



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

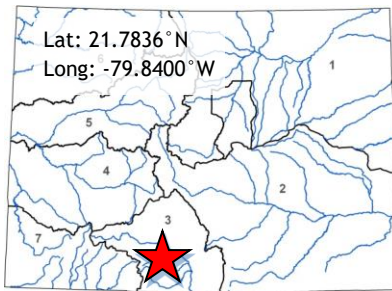
Department of Natural Resources

Water in the Real World: Youth Education in the Rio Grande Watershed

Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative

November 2019 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Application



L O C A T I O N

Counties: Various

Drainage Basin: Rio Grande

D E T A I L S

Total Project Cost:	\$60,000
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$30,000
Recommended Amount:	\$30,000
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$30,000
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type(s):	Other - Education
Project Category:	Engagement & Innovation
Measurable Result:	3,000 Coloradoans Impacted by Engagement Activity

The Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative (RGWCEI) is a non-profit organization that was formed with the mission to create awareness of working landscapes and natural resources stewardship in the San Luis Valley, primarily among K-12 community members. RGWCEI partners with conservation districts, water conservancy districts, the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, and other watershed organizations to provide quality education & outreach.

The proposed project focuses on the K-12 community of the Rio Grande Watershed, particularly with programs created to introduce students to watershed issues by going outside rather than sitting in the normal classroom setting. Programs will include multi-day outdoor experiences such as the summer youth conservation camp and teen outdoor stewardship camp in partnership with Adams State University, and high school environmental resources workshops, school field trips, and community events throughout the school year.

Education focuses on place-based learning specific to the Rio Grande watershed, with additional emphasis placed on similar water issues occurring around the state. Programs will include either site visits or learning experiences focused on the Rio Grande River and its tributaries. Education activities will include collaboration with a variety of agencies and NGO's in order to further support water education goals in those organizations. Grant funding will be used to support program costs such as travel & supplies, as well as program administration. The grant request is for 3 years of support to provide consistency in continuing quality water education and conservation programming.

This project helps advance the goals in the Water Plan by improving public awareness by 2020 and also engaging the citizens on key water challenges by 2030. The project is also meets goals set forth in the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan and the Public Education, Participation and Outreach Education Action Plan.

Funding Recommendation: Staff is recommending a grant of \$30,000 from the Engagement and Innovation category of funding.



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Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant Application

Instructions

To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as “project”) funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.

If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:

Water Storage Projects
Conservation, Land Use Planning
Engagement & Innovation Activities
Agricultural Projects
Environmental & Recreation
Projects

Anna.Mauss@state.co.us
Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us
Ben.Wade@state.co.us
Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Chris.Sturm@state.co.us

FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials in one email to

waterplan.grants@state.co.us

in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents. In the subject line, please include the funding category and name of the project.

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative	
Name of Water Project	Water in the Real World: Youth Education in the Rio Grande Watershed	
CWP Grant Request Amount		\$ 30,000
Other Funding Sources <u>Great Outdoors Colorado</u>		\$ 30,000
Other Funding Sources _____		\$
Other Funding Sources _____		\$
Applicant Funding Contribution		\$ 345,000
Total Project Cost		\$ 375,000.00



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Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s) Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative	
Mailing Address PO Box 142 Monte Vista, CO 81144	
FEIN 27-1157593	
Organization Contact Bethany Howell	
Position/Title Executive Director	
Email rgwcei@gmail.com	
Phone 719-480-4864	
Grant Management Contact Bethany Howell	
Position/Title Executive Director	
Email rgwcei@gmail.com	
Phone 719-480-4864	
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
Description of Grantee/Applicant	
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).	
<p>The Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative (RGWCEI) is a non-profit organization that was formed with the mission to create awareness of working landscapes and natural resources stewardship in the San Luis Valley, primarily among K-12 community members. RGWCEI works in close collaboration with conservation districts, water conservancy districts, the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, and other watershed organizations to provide quality education & outreach.</p>	



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	Public (Government): Municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
	Public (Districts): Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	Private Incorporated: Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: Private parties may be eligible for funding.
X	Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
	Study
	Construction
	Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)
	Other

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)		
	Water Storage - 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.. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
X	Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Other	Explain:



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Location of Water Project

Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in **decimal degrees**. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.

