



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ben Wade & Dori Vigil, Grants Section

CC: Jeannine Shaw, Grants Section Chief

DATE: September 16, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda Item #2a-d, Water Supply Reserve Fund, Grant Funding Recommendations

Staff Recommendation - Action Items: WSRF Grant Requests:

A summary of staff's recommendations 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.

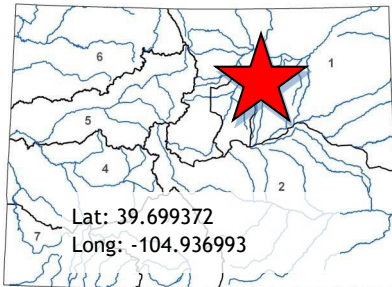


Water Supply Reserve Fund Applications for Consideration at the September 2025 CWCB Board Meeting												
Agenda Item	Basin	Applicant/Grantee	Name of Water Activity	Basin RT Recommended Amount	Non-WSRF Cash Match	Non-WSRF In-Kind Match	Non-WSRF Total Match	Total Project Costs	Basin Only Request Match % (min 25%)	Special Flood Hazard Area/Regulatory Floodplain?	PM	Grants Portal ID
Consent Agenda 2a	Metro	Colorado Watershed Assembly	Youth Development, Water Education, and the Colorado Water Plan (Year One)	\$46,875	\$23,200.00	\$10,000	\$33,200.00	\$126,950.00	26.15%	N/A	Ben	App-02774
	South Platte			\$46,875								
Agenda Item 5a	Metro	Consolidated Mutual Water Company	ET Study & Floatovoltaic Design	\$50,000	\$91,076.00	\$10,000	\$101,076.00	\$201,076.00	50.27%	N/A	Matt	App-02787
	South Platte			\$50,000								
Director's Report	South Platte	Plumb & Dailey Ditch Company	Plumb and Dailey Return Structure	\$33,615	\$33,616.00	\$0	\$33,616.00	\$67,231.00	50.00%	No	Zach	App-02786
Director's Report	South Platte	Water Supply and Storage Company	Larimer County Canal Headgate & Flow Monitoring Improvements	\$30,000	\$472,800.00	\$0	\$472,800.00	\$502,800.00	94.03%	No	Zach	App-02783
Consent Agenda 2b	Southwest	Morrison Consolidated Ditch Company	Undershot Replacement Project	\$99,233	\$26,877.69	\$6,200	\$33,077.69	\$132,310.69	25.00%	No	Joshua	App-02748
Consent Agenda 2c	Yampa/White/Green	Bear River Reservoir Company	Stillwater Reservoir Drain, Collar & Channel Stabilization	\$94,000	\$281,000.00	\$0	\$281,000.00	\$375,000.00	74.93%	No	Joshua	App-02759
Consent Agenda 2d	Yampa/White/Green	B/Land & Cattle, LLC	John C. Temple Reservoir #1 Rehabilitation	\$77,386	\$73,000.00	\$0	\$73,000.00	\$150,386.00	48.54%	No	Joshua	App-02810
Director's Report	Yampa/White/Green	Crazy Cutter Hay Service	Fortification Creek Irrigation Diversion & Fish Passage Improvement	\$28,300	\$9,469.00	\$0	\$9,469.00	\$37,769.00	25.07%	No	Ben	App-02778
				\$556,284.00	\$1,011,038.69	\$26,200	\$1,037,238.69	\$1,593,522.69				

Basin	Total Requests			
Arkansas Basin	\$0.00			
Colorado Basin	\$0.00			
Gunnison Basin	\$0.00			
Metro	\$96,875.00			
North Platte	\$0			
Rio Grande	\$0.00			
Southwest	\$99,233.00			
South Platte	\$160,490			
Yampa/White/Green	\$199,686			
Water Supply Reserve Fund Total Requests	\$556,284.00			



Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application



LOCATION
Counties: All
Basin: Metro & South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$126,950
Total WSRF Recommended Amount:	\$93,750
Metro Basin Account Request:	\$46,875
South Platte Account Request:	\$46,875
Match Commitment:	\$33,200
Grant to Match Ratio:	74%/26%
Project Type: Education	
Major Water Use Type: Education	
Measurable Result: 100,000 Coloradoans impacted by water saving actions into land use planning; 575,000 Coloradoans impacted by engagement activity.	

The Colorado Watershed Assembly (CWA) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support efforts to protect and improve the conservation values of Colorado's land, water, and other natural resources. Their network connects the diverse interests of Colorado's watershed groups to other decision makers.

In September 2024, CWA received a WSRF grant for the foundational "Year Zero" phase of a five-year initiative. This initial phase focused on designing a youth-development program, framed around the question, "how old will you be in 2050?" to support the implementation of the Water Plan.

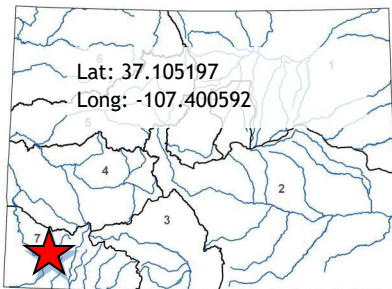
The subsequent phase of the project will involve 15 "Water Exemplars," or education experts, who were recruited during the prior phase to train nine students to evaluate up to 15 existing water education programs against national environmental education standards. The objective is to develop a comprehensive water curriculum for future Colorado students, thereby enhancing water education literacy across the state.

