COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

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TO: CWCB Board Members

FROM: Jeannine Shaw, CWCB Grants Section Chief

CC: Ashley Garrison, Regional Grant Manager (Colorado, Gunnison, Yampa/White/Green)
Jackie Daoust, Regional Grant Manager (South Platte, Metro, North Platte)
Laura Spann, Regional Grant Manager (Southwest, Rio Grande)
Lauren Duncan, Regional Grant Manager (Arkansas)

DATE: March 19, 2025

CONSENT AGENDA: 4a-4o Water Plan Grants

Staff Recommendation
Staff is recommending the approval of 7 Water Plan Grant awards above $50,000 but less than $100,000. There are 8 applications for which staff are not recommending funding.

Background
The 2024 Projects Bill (HB24-1525) appropriated $23.3M for Water Plan Grant awards for fiscal year 2024/2025. Water Plan Grants have two award cycles. The Board awarded roughly $9.32M in the first cycle, leaving $13.98M available for the second (current) cycle.

In this cycle, CWCB received 38 applications requesting $8.97M and staff is recommending 30 applications for full funding, totaling $6.41M. All applications are publicly available on CWCB's website: https://cwcb.colorado.gov/december-2024-water-plan-grant-applications

The process of reviewing the applications consisted of soliciting feedback from CWCB regional and technical experts, consultations with other state agencies, dialog with the applicants, and consideration by all CWCB sections. The result of the review is a portfolio of recommendations representing individual projects that collectively advance the Colorado Water Plan.

Per CWCB Policy #25 (Approval of Grants), unless otherwise noted, grant awards above $50,000 but less than $100,000 are placed on the consent agenda. On the consent agenda, there are 7 recommended applications totaling $543,206 and 8 applications are not being recommended for funding. These are summarized in the tables below. Data sheets for each project provide additional details.

Table 1: Water Plan Grant applications by category, above $50,000 and less than $100,000

Category	Applications	Recommended
Agriculture Total	5	2
Conservation and Land Use Total	3	1
Engagement and Innovation Total	2	2
Storage and Supply Total	2	1
Watershed Health and Recreation Total	3	1
TOTAL	15	7

Project Issues/Additional Needs:

- All awards are contingent upon the applicants' ability to secure match funding.
- Post award, staff will contact each grantee to discuss comments and contracting procedures, as well as any staff comments to scopes of work and engineering designs, as applicable.
- All grantees will be instructed to adhere to their organizational procurement policies when hiring contractors and consultants. CWCB recommends that State procurement policies be used as a guide if an organization does not have procurement policies.
- Projects must comply with the CWCB's Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado, when applicable.

	Agriculture						
	Applicant	**Project Name**	**Request**	**Recommendation**	**Total Project Cost**	**Match**	**Basin**
4a	Town of Berthoud	Little Thompson River Corridor Conservation Inventory	$79,650.00	$79,650.00	$107,650.00	26%	South Platte
4b	Corriente	Software for Improved Delivery Efficiency	$96,850.00	$96,850.00	$254,100.04	63%	Arkansas; Colorado; South Platte
4c	Colorado Trout Unlimited	Elk Creek: Roseman Ditch Company Water Supply/ Delivery Improvements-Design and Planning	$400,000.00	$0.00	$800,000.00	50%	Colorado
4d	Trout Unlimited	The Camblin Ranch Project: An Innovative Approach to Agriculture	$176,008.00	$0.00	$467,440.00	62%	Yampa/White/Green
4e	Colorado State University	Opportunities for enhancing the water productivity of alfalfa based production systems in Western Colorado	$190,278.30	$0.00	$253,710.92	25%	Gunnison
			$942,786.30	**$176,500.00**			
	Conservation & Land Use						
	Applicant	**Project Name**	**Request**	**Recommendation**	**Total Project Cost**	**Match**	**Basin**
4f	City of Lafayette	Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Response Plan	$78,812.00	$78,812.00	$114,430.00	31%	South Platte
4g	Alliance for Water Efficiency	Colorado River Basin Water Efficiency Network	$100,875.00	$0.00	$331,000.00	70%	Colorado
4h	Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Association	Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Association Water Meter Installation	$235,271.00	$0.00	$495,542.00	53%	Colorado
			$414,958.00	**$78,812.00**			
	Engagement & Innovation						
	Applicant	**Project Name**	**Request**	**Recommendation**	**Total Project Cost**	**Match**	**Basin**
4i	City of Aspen	Commercial Water Efficiency Challenge, Rebate, and Awards Program	$75,000.00	$75,000.00	$150,000.00	50%	Colorado
4j	University of Colorado Boulder	GameOn for Drought Resilience: Youth Led Rural Engagement	$70,029.00	$70,029.00	$93,374.00	25%	Gunnison; Rio Grande; Southwest
			$145,029.00	**$145,029.00**			
	Water Storage & Supply						
	Applicant	**Project Name**	**Request**	**Recommendation**	**Total Project Cost**	**Match**	**Basin**
4k	Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA)	West Side Intra-System Storage Project – Feasibility Study	$80,250.00	$80,250.00	$107,000.00	25%	Gunnison; Colorado
4l	Deutsch Domestic Water Company, Inc	Water Source Development and Conservation Measures	$450,000.00	$0.00	$1,000,000.00	55%	Gunnison
			$530,250.00	**$80,250.00**			
	Watershed Health & Recreation						
	Applicant	**Project Name**	**Request**	**Recommendation**	**Total Project Cost**	**Match**	**Basin**
4m	Ducks Unlimited	Loveland East Big Thompson Corridor Planning	$62,615.00	$62,615.00	$83,490.00	25%	South Platte
4n	The Watershed Center	Plans to Actions for Emerging Priorities	$307,400.00	$0.00	$532,400.00	42%	South Platte
4o	Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District	Southmoor Drive Channel and Floodplain Restoration Phase II	$702,266.00	$0.00	$1,404,532.00	50%	Arkansas
			$1,072,281.00	**$62,615.00**			