County/Countries	Alamosa, Rio Grande, Mineral, Saguache, Conejos, Costilla
Latitude	21.7836 degrees N
Longitude	79.8400 degrees W

Water Project Overview

Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.

The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.

This water project focuses on the K-12 community of the Rio Grande Watershed, particularly with programs created to introduce students to watershed issues by getting outside. Programs will include multi-day outdoor experiences such as the summer youth conservation camp and teen outdoor stewardship camp in partnership with Adams State University, and high school environmental resources workshops, school field trips, and community events throughout the school year. Education focuses on place-based learning specific to the Rio Grande watershed, with additional emphasis placed on similar water issues occurring around the state. Programs will include either site visits or learning experiences focused on the Rio Grande River and its tributaries. Education activities will include collaboration with a variety of agencies and NGO's in order to further support water education goals in those organizations. Grant funding will be used to support program costs such as travel & supplies, as well as program administration. The grant request is for 3 years of support to provided consistency in continuing quality water education and conservation programming.



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Measurable Results		
To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:		
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)	
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive	
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)	
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning	
3,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity	
	Other	Explain:

Water Project Justification
<p>Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative, and the applicable Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).</p> <p>The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;)</p> <p>RGWCEI's proposed water education activities are in direct alignment with Section 9.5 of the Colorado Water Plan whose goal states that it "provide technical & financial assistance for high quality, balanced, & grassroots water education and outreach efforts that inform Coloradans about the issues so that they may engage in determining Colorado's water future." RGWCEI's program goals are specifically designed to achieve these outcomes as well. The CWP also advises in their action plan for section 9.5 that funds "prioritize projects that align with CWP goals & assist Roundtables with public education efforts." Since RGWCEI's program director is also the PEPO liaison for the Rio Grande Roundtable, the majority of educational efforts within the Basin are therefore similarly aligned to maximize the benefit of water education throughout the community. Additionally, section 10.2 H of the CWP highlights that these public engagement efforts should "significantly improve the level of public awareness by 2020" and that Coloradans should be engaged on key water challenges by 2030, with work that is "...collaborative and include[s] state, local, and federal partners." RGWCEI's youth programs rely heavily on partner involvement, with a wide variety of partners engaged from state agencies such as Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Adams State University, & Colorado State University Forest Service, federal agencies such as the BLM and USFS, and local partners such as watershed restoration non-profits, water conservation and conservancy districts, & other youth engagement programs such as the SLV Boys & Girls Club and the City of Alamosa Recreation Department. As part of the Rio Grande Basin's Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan highlight, public outreach across all stakeholders in the community should be</p>



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achieved in a variety of outreach mediums. Youth are a key demographic in our basin and creating opportunities for their engagement with water issues directly aligns with the Rio Grande's BIP section 7.3 as well as incorporating the EAP's directives for public engagement. The Rio Grande BIP goal #8 specifically highlights long term outreach and education as an integral part of the plan. With the recent development of water exportation plans and climate change issues, youth involvement in water issues across the SLV is more time sensitive than ever. Their understanding of the role of the CWP and the Rio Grande BIP & EAP is critical to understanding the role that they themselves have as key community stakeholders. RGWCEI programs will specifically address key watershed challenges such as aquifer sustainability, water quantity & flow, water quality, and other water management issues. Youth will be directly engaged in the Rio Grande Basin's water management plan through on site field trips led by water conservancy district members, summer programs dedicated to site visits along the river, and direct engagement with forest health, aquatic ecology, wildlife management, and soil/agricultural land use through on site workshops. This intentional place-based learning supports and achieves the goals as outlined in section 9.5 of the CPW as well as aligns with the newly created Statewide Education Action Plan by providing a mechanism for PEPO to easily work within youth education. Additionally, the CWP was created to be a dynamic and living document, adaptable to changing times. Dynamism works best by relying on a flexible framework of programming that can provide creativity within a solidly proven foundation of outreach & education such as RGWCEI's proposed project.

Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water project is complementary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

This project is complementary to as well as assists in the implementation of numerous CWCB programs, as each program is dedicated to managing Colorado's water with beneficial uses and needs by a variety of water users. Education programs that highlight these uses as well as incorporate local CWCB supported projects such as streambank management plans, riparian restoration, and water storage plans will help achieve outreach goals in these specific program areas. The proposed water plan grant for the Crane Economic Study project with Colorado Open Lands will utilize RGWCEI staff to implement engagement and outreach specifically geared towards youth during the annual Crane Festival. The Rio Grande Basin currently has a robust stream management plan in place, with staff working alongside RGWCEI and PEPO staff to incorporate a youth education element. Other restoration projects such as the Del Norte Riverfront Project involves the community with planning and use, with specific outreach planned for Del Norte school involvement. This project also will greatly assist in the implementation of the currently in progress statewide water education action plan, which is a response to the Colorado Water Plan's Outreach & Engagement stated goals. This statewide plan will be ready to use in the next year and will depend on regional education projects and programs to integrate the plan's actions & objectives.

Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.



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- 1) Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative
- 2) 2018-2021 Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Media & Communications Outreach Grant
- 3) Rio Grande Basin Roundtable
- 4) January 27, 2018 Board Meeting
- 5) POGG1/CTGG1 2018-737
- 6) 3%

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect your application.

NA

Submittal Checklist

x	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract .
Exhibit A	
x	Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾
x	Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾
	Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
x	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
	Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
	Letters of Support (Optional)
x	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾
x	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾
x	W-9 ⁽²⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY	
x	Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application ⁽¹⁾

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(1) Required with application.

(2) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCBC Board approval.



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ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION GRANT FUND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

Introduction & Purpose

Colorado's Water Plan calls for an outreach, education, public engagement, and innovation grant fund in Chapter 9.5.

The overall goal of the Engagement & Innovation Grant Fund is to enhance Colorado's water communication, outreach, education, and public engagement efforts; advance Colorado's water supply planning process; and support a statewide water innovation ecosystem.

The grant fund aims to engage the public to promote well-informed community discourse regarding balanced water solutions statewide. The grant fund aims to support water innovation in Colorado. The grant fund prioritizes measuring and evaluating the success of programs, projects, and initiatives. The grant fund prioritizes efforts designed using research, data, and best practices. The grant fund prioritizes a commitment to collaboration and community engagement. The grant fund will support local and statewide efforts.

The grant fund is divided into two tracks: engagement and innovation. The Engagement Track supports education, outreach, communication, and public participation efforts related to water. The Innovation Track supports efforts that advance the water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

Application Questions

*The grant fund request is referred to as "project" in this application.

Overview (answer for both tracks)
In a few sentences, what is the overall goal of this project? How does it achieve the stated purpose of this grant fund (above)?
To engage youth with their local watershed, particularly in areas of water management, through classroom, field, and summer programs. This project utilizes community involvement through partners in order to achieve high level interaction between students and water managers in their local community.
Who is/are the target audience(s)? How will you reach them? How will you involve the community?
The target audience is primarily K-12 students, with tangential audiences of other stakeholders such as local agency partners and school teachers and administrators. The target audience and other community members will be reached through previous partnerships with RGWCEI programs, email blasts to new teachers, newspaper and radio announcements of programs, attendance by RGWCEI staff at community meetings such as the Roundtable, water district meetings, etc., where invitations for working with programs will be extended to community partners. Some RGWCEI programs also take place along the public river corridor, which allows for adjacent community involvement.
Describe how the project is collaborative or engages a diverse group of stakeholders. Who are the partners in the project? Do you have other funding partners or sources?
RGWCEI youth programs utilize partners to enhance quality learning, especially with on site visits or summer programs. Water issues are incredibly diverse, but the Rio Grande Basin is fortunate to have many government and NGO agencies involved with all aspects of watershed health and water management. RGWCEI cultivates partnerships intentionally with the goal of incorporating