The project aligns with the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan by broadening South Platte communications, outreach, and education programs

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 Fund Grant Application



LOCATION
County: La Plata
Basin: Southwest

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$132,310.69
Total WSRF Recommended Amount:	\$99,233
Southwest Basin Account Request:	\$99,233
Match Commitment:	\$32,877.69
Grant to Match Ratio:	75/25
Project Type: Construction/Implementation	
Major Water Use Type: Agricultural	
Measurable Result: 100 feet of pipe built or improved; 168 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity	

The Morrison Consolidated Ditch Company (MCDC) in the Town of Ignacio provides 8,200-acre feet to their 168 shareholders for irrigation.

Beneath the Morrison Ditch is an old concrete undershot installed in the 1930s to allow water from Ignacio Creek to flow under the Morrison Ditch. The concrete sections of pipe are separated and the gaps between the pipes can cause water to erode the ditch above. This erosion poses a significant risk, potentially causing the Morrison Ditch to become unstable or even collapse.

MCDC would use WSRF funds to replace the undershot structure. The project involves installing 100 feet of a new culvert, which will improve water flow and reduce erosion, thereby preventing a potential collapse of the ditch. This new culvert is designed to handle natural stream conditions and peak flow events. The work will include excavation, culvert placement, backfilling, and stabilizing the surrounding area, as well as reseeding any disturbed ground.

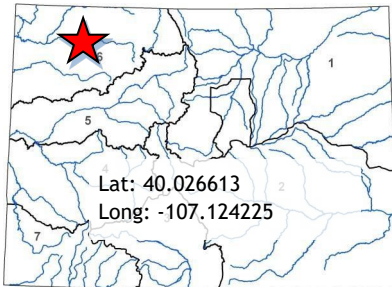
The project aligns with the goals in the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan of balancing all needs and reducing conflict, supporting the implementation of efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and production, and supporting the implementation of projects that work toward meeting agricultural water supply shortages and addressing 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 \$99,233 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 Fund Grant Application



LOCATION
Counties: Garfield, Routt
Basin: Yampa/White/Green

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$375,000
Total WSRF Recommended Amount:	\$94,000
Y/W/G Basin Account Request:	\$94,000
Match Commitment:	\$281,000
Grant to Match Ratio:	25/75
Project Type: Construction/Implementation	
Major Water Use Type: Agricultural	
Measurable Result: 6,088-acre feet of existing storage preserved or enhanced	

The Bear River Reservoir Company (BRRC) is a private not for profit reservoir company in the Town of Yampa that provides 2,220-acre feet of water to its 19 shareholders for irrigation. BRRC owns Stillwater Reservoir, which the Division of Water Resources (DWR) placed a storage restriction on in 2019 due to safety concerns.

The BRRC was awarded a WSRF grant in September 2024 to design and construct a downstream blanket drain at the Stillwater Reservoir to provide a filtered exit for seepage through or around an abutment.

Following a review of the Primary Failure Modes detailed in the 2019 Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation, the DWR's Dam Safety Branch mandated the construction of a filter collar around the outlet conduit and stabilization of two sections of the river channel immediately downstream of the dam, in addition to the blanket drain.

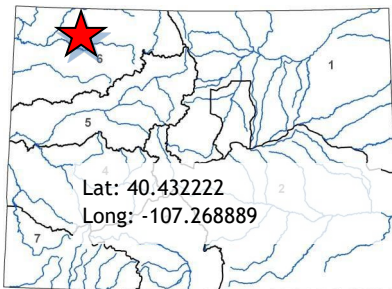
Removal of the storage restriction is contingent upon the completion of the drain, collar, and bank stabilization at the control house. Furthermore, the removal of the corrugated metal pipe directly below the outlet and associated bank stabilization are strongly recommended. The two specified channel areas include the location immediately below the outlet culvert, where the deteriorating corrugated metal pipe is situated, and a section approximately 100 feet downstream, which features an aging, in-channel cement flume. The control house is located on the bank adjacent to this flume, which exhibits cracking and is currently supported by temporary bracing.

Issues/Additional Needs: Prior to contracting, the applicant must secure all match funding. No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$94,000 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 Fund Grant Application



LOCATION
County: Routt
Basin: Yampa/White/Green

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$150,386
Total WSRF Recommended Amount:	\$77,386
Y/W/G Basin Account Request:	\$77,386
Match Commitment:	\$73,000
Grant to Match Ratio:	51/49
Project Type: Construction/Implementation	
Major Water Use Type:	
Measurable Result: 553-acre feet of existing storage preserved or enhanced.	

The applicant is a rancher in the Town of Hayden who owns the John C. Temple #1 dam which is located south of the Town. The dam stores 454-acre feet of water used for irrigation, fire protection, and stock water uses.

The Colorado Dam Safety Branch has recently assigned a conditional satisfactory rating due to dam safety concerns identified at the structure. Colorado Dam Safety has reclassified the dam from a low hazard to a significant hazard structure. Grant funding will help the applicant to address the safety issues and bring the dam into compliance with Colorado Dam Safety Regulations.

Specifically, WSRF funds will be utilized to repair failing riprap on the upstream face of the dam. The applicant will also excavate and recompact material on the dam crest to rectify embankment cracking and regrade the crest to establish a level surface with a cross slope towards the reservoir.

The project aligns several goals in the Yampa/White/Green Basin Implementation Plan including 1) helping to protect the Basin from compact curtailment of existing decreed water uses and some increment of future uses 2) protecting and encouraging agricultural uses of water in the Basin within the context of private property rights 3) improving agricultural water supplies to increase irrigated land and reduce shortages and 4) restoring, maintaining and modernizing water storage and distribution infrastructure.

Issues/Additional Needs: The applicant must secure all match funding prior to contracting. No other issues or additional needs have been identified.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$77,386 from the Yampa/White/Green Basin Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.