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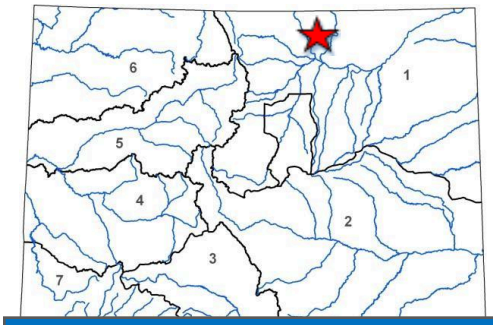
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Little Thompson River Corridor Conservation Inventory
Town of Berthoud
March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Larimer & Weld
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$107,650.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$79,650.00
Recommended amount:	**$79,650.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$20,000.00
Applicant Match:	$8,000.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	The Development of a Plan that identifies water optimization and CWSA opportunities.

The Town of Berthoud (Town) is requesting funding to engage in land conservation and water supply planning efforts along the Little Thompson River corridor. The Town has a population of approximately 13,200 and is situated north of the Little Thompson River and south of Fort Collins in Larimer and Weld counties.

Outreach conducted during the Town's most recent comprehensive planning effort showed a community desire to preserve and enhance the Little Thompson River corridor. Town planners are taking the next step with this project to compile data and strategies that focus on identifying opportunities to preserve agriculture, identify opportunities for collaborative water sharing agreements, future recreation, and support a productive resilient river, while also assessing future water supply needs.

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support three tasks: 1) Assemble a water and land resources inventory that includes objectives to improve river flows and ecological function and put land into conservation easements; 2) Engage in outreach with the community and individuals living in close proximity to the river; and 3) Compile the information from tasks 1 and 2 into a plan to guide future decisions by town planners.

The Town is in need of this detailed plan that involves a holistic view of all the natural resources throughout the river corridor. The inventory proposed will provide an informed dataset and framework for the Town on how to prioritize opportunities for investments and make decisions across its different departments that provide multiple benefit outcomes to the community.

Partners include Colorado Open Lands, Colorado Water Trust, Great Outdoors Colorado, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, Larimer County and the Trust for Public Land.

Match funding will be provided by the Town of Berthoud and Great Outdoors Colorado (pending) covering 26% of the total project cost.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $79,650.00 to the Town of Berthoud for the Little Thompson River Corridor Conservation Inventory.

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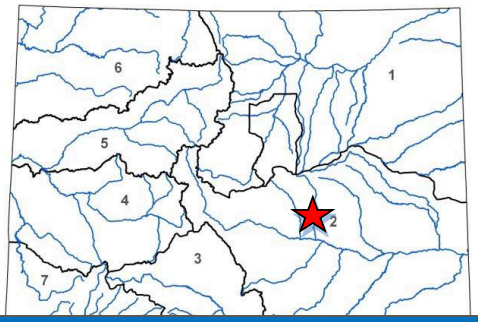
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Software for Improved Delivery Efficiency
Corriente Environmental Solutions

March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION
County/Counties: Fremont; Larimer; Weld; Mesa
Drainage Basin:Arkansas; Colorado; South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$254,100.04
Water Plan Grant Request:	$96,850.00
Recommended amount:	**$96,850.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$157,250.04
Project Type:	Design
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	Three completed pilot studies

Corriente Environmental Solutions is a private start-up company partnering with ditch and canal companies across Colorado to help them be more efficient with the delivery and use of water by creating new tools to capture and store data, track water deliveries and maximize the beneficial uses of their decreed water rights.

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support a pilot of "RecordFLOW," a proprietary software and low-cost sensor technology to enhance water delivery efficiency in Fremont, Larimer, Weld, and Mesa counties, targeting the Arkansas, Colorado, and South Platte Basins. This software will include the development of a "Water Information Dashboard." Ditch and canal companies can use the Dashboard to create custom displays of public and private data which could include river flows, ditch water levels, weather conditions and snowpack, or ditch-specific water level sensors. The data this software package provides seeks to address potential inefficiencies in data collection and records management, and provide tools for water managers to improve operations.

This software package will be tested through three pilot studies with the Hydraulic Ditch Company, the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District, and the Larimer and Weld Canal Companies. These pilot projects intend to offer process improvements in water resources management by providing an innovative tool for water managers to keep good records and data, improve delivery efficiencies and maximize beneficial uses. After the pilot, the software and sensor technologies would be available for purchase.