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Overview (answer for both tracks)
professionals in these fields into youth education as often as possible. These higher level interactions, especially at the high school level, are further enhanced with the goal of introducing students to future internship or career paths in natural resources management. Previous and current partners include NRCS, CPW, CDOWR, USFS, CSUFS, Adams State University, Colorado Open Lands, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, Rio Grande Association of Conservation Districts, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Trinchera Ranch, Great Sand Dunes National Park, BLM, Conejos Water Conservancy District, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, and San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District. Some of these partners are funding sources as well, such as the water conservation & conservancy districts, and RGWCEI also has multi-year support from grant collaborations such as the GOCO Generation Wild initiative, Trinchera Foundation, and a few private donors.
Describe how you plan to measure and evaluate the success and impact of the project?
Youth engagement can be difficult to evaluate, but RGWCEI staff and board measure success by continued participation in programming such as returning campers to summer programs, ongoing teacher involvement in classroom activities and field trips, and returning environmental resource teams to workshops. Consistent involvement with environmental education over a period of time is the best way to impact students' engagement with their environment. Students and teachers involved in classroom activities and workshops are given the opportunity to provide feedback through online surveys or in class paper surveys. We will continue to offer this method, as well as in person dialogue with teachers and professionals involved in education projects to assess and refine engagement. Overall, in the past four years of this director's involvement, surveys have trended towards a strong positive involvement and understanding of water issues in the classroom, a greater than 75% understanding and confidence of natural resources in high school workshops, and 60% returning campers in summer programs, with 20% of new campers responding that they had been recommended to the camp by previous participants. Online registration with summer camp programs provides these numbers.
What research, evidence, and data support your project?
The research and data that supports the need for this project comes from the numerous surveys and statistical analyses performed by CWCB staff and others pertaining to the future of Colorado's population and water use. Particularly, the numbers that acknowledge that population will continue to increase, while water will become increasingly scarce and more difficult to manage. In particular, the SLV's agricultural impact with more than 80% of our economy driven by agriculture, supports the need to continue providing quality education surrounding water use in our Rio Grande Basin. The evidence that our water is coveted by outside sources for municipal use is becoming a paramount issue to address, especially for youth who will live with the consequences of a water export. Additionally, the charted decline of the unconfined aquifer in the San Luis Valley provides more evidence and data that our water in the Rio Grande Basin is severely threatened by lack of understanding of the geology beneath us, as well as the lack of knowledge surrounding ground and surface water relationships. These concrete and sobering prospects will become issues for youth to contend with in the next 20-30 years.
Describe potential short- and long-term challenges with this project.
Short term challenges for this project lies with the uncertainty of engagement from school communities. Standardized testing and increased student involvement in sports and other extracurricular activities severely impedes time and ability for teachers to allow outside presenters or off-site learning experiences. While teachers express interest in these activities, school



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Overview (answer for both tracks)

administrations may prevent quality engagement with specific water education programming. Long term challenges for this project include funding for a sustainable water education program. Operational support is highly competitive within the non-profit sector, but there is not currently a government-funded watershed education coordinator position in place for the Rio Grande Basin. Therefore, the RGWCEI program director is best suited to continue watershed education for the community by also acting as the PEPO liaison for the Rio Grande Basin. This necessarily means that the director has obligations to seek funding from other sources in order to continue with consistent, quality watershed education programs which creates a time issue for creating and sustaining programming across the Rio Grande Basin.

