



**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:** September 5, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consent Agenda Item #3a-e, Water Supply Reserve Fund, Grant  
Funding Recommendations

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### **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:**

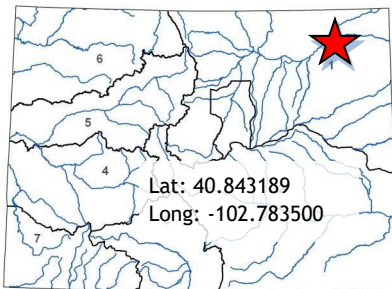
To provide the Board updates on the status of specific Water Supply Reserve Fund grant applications and projects, staff can provide a status report of the following information upon request:

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





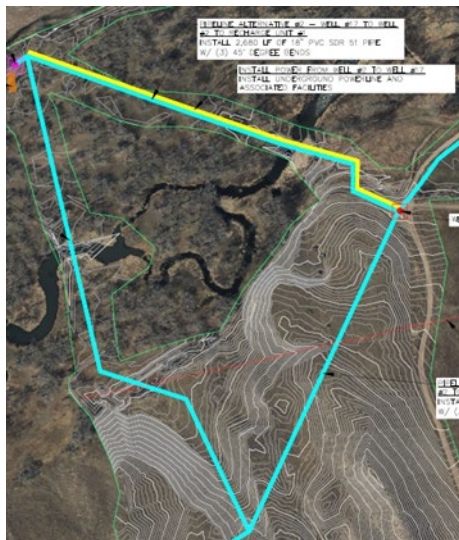
## Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION
<b>County:</b> Logan
<b>Drainage Basin:</b> South Platte

DETAILS	
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$713,026
<b>Total WSRF Grant Request:</b>	\$75,000
<b>Metro Basin Account Request:</b>	\$75,000
<b>Recommended Amount:</b>	\$75,000
<b>Other CWCB Funding:</b>	\$0
<b>Other Funding Amount:</b>	\$300,000
<b>Applicant Match:</b>	\$338,026
<b>Project Type:</b> Design & Construction	
<b>Major Water Use Type:</b> Environmental	
<b>Measurable Result:</b> 43-acre feet of new storage created; 1,940 feet of pipe/canal built or improved; 10 acres of restored or preserved habitat.	

The intent of this project is to complete the construction of 17 wells and associated recharge basins decreed under the Tamarack Managed Groundwater Recharge Project that the applicant believes will support drought resiliency. In March 2024, the CWCB Board awarded the applicant \$637,500 in WSRF funds for the same project (\$75,000 from the South Platte Basin and \$562,500 from the Statewide Account).



Installation of the last of 17 groundwater wells necessary for the Tamarack Managed Groundwater Recharge Project on Tamarack State Wildlife Area. Colorado has obligations under the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) to re-time flows in the lower South Platte River within the state of Colorado when no river call is in effect; the purpose of this re-timing is to enhance flows through a stretch of the Platte River in Nebraska which has been designated as critical habitat for threatened and endangered species.

If approved, WSRF funds will assist with covering the costs of design and construction of the final well, associated pipelines, and two groundwater recharge ponds.

These groundwater recharge ponds will also increase the environmental and recreational value of the wildlife area, as they will provide critical habitat for over-wintering waterfowl and be equipped with features allowing for accessible hunting

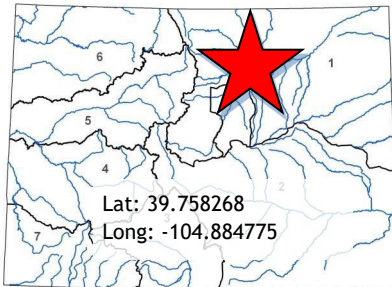
and wildlife viewing opportunities.

**Issues/Additional Needs:** Funding awarded in March 2024 has not been contracted. Contracting will begin following the Board's decision on the current proposal. No other issues or additional needs have been identified.

**Funding Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$75,000 from the Metro Basin Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.



## Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION
<b>Counties:</b> Adamas, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Cheyenne, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Elbert, Gilpin
<b>Drainage Basin:</b> South Platte

DETAILS	
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$160,157
<b>Total WSRF Grant Request:</b>	\$93,750
<b>Metro Basin Account Request:</b>	\$46,875
<b>South Platte Basin Account Request:</b>	\$46,875
<b>Recommended Amount:</b>	\$93,750
<b>Other CWCB Funding:</b>	\$0
<b>Other Funding Amount:</b>	\$47,282
<b>Applicant Match:</b>	\$19,125
<b>Project Type:</b> Education	
<b>Major Water Use Type:</b> Education	
<b>Measurable Result:</b> 100,000 Coloradans impacted by incorporating water-saving actions into land use planning; 574,162 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity.	

The applicant is proposing to bring best practices from the field of environmental education into implementation of the Colorado Water Plan, applying educational standards of “excellence and quality youth development” approaches to identify a statewide collection of 15 “water education exemplars” for further promotion in the environmental education field. The applicant’s objective is to develop the next generation of Colorado residents as young people will oversee the implementation the Plan.

“How old will you be in 2050?” has been a guiding question the applicant has been using over the past year when teaching youth. This question has challenged a group of water educators to consider how their work can better support the Colorado Water Plan. The applicant has put a focus on engaging young people to help achieve the partner actions stated in the Water Plan.

The current proposal includes a planning year to design youth-development program that lasts beyond the duration of the grant timeline.

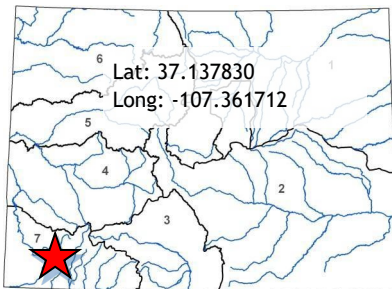
The project aligns with the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan.

**Issues/Additional Needs:** Prior to contracting, the applicant must secure all matching funds. No other issues or additional needs have been identified.

**Funding Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$46,875 from the Metro Basin Account and up to \$46,875 from the South Platte Basin Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants’ abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.



## Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION
<b>County:</b> La Plata
<b>Drainage Basin:</b> Southwest

DETAILS	
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$125,460
<b>Total WSRF Grant Request:</b>	\$89,095
<b>Southwest Basin Account Request:</b>	\$89,095
<b>Recommended Amount:</b>	\$89,095
<b>Other CWCB Funding:</b>	\$0
<b>Other Funding Amount:</b>	\$0
<b>Applicant Match:</b>	\$36,365
<b>Project Type:</b> Construction	
<b>Major Water Use Type:</b> Agricultural	
<b>Measurable Result:</b> Other – “The Morrison Consolidated Ditch Company delivers irrigation water to 168 shareholders. The Ditch carries approximately 100 CFS of water to 8200 acres of land from early May to mid-October of each year. Non-Shareholder landowners benefit from runoff water. Crops, livestock, grazing lands all benefit from the irrigation water carried by the Morrison Ditch.”	

The applicant is a mutual irrigation ditch company that has 168 shareholders who irrigate 8,200 acres. The Morrison Ditch diverts water from the Pine River.

The current flume, headgates and piping are approximately 60 years old and are leaking around and beneath the structures. If approved, WSRF funds will be used to purchase and install a new concrete heading wall with two new headgates, outlet pipes and a new Parshall Flume.

The new concrete heading wall will include two headgates, two new 48 inch by 30-foot advanced drainage system outlet pipes, and new concrete outlet wing walls. The heading structure will be tied into the current sidewall that contains the spillway back to the Pine River. The current Parshall Flume is constructed out of steel and can handle 120 cfs. The new flume will be made of concrete, and the inlet and outlet wing walls will be large enough to accommodate 150 cfs of water.

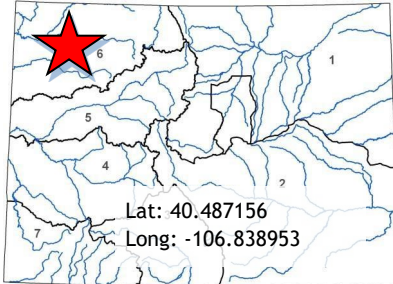
The project aligns with the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan and meets the following goals: Goal A- Balance all needs and reduce conflict; Goal B2: Support implementation of efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and production; and B3: Support implementation of projects that work toward meeting agricultural water supply shortages and address delivery concerns created by aging infrastructure.