The total project cost is $254,100.04, with a Colorado Water Plan grant request of $96,850.00. Additional funding of $100,200 was awarded by the State of Colorado's Office of Economic Development and International Trade ($75,000), the Colorado Ag Water Alliance ($20,000 from non-CWCB sources), and participating ditch companies ($5,200).

Supporting Colorado Water Plan goals, the project advances resiliency planning, robust agriculture, and vibrant communities. By improving water allocation and decision-making, it benefits agriculture and fosters collaboration with stakeholders, including ditch companies and regional water users. This initiative exemplifies innovation and commitment to addressing Colorado's water challenges.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $96,850.00 to Corriente Environmental Solutions for the Software for Improved Delivery Efficiency project.

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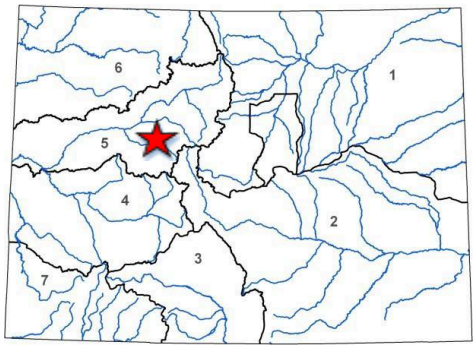
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Elk Creek: Roseman Ditch Company Water Supply/ Delivery Improvements-Design and Planning
Colorado Trout Unlimited
March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Garfield
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$800,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$400,000.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$400,000.00
Applicant Match:	$0
Project Type:	Design & Engineering
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	3,186 acre-feet/yr efficiency savings

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding is requested by Colorado of Trout Unlimited to support design and engineering to pipe and/or line five miles of the Roseman Ditch including a siphon. The ditch connects to the Roseman diversion upgrade on Elk Creek was part of the Middle Colorado Ag Collaborative project funded by CWCB.

Roseman Ditch Company (RDC) has water rights to 21 cubic feet per second diverted from Elk Creek, a tributary of the Colorado River at New Castle, Colorado. Irrigation water transmission losses approach 50% in this reach of the ditch. Reductions in transmission water loss could increase water supply reliability for RDC shareholders and has the potential to enable voluntary bypass of irrigation water to benefit the aquatic environment when the crops and livestock of the 72 shareholders are satisfied.

By lining the first five miles of the ditch the Roseman expects to gain over 3,000 AF of efficiency that was lost to seepage. The ditch company will be better able to manage their water with little to no seepage paired with the upgraded diversion that will have fish bypass and SCADA/telemetry, reducing continued disturbance in the streambed and providing real time diversion management.

The majority of CWCB dollars would go toward design and engineering to reach construction ready documents.

This project aims to advance the Colorado Water Plan goals by building on the Middle Colorado Ag Collaborative projects in Elk Creek that are in the process of replacing and upgrading several diversions to improve water delivery and provide environmental benefits to the creek.

Colorado Trout Unlimited is leading the Middle Co Ag Collaborative and has been implementing projects identified in the Middle Colorado Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP).

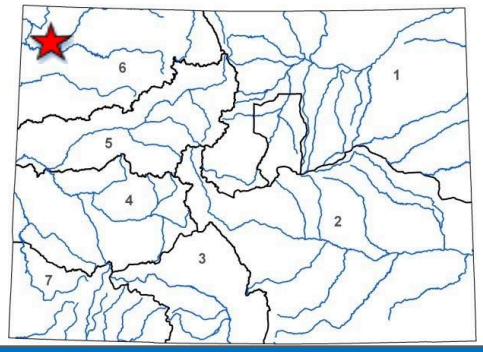
Funding Recommendation:
Staff does not recommend funding Colorado Trout Unlimited for the Elk Creek: Roseman Ditch Company Water Supply/ Delivery Improvements-Design and Planning project. The application did not adequately demonstrate a commitment to multiple benefits, in this case the process and likelihood of achieving voluntary bypass of flows was not reasoned or described.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

The Camblin Ranch Project: An Innovative Approach to Agriculture
Trout Unlimited

March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Moffat
Drainage Basin:	Yampa/White/Green

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$467,440.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$176,008.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$291,432.00
Project Type:	Construction/Implementation
Project Category:	Agricultural Projects
Measurable Result:	19 acft/yr efficiency savings

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding is requested to support Trout Unlimited(TU) staff on a pilot with a private producer to implement a hybrid irrigation system based on Yampa river flows, establish an alternative forage to improve soil health and productivity, and explore a temporary water lease using water conserved under the hybrid irrigation system.

This project would serve as a pilot project for a broader Community Ag Partnership (CAP) program that aims to facilitate mutually beneficial agricultural projects, and build long-term capacity for CAP in the basin. The project seeks to test soil health, establish new forages based on soil health findings, install a new irrigation pivot on the farm, create an irrigation management scheme to complement river flows and establish a water lease for saved water. The hybrid irrigation scheme would utilize early season flood irrigation during spring runoff, then switch to pivot irrigation mid-season to reduce consumption, flood irrigate for a two week period to maintain late-season return flows, and return to pivot irrigation during low river flow conditions.