Please fill out the applicable questions for either the Engagement Track or Innovation Track, unless your project contains elements in both tracks. If a question does not relate to your project, just leave it blank. Please answer each question that relates to your project. Please reference the relevant documents and use chapters and page numbers (Colorado's Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plan, PEPO Education Action Plan, etc.).

Engagement Track

Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement measurable objective set forth in Colorado's Water Plan to "significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide by 2020, as determined by water awareness surveys."

RGWCEI youth programs involve a wide variety of schools and stakeholders from across the San Luis Valley. Their programs are open to schools in all six counties, and participants from these counties are also involved in summer youth programs. With a potential of over 3,000 interactions, at least 60 of which are over multiple days, RGWCEI has and hopefully will continue to provide meaningful engagement for youth with their local watershed issues. Students in youth conservation camp and the teen outdoor stewardship camp interact with over 15 different agencies working with water in the Valley, with each agency able to provide specific awareness of the issues they are engaged with, such as forest management for best storage capability or wetland preservation during sandhill crane migration. Since these programs take place over the course of multiple years, a large percentage of SLV youth will be engaged in water issues ranging from aquatic ecology surrounding a local reservoir, to compact obligations on the Rio Grande. Students are encouraged to interact with these issues through hands-on activities in the classroom like building a watershed to observe water flow, field trips to local diversion canals, camp activities like counting fish populations through electroshock, identifying macroinvertebrates, or participating in water flow games, community events that feature the riparian and river study trailer, teen outdoor stewardship camp that introduces students to recreation activities like rafting while observing stream gaging stations, living snow fence planting, farm tours, and other creative education opportunities that occur throughout the year. The high school natural resource workshops will all contain a key learning objective related to the current issue for 2019-2020: local water issues & management. As this current issue changes from year to year, the timeliness of a water-focused current issue for 2020 will critically elevate the importance of water for those students participating in Envirothon 2020. Other upcoming topics will also include elements of watershed health and overall natural resource connectivity.

Describe how the project achieves the other measurable objectives and critical goals and actions laid out in Colorado's Water Plan around the supply and demand gap; conservation; land use; agriculture; storage; watershed health, environment, and recreation; funding; and additional.



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<p>Because RGWCEI programs include such a diversity of partners and our mission is to create understanding of working landscapes, the measurable objectives and critical goals and actions in the Colorado Water Plan are in direct alignment. Our stakeholders and partners are deeply involved in managing water's supply & demand, working with farmers and ranchers to utilize conservation practices in agriculture, restoring and supporting watershed health, engaging in recreation & environmental planning, and especially for our area, understanding and addressing aquifer sustainability. Throughout our programs, these topics are critical to understanding the Rio Grande watershed and our community's responsibility to it. Place-based learning, whether actually on site or referenced in the classroom, underscores this reality and places a responsibility on the participants to truly understand and engage with their watershed. Again, section 10.2 H of the CWP clearly points to a need for engaging Coloradans on key water challenges by 2020, a date that is fast approaching. RGWCEI youth programs provide numerous opportunities for this engagement to occur in a thoughtful, high quality, interesting manner. The number one issue with all of the critical goals and actions in the CWP is creating understanding that these issues exist, that Colorado is working to address these issues in concrete ways, and that they as community members are necessary to future success in implementing these objectives. RGWCEI programs not only provide that avenue for understanding but try to engage community members in implementation as much as possible (i.e. participating in revegetation projects in riparian corridors, assessing stream gage information, etc.).</p>
<p>Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement goals set forth in the applicable Basin Implementation Plan(s).</p>
<p>In section 7.3 of the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan, the necessity for outreach and education across all key demographics, including youth, is clearly defined. Participation is necessary for stakeholders to reach critical understanding of basin water issues. With RGWCEI youth programs, participation and engagement can be achieved at a more comprehensive level than the normal outreach projects currently in place by the Roundtable (i.e. news articles, radio shows). Scaffolding outreach & education from youth to adulthood is a useful and complementary way to achieve the public engagement goals of furthering the Roundtable and state's goals of preservation & sustainability in regard to water resources.</p>
<p>Describe how the project achieves the basin roundtable's PEPO Education Action Plans.</p>
<p>The Rio Grande Basin's EAP specifically includes comprehensive youth education as an integral component. In addition, the EAP recognizes the outreach needed for three types of learners, committed ongoing, topic specific, and as needed. RGWCEI youth programs address all three types of learners depending on the topic, grade level, and type of interaction. For continued community interest in the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable's activities and outreach, RGWCEI acts as a valuable extension of the Roundtable into the youth education/school stakeholder community.</p>