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

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$89,095 from the Southwest Basin Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants’ abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.



## Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION
<b>Counties:</b> Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt
<b>Drainage Basin:</b> Yampa-White-Green

DETAILS	
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$91,000
<b>Total WSRF Grant Request:</b>	\$68,250
<b>Y-W-G Basin Account Request:</b>	\$68,250
<b>Recommended Amount:</b>	\$68,250
<b>Other CWCB Funding:</b>	\$0
<b>Other Funding Amount:</b>	\$20,350
<b>Applicant Match:</b>	\$2,400
<b>Project Type:</b> Education	
<b>Major Water Use Type:</b> Education	
<b>Measurable Result:</b> Increase and raise public awareness on the Water Plan, Roundtable activities, encourage collaboration to promote improved water education and inform the Roundtable members of projects and activities within the Basin.	

The applicant is an incorporated, non-profit organization serving the Yampa River Valley. Their mission is "to preserve agriculture in the Yampa Valley by initiating and supporting programs and policies that benefit and connect producers, consumers, and community." The applicant has been the YWG Basin Roundtable Public Education Participation & Outreach (PEPO) liaison since 2016.

If approved, WSRF funding will continue the PEPO work of the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable has been coordinated by the applicant since 2016. The applicant has developed and coordinated a related media plan specific to water issues in the region and how they relate to the Colorado River Basin and the Water Plan. The applicant has also organized and held workshops, forums and developed partnerships to help the public better understand water-related issues in Northwest Colorado.

Grant funds will cover a three-year span to support the media plan via management and support for the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable website and related social media plan. The applicant will continue the print and radio ads focusing on roundtable activities, the Basin Implementation Plan, Colorado Water Plan, and other water issues related to the basin. Finally, WSRF funds will also continue to provide water education and forums in Northwest Colorado.

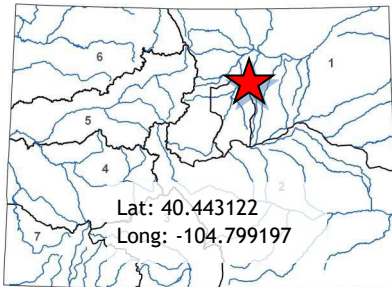
**Issues/Additional Needs:** The applicant must submit a matching commitment letter prior to contracting. No other issues or additional needs have been identified.

**Funding Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$68,250 from the Yampa-White-Green Basin Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.





## Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION
<b>County:</b> Weld
<b>Drainage Basin:</b> South Platte

DETAILS	
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$104,122
<b>Total WSRF Grant Request:</b>	\$59,122
<b>South Platte Basin Account Request:</b>	\$59,122
<b>Recommended Amount:</b>	\$59,122
<b>Other CWCB Funding:</b>	\$0
<b>Other Funding Amount:</b>	\$15,000
<b>Applicant Match:</b>	\$30,000
<b>Project Type:</b> Construction/Implementation	
<b>Major Water Use Type:</b> Agricultural	
<b>Measurable Result:</b> 212,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity.	

The Greeley No. 3 ditch was dug by oxen, horses, and men with pickaxes in 1870 and originally irrigated 1,500 acres of land. The City of Greeley owns 3/8th of the ditch, and the applicant owns 5/8ths of the ditch. The applicant operates the ditch and performs all major maintenance on the ditch. Over time, the ditch has also been utilized for augmentation operations of the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District, as well as gravel pit operators.

The City of Greeley has experienced a lot of urban growth around the Greeley No. 3 Ditch. Stormwater flows into the ditch and at times has caused flooding within the urban area. To better track water through the ditch to meet the shareholders' needs, and to aid the city in stormwater planning, the applicant would like to use grant funds to add measurement structures and data logging at 11 sites along the ditch.

Monitoring and tracking the flow in the canal will also serve the secondary benefit of providing greater protection by reducing potential flooding risks to adjacent properties and landowners during and after precipitation events.

The project aligns with the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan.

**Issues/Additional Needs:** The applicant must provide a revised scope of work (Exhibit A) and a detailed budget (Exhibit B) on CWCB templates prior to contracting. No issues or additional needs have been identified.

**Funding Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$59,122 from the South Platte Basin Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.