The majority of CWCB dollars would go toward purchasing and installing a hybrid irrigation system including two pivots and associated plumbing and electrical components.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff does not recommend funding Trout Unlimited for The Camblin Ranch Project: An Innovative Approach to Agriculture. A significant part of the budget was to fund the installation of a pivot sprinkler system on a single farm which has limited regional benefits and scalability. The application did not demonstrate synergy with current ongoing CWCB state funded projects in alternative forages and soil health.

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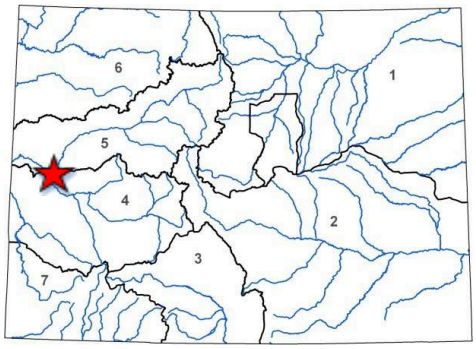
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Opportunities for enhancing the water productivity of alfalfa based production systems in Western Colorado
Colorado State University
March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Delta
Drainage Basin:	Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$253,710.92
Water Plan Grant Request:	$190,278.30
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$63,432.62
Project Type:	Study
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	65 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding is requested to support the Colorado State University (CSU) Western Colorado Research Center to conduct an on-farm study to investigate deficit irrigation on alfalfa and alfalfa crop mixes to inform producers on forage growth and water use.

The future availability of irrigation water may significantly impact alfalfa production in Colorado. Identifying drought tolerant alfalfa cultivars as well as mixtures of alfalfa and grass/legume may be a viable alternative strategy to sustain forage and hay production under water limited environments.

Three demonstration fields owned and managed by agricultural producers in the Gunnison basin would establish high biomass yielding alfalfa or alfalfa+legumes/grass mix fields under restricted water availability. The project would identify both bulk soil and rhizosphere microbiome differences among the productive alfalfa+grass/legume combinations. CSU would investigate the soil carbon sequestration under variable irrigation regimes and climate resiliency scenarios. Finally, the project would evaluate the economic benefits from the adoption of these drought mitigation strategies. This research proposal was developed based on stakeholders' needs and concerns in relation to the declining productivity of alfalfa under early irrigation cutoffs.

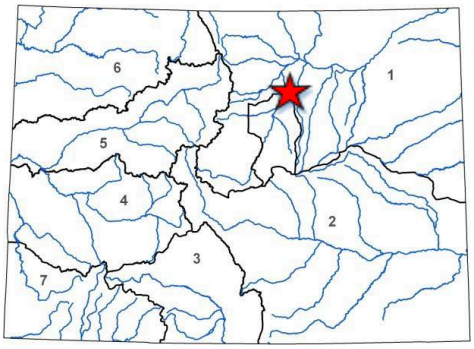
The applicant sought CWCB funding for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and Evapotranspiration (ET) sensors for on-field measurements, field days, and staff time. The Delta and Shavano Conservation Districts are partners in this application to host on-farm field tours for interested producers and conduct the outreach components of this project. This project aims to further research in optimizing water use and provide decision support for economic stability of alfalfa growers in Western Colorado.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff does not recommend funding for Colorado State University for the Opportunities for Enhancing the Water Productivity of Alfalfa Based Production Systems in Western Colorado project. The application did demonstrate sufficient commitment to collaboration, as it did not explain how this project would build off or relate to similar projects that CWCB is currently funding. The application did not clearly show how the data collected would alter water management or result in scalable impact in a technically feasible way.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Integrated Water Conservation & Drought Response Plan
City of Lafayette
March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Boulder
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$114,430.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$78,812.00
Recommended amount:	**$78,812.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$35,618.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use
Measurable Result:	32,000 Coloradans impacted by incorporating water-saving actions into land use planning and engagement activities

The City of Lafayette is a municipality located in southeastern Boulder County with a population of approximately 32,000.

The City is requesting funding for the development of an Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Plan (Plan) that meets State requirements and guidelines. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support the City and a consultant to prepare and finalize the Plan.

The City will complete an update of its 2018 Water Efficiency Plan and 2001 Water Shortage Management Plan. The benefits in developing a combined Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Plan are cost efficiencies, succinct messaging between average and water shortage years, and other collaborative outcomes accompanying a more holistic approach. This approach is well-suited for the City's innovative and well-developed water conservation planning needs.

The City's Plan will address and include:

1) One-water concepts applied throughout the drought and conservation planning process to build on future water related City planning efforts;
2) Integrating the following items into a cohesive and consistent messaging platform: necessity to increase water rates for future monetary needs related to fortifying water supplies, reliability of water supplies during drought periods, and the value of water particularly with a warming climate;
3) Equitable water conservation, drought mitigation, and short-term drought response implementation across a diverse customer base; and
4) Benefits and lessons learned by combining drought and water conservation planning.

Deliverables include a final updated plan with state review and final approval.

Match funding will be provided by the City covering 31% of the total project cost.