Innovation Track
<p>Describe how the project enhances water innovation efforts and supports a water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.</p>



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Innovation Track
Describe how the project engages/leverages Colorado's innovation community to help solve our state's water challenges.
Describe how the project helps advance or develop a solution to a water need identified through TAP-IN and other water innovation challenges. What is the problem/need/challenge?
Describe how this project impacts current or emerging trends; technologies; clusters, sectors, or groups in water innovation.



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Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work

Date:	7/29/2019
Name of Grantee:	Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative
Name of Water Project:	Water in the Real World: Youth Education in the Rio Grande Watershed
Funding Source:	Water Planning Grant – Engagement & Innovation Activities
Water Project Overview:	
<p>The Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative (RGWCEI) is requesting funds to help support ongoing youth education programs occurring in the Rio Grande Watershed for the next three years. These programs are specifically facilitated to create increased awareness of local watershed issues, including but not limited to aquifer sustainability, ground & surface water relationships, wetland health, agricultural uses, conservation practices, forest management, wildlife management, water quantity and quality issues, water storage, Compact obligations, stream management, and riparian & streambank restoration. These programs take place entirely within the Rio Grande Watershed, with as much field site experience as possible. Programs are coordinated by RGWCEI staff and are facilitated in collaboration with diverse partners from government and NGO land use and water management agencies. These programs include K-12 in classroom and field trip site visits during the school year, high school environmental resource topic workshops during the school year, and summer camp programs for elementary-middle school and high school students.</p>	
Project Objectives:	



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Participants will be introduced to watershed issues and engaged in understanding their responsibility as a Rio Grande Watershed community member.

Programs will include a diverse number of partners from local land management and water management agencies and NGO's in order to enhance their experience.

Participants consistently engaged in water education activities will experience greater critical understanding of watershed issues and become engaged community members in water issues, whether in the San Luis Valley or as a Colorado community member.

Community stakeholders, including parents, teachers, and other community members, will have the opportunity to engage in youth education programs to further their own understanding of watershed issues.

Tasks

Task 1 – [Class to Field Transitions]

Description of Task:

K-12 students will be introduced to watershed topics in the classroom through hands on activities and presentations. These topics will be continued as an option to a field site, with further hands-on activities and interactions with water professionals. Other field site trips may occur without a previous classroom experience but will still result in students spending time engaged in their watershed's diverse environment.

Method/Procedure:

RGWCEI staff will coordinate with teachers to participate in the classroom in alignment with grade level learning outcomes. An example includes building your own watershed in a sixth grade classroom to understand how and where water flows from a high point, to a class trip to a local diversion canal measuring stream flow for irrigation.

Other methods may include inviting participation in a local conservation poster contest to illustrate a watershed topic, hosting a field trip to a local farm or ranch, or providing an opportunity for students to engage with the riparian/river study trailer which illustrates the ways that water flows and interacts with streambanks in a watershed.



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Tasks
Deliverable:
Approximately 150 to 1,000 students per year will participate in site visits/classroom activities throughout the school year taking place in the Rio Grande Watershed, depending on the number of classroom teachers responding to program invitations.

Tasks
Task 2 – [High School Environmental Resource Workshops]
Description of Task:
Students in grades 9-12 will participate in topical environmental resource workshops throughