan will help with the following themes (1) secure safe drinking water; (2) develop local water-conscious land use strategies; and (3) encourage a high level of basin-wide conservation.

First, the Plan will help secure safe drinking water by providing the City with a framework to help promote water conservation. This is especially important for Glenwood Springs, as the City is anticipating a steady growth in population and development.

Secondly, the Plan will help the City to develop local water-conscious land use strategies for conservation. The update will support the goals of this theme by helping the City promote land use policy that promotes and requires conservation, expands regional cooperation efforts to improve efficiency, and helps the City extend their water planning to 2060 and beyond (as seen in Colorado Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)). The previous 2015 Plan helped the City plan to 2050 and suggest policies to promote water conservation; the updated plan will help the City extend their long-term water planning and identify policy gaps in water conservation efforts.

Finally, the Plan will help with a regional level of basin-wide conservation as the Plan promotes municipal water conservation. The updated Plan will include and promote activities that are identified in the Colorado Basin BIP (see page 20 of Volume I) including education and outreach, water loss tracking, lead detection programs, and adoption of plans that require more xeriscaping.

The City of Glenwood Springs recognizes immense value in the Colorado Water Plan and the Colorado Basin Implementation Plans. The City will ensure that both of the CWCB Plans are referenced and integrated into the updated Water Efficiency Plan, in order to meet CWCB goals.

Related Studies

Updating the Municipal Water Efficiency Plan will assist the city in seeking to update other plans relating to the city's water infrastructure. Specifically, the City is seeking grant funding from the Colorado Rural Water Association to update the City's Source Water Protection Plan, which was last updated in 2014. By securing funding from the CWCB, the City can update the Source Water Protection Plan (using local funds) alongside the Efficiency Plan, which will help the City identify the most pertinent water conservation programs and infrastructure projects. This, in turn, will help the Colorado Water Conservation Board in meeting organizational goals, including specific goals identified in the Colorado Water Plan as described in the answers above.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The applicant has voter authorization to receive and expend state grants without spending limitations. In 1994, the City of Glenwood Springs was authorized to retain and spend revenues under the TABOR limitation ("De-Brucing") without raising taxes. There