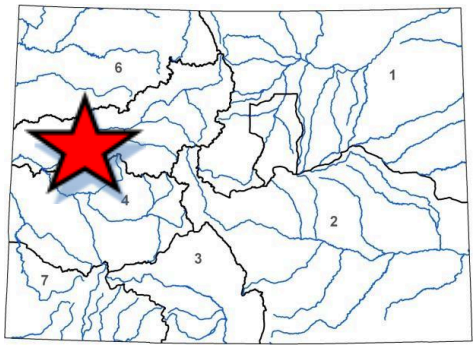
Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $78,812.00 to the City of Lafayette for the Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Response Plan.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado River Basin Water Efficiency Network
Alliance for Water Efficiency

March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Multiple
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$331,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$100,875.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$41,750.00
Applicant Match:	$188,375.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	50 participants in CRB WEN

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding would support the development of the Colorado River Basin (CRB) Water Efficiency Network (WEN). The CRB WEN would be a collaboration between local water providers, large municipal water users, tribal nations, and land use organizations from across the basin, led by the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) and the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy. It would support implementation of urban water-saving measures to help achieve water savings goals identified by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, as well provide other environmental, economic, and equity co-benefits.

The Network would accomplish its goals through 1) Peer-to-peer learning, including Learning Cohorts and Roundtables on specific topics, to leverage the collective expertise and experiences of water and land use agencies across the basin; 2) Regular trainings and workshops on topics selected by the Network members; 3) Providing direct technical assistance to water agencies, with a focus on Disadvantaged Communities (DACs),including free AWE memberships for DACs; 4) Ongoing “help desk” support for participants. The WEN spans all states within the Colorado River Basin, but AWE sought funding from CWCB to support participation of Colorado organizations in the Network.

Across the Colorado River Basin, AWE would recruit at least 50 participants within 3 months of launching and at least 75 within 6 months. In addition, at least 20 Tribal Nations plus DACs would be invited to join the Network and become AWE members within 6 months.

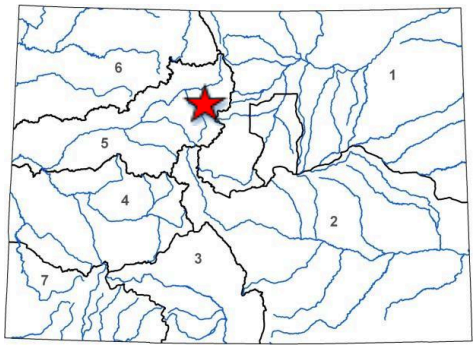
The Network seeks to align with the Colorado Water Plan and the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan by supporting implementation of long-term strategies for water efficiency and conservation, sustainable land use, and drought planning.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to Alliance for Water Efficiency for Colorado River Basin Water Efficiency Network. The application did not demonstrate readiness for implementation, clarity on Colorado-specific goals, or Colorado specific stakeholder involvement and support.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

BVRLA Water Meter Installation
Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Association
March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Summit
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$495,542.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$235,271.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$260,271.00
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	115 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Association (BRVRLA) is requesting Water Plan Grant funding for installation of 46 water service line meter pits, water meters, and curb stops. Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes' community water system does not currently have individual service line meters.

The community water system was originally installed in 1962 and designed for 46 small cabins with temporary seasonal in-home water usage. The subdivision is now 60% full time residential occupancy. Based on a recent sanitary survey, the water system has not been updated to accommodate the new makeup of the neighborhood or to meet the current drinking water system regulations. An engineering assessment identified potential system upgrades including: adequate treated water storage, increases in emergency water supply, improvements to the existing antiquated well facility, and improvements to the distribution system, including new fire hydrants.

BRVRLA is working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to secure a Drinking Water Revolving Fund loan to upgrade their water system.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff is not recommending funding to the Blue River Valley Ranch Lake Association for the Blue River Valley Lakes Association Water Meter Installation Project. The applicant did not demonstrate a clear plan for using the meters to bill or monitor water use or water loss once installed. The project does not sufficiently meet the Water Plan Grant Program's priorities of multiple benefits and collaboration. The project also does not meet the Conservation and Land Use category's priorities of reducing overall future water needs.

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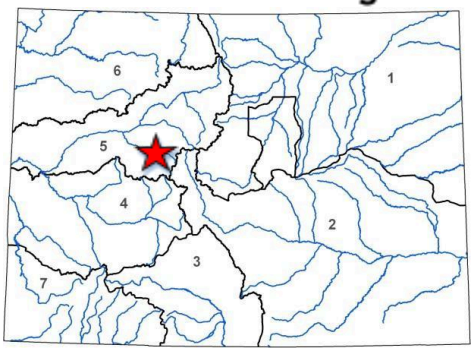
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Commercial Water Efficiency Challenge, Rebate, and Awards Program
City of Aspen
March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Pitkin
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$150,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$75,000.00
Recommended amount:	**$75,000.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$75,000.00
Project Type:	Education
Project Category:	Engagement & Innovation Activities
Measurable Result:	43,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support a Pilot Commercial Water Efficiency Challenge in the City of Aspen. The challenge will engage with commercial water users by providing information about efficient water use, competing with one another in a challenge to conserve water, and providing up to $7,500 in qualifying rebates per business for installing water efficient plumbing fixtures or appliances.

Aspen has implemented many of the programs that were identified in their 2015 Water Efficiency Plan in the residential and municipal sectors. Engaging with commercial accounts is one of the remaining outstanding programs contemplated by the plan. The City of Aspen Water Utility provides service to approximately 400 commercial accounts. In a study on the commercial water accounts, Aspen found that they make-up approximately 20% of all water sold by the City. Commercial spaces in Aspen generally do not have significant outdoor water use and the City sees appliance efficiency as an area of opportunity. Industry estimates indicate that implementing water-efficient practices in commercial facilities can decrease water use by up to 15%.

The goal for the pilot project is to engage at least 15 commercial water customers in water conservation and efficiency actions, tracked through the points system. Education about commercial water conservation and public recognition for conservation are important components to subsequent iterations of the pilot project. The rebate amount ($7,500) aligns with the goal that participating businesses will be able to replace at least two smaller appliances or one larger, more expensive appliance with a water efficient model. Types of appliances eligible for rebates include commercial ice makers, commercial dishwashers, commercial washing machines, toilet/urinal retrofits, other commercial water-using appliances with demonstrated conservation benefits (certified WaterSense and/or EnergyStar).

The City of Aspen is cost sharing 50% of the project. CWCB dollars would go towards the cost share for the rebates, with additional funds allocated to marketing the program, and cost share for the awards/recognition for participants. This project is a new approach to engaging with commercial water users and could be replicated across other water providers to support conservation and community engagement goals of the Water Plan.

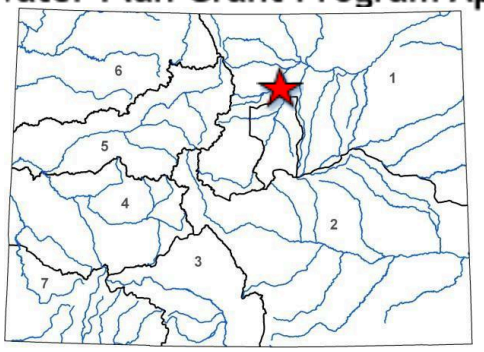
Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $75,000 to the City of Aspen for Commercial Water Efficiency Challenge, Rebate, and Awards Program.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

The Regents of the University of Colorado GameOn for Drought Resilience: Youth Led Rural Engagement

March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Gunnison, Montrose, Delta, Alamosa, La Plata
Drainage Basin:	Gunnison, Rio Grande, Southwest

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$93,374.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$70,029.00
Recommended amount:	**$70,029.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$23,345.00
Project Type:	Education
Project Category:	Engagement and Innovation
Measurable Result:	1,630 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will be used to further educate and empower Colorado's rural youth and their teachers to build community resilience in the face of drought.

The Regents of the University of Colorado (University of Colorado Boulder's Center for Education, Engagement, and Evaluation (CEEE)) will expand their existing educational drought resilience game to include examples from the Colorado Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plan, videos from local water leaders, and Spanish translations. The game will be redesigned and formatted for professional printing, and a digital game facilitation toolkit will be created.

The objective of the drought resilience game and related curriculum is to develop future water leaders by increasing their confidence in leading community conversations about drought and water management. A specific focus of the educational effort is to include and elevate voices of underrepresented groups and bring the tool to rural communities. Finally, the game can result in opportunities and strategies for local action around drought resilience.

Once updated, the game will then be shared at summer workshops with at least 30 teachers, five of which have been selected from Gunnison, Hotchkiss, Montrose, Durango, and Alamosa to teach the unit in their classroom and help their students lead a Community Game Night. The Community Game Nights will be held in partnership with local educational partners and Basin Roundtable members to engage underrepresented groups. CEEE anticipates at least 250 community members to participate in the five rural Community Game Nights. Participant feedback will be collected from the Community Game Nights and summarized in local articles and presentations to the Roundtables. CEEE also plans to submit a conference proposal to the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference to share the game and its impacts with the broader Colorado water community.

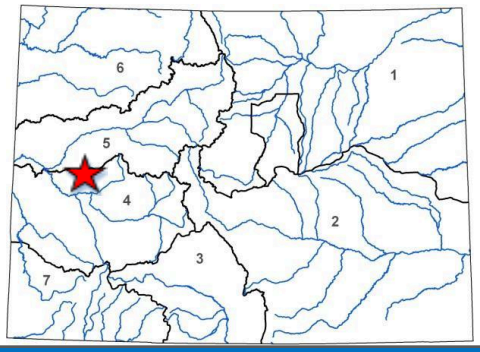
GameOn for Drought Resilience has broad-based involvement and support from partners including the Gunnison and Rio Grande Basin Roundtables, teachers at Gunnison, North Fork, and Sanford high schools, professors at Western Colorado University, Fort Lewis College, and Adams State University, Montrose and Alamosa public libraries, the Coldharbour Institute (Gunnison), West Slope Conservation Center (Paonia), and the Powerhouse Science Center (Durango).

Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $70,029.00 to the Regents of the University of Colorado for GameOn for Drought Resilience: Youth Led Rural Engagement.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

West Side Intra-System Storage Project – Feasibility Study
Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association
March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Montrose
Drainage Basin:	Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$107,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$80,250.00
Recommended amount:	**$80,250.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$26,750.00
Project Type:	Feasibility Study
Project Category:	Water Storage & Supply
Measurable Result:	Potential for up to 1,200 acre feet of new storage created

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) in conducting a feasibility of the West Side Intra-System Storage Project (WISSP). The WISSP is a collaborative project between the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) and Shavano Conservation District to enable both organizations to better serve their constituents and add water storage capacity to the system.

Shavano Conservation District has maintenance responsibility for the Shavano and Rotocap stormwater retention ponds and associated dams. UVWUA delivers water from the Uncompahgre River throughout 83,000 acres of land located in Montrose and Delta counties. If feasible, this project will enable UVWUA to utilize a portion of two of Shavano Conservation District's stormwater/sedimentation basins for irrigation storage, allowing UVWUA to put the diurnal peaks that currently bypass their system to beneficial use. This feasibility study will result in conceptual level design, opinions of probable construction cost (OPCCs), and a feasibility report.

UVWUA would divert water from the Uncompahgre River during the spring runoff period which is late April through mid-June. Once the flows in the Uncompahgre River begin to decline, they would then stop diverting water and begin releasing water from the reservoirs to be re-diverted into the system at points downstream.

The reservoirs will require several new components to connect to UVWUA's canal system including pumping systems from the West Canal into the Shavano Valley Detention Basin and from the CQ Lateral into the Roatcap Wash Detention Basin, improvements to the Shavano Valley #1 and #2 Dams and the Roatcap Wash Watershed RW-1 Dam, which are necessary for irrigation water storage and improvements to the diversion structure for the West Canal Feeder Ditch.

By utilizing existing dams and detention basins, UVWUA could develop significant irrigation storage for their system without the high costs of new reservoir construction while ensuring the significant stormwater storage is maintained for precipitation events.

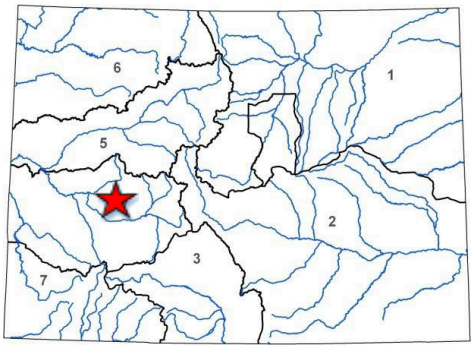
This project will advance the Water Plan by creating additional water supplies and creating reliable supplies for farms and communities. UVWUA is providing match funding.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $80,250.00 to the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association for West Side Intra-System Storage Project – Feasibility Study.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Water Source Development and Conservation Measures
Deutsch Domestic Water Company, Inc
March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Delta
Drainage Basin:	Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$1,000,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$450,000.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$450,000.00
Applicant Match:	$100,000.00
Project Type:	Design & Construction
Project Category:	Water Storage & Supply
Measurable Result:	600 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

The Deutsch Domestic Water Company (DDWC) is a Special Purpose Water Carrier Company serving the rural area southeast of the Town of Crawford. DDWC proposes a project to pipe a ditch, enabling them to fully utilize the associated water right for augmentation and as an alternative water supply. This project would also seek to provide unused water to agriculture operations and replace 150 municipal water meters with automated Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)-read units.

The Young Ditch is used to divert water from the Smith Fork for agricultural irrigation. It is a small, irregular, unmaintained channel sized for 1.0 cfs and normally diverts 0.5 cfs during summer operations. DDWC owns 0.25 cfs of the Young Ditch water rights. The project would pipe 0.5 miles of the ditch, potentially keeping up to 30% of water lost to seepage (55 AFY) available for delivery to users.

The applicant proposes to develop Collaborative Water Sharing Agreements with the neighboring farmers that would benefit from the extra water made available by the project. Providing raw water for the farmers' irrigation aims to reduce the farmer's reliance on treated municipal water for irrigation. The goal of the project would be to have the increased raw water supply combined with reduced seepage loss to place previously dried-up agricultural land back into production.

DDWC is proposing to replace 150 manual-read municipal water meters with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)-read units. Additional flow sensors would be added to the system side at each pumping station and at overflow points. Automated water level meters will also be added to each storage tank, weir, the treatment basin, and seepage collection points. By detecting leaks and other changes in water flow DDWC expects to save at least 20% or about 7 AFY.

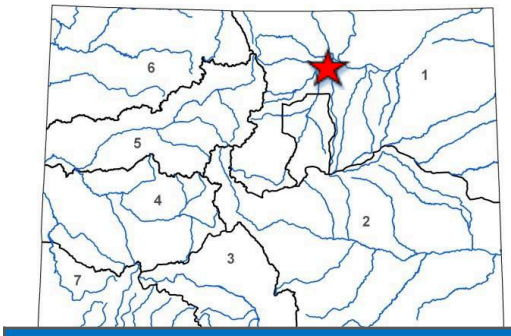
Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to the Deutsch Domestic Water Company, Inc. for the Water Source Development and Conservation Measures project. The application lacks technical feasibility and implementation readiness. The application scope of work does not develop a new source of water or create a CWSA.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Loveland East Big Thompson Corridor Planning
Ducks Unlimited

March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Counties:	Larimer
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$83,490.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$62,615.00
Recommended amount:	**$62,615.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$9,150.00
Applicant Match:	$11,725.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	*Identify at least 2-3 priority habitat restoration projects*

Ducks Unlimited is requesting funding for the development of a comprehensive conservation plan for key sites along the Big Thompson River corridor. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support stakeholder coordination and project planning, geotechnical surveys, project design, project permitting, and project management.

This plan will target areas identified as a community priority through past planning efforts, including the 2021 Big Thompson River Envisioning Project (Stream Management Plan). This initiative transitions from broad recommendations to specific, prioritized actions.

This project will assess over 400 acres of land across 4 neighboring sites to guide the identification and design of high-impact habitat restoration. Deliverables will include detailed site assessments, prioritized conservation plans, preliminary construction designs, and cost estimates. The plan will also provide a framework for permitting, site management, and recreation planning, ensuring alignment with community values through stakeholder collaboration.

By building on the 2021 Envisioning Project, this effort will identify watershed restoration projects that support waterfowl and wildlife habitat and enhance recreational opportunities, setting the foundation for future implementation and long-term ecosystem health within the urban corridor.

Partners include City of Loveland and Big Thompson Watershed Coalition.

Match funding will be provided by Ducks Unlimited and City of Loveland (secured) covering 25% of the total project cost.

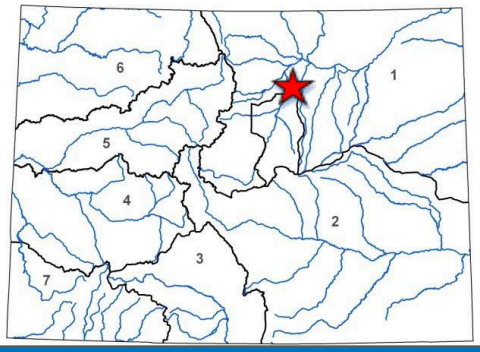
Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $62,615.00 to Ducks Unlimited for the Loveland Big Thompson Corridor Planning project contingent upon staff's ability to negotiate changes in the scope of work. Changes should include assessment and design of portions of the Big Thompson river corridor identified in the Big Thompson River Envisioning Project. It is critical that projects identified are informed through a stakeholder lead planning effort and these past planning efforts are incorporated when identifying projects.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Plans to Actions for Emerging Priorities Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (DBA The Watershed Center)

March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Boulder
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$532,400.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$307,400.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$225,000.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	325,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

The Watershed Center (TWC) aims to address emerging watershed health priorities in the St. Vrain Basin by continuing their adaptive management process. TWC has united partners to plan, monitor, and advance adaptive management projects across river, grassland, and forest systems. These projects are now at various stages of implementation.

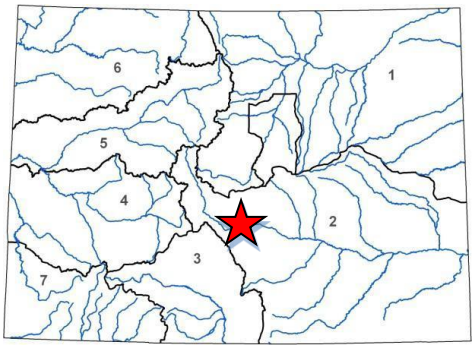
Colorado Water Plan Grant funding is requested to support additional staff time for planning, monitoring, and outreach to expand TWC's adaptive management planning efforts to focus on and address emerging priorities, such as beaver restoration, abandoned mines, and aquatic nuisance species. Through this planning effort, partners would develop actionable solutions through collaborative planning, targeted monitoring, and community engagement.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to The Watershed Center for the Plans to Actions for Emerging Priorities project. Since 2018, the CWCB has funded eleven planning and outreach grants undertaken by The Watershed Center. While the latest application does present some nuanced differences from previous planning, it is not distinct enough from past efforts. The current application constitutes a programmatic continuation of these. CWCB staff embrace the opportunity to continue working with the Watershed Center and advising them on pathways towards Colorado Water Plan grant funding.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Southmoor Drive Channel and Floodplain Restoration Phase 2
Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District
March 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Counties:	El Paso
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$1,404,532.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$702,266.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$702,266.00
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	2,200 linear feet of stream restoration and 20 acres of habitat restoration

Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District sought Colorado Water Plan Grant funding to restore critical infrastructure and riparian habitats along a highly-degraded reach of Fountain Creek. The project's outcomes include restoring riparian vegetation, improving downstream water quality and mitigating flood risks.

Originally identified in the Fountain Creek Floodplain Management Opportunities Study and the Fountain Creek Corridor Watershed Assessment of River Stability and Sediment Supply Report, this project's focus area is a known contributor of sediment to the Fountain Creek system and presents safety and access problems for the surrounding communities. CWCB is currently funding Phase I of this project with a Water Plan Grant for $700,000.00.

Phase II addresses increased project costs associated with external project reviews, landowner agreements, and storm impacts. Phase II objectives include continued efforts to stabilize the channel and eroding banks, reconnecting the floodplain, enhancing riparian habitats to reduce erosion and sedimentation, and providing financial support for a recreational trail.

This project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan's goals of enhancing watershed health, providing resilient infrastructure, and improving community engagement. Further, this project demonstrates a commitment to collaboration with letters of support from the City of Fountain and El Paso County.

Funding Recommendation:

While CWCB supports the goals of the Southmoor Drive Channel and Floodplain Restoration project, staff is not recommending this project for funding because of timeline incompatibility with the grant program. State fiscal rules require all reimbursable project expenses to be incurred after an agreement is finalized, and the project is already well underway and will likely be at substantial completion by the time an agreement could be reasonably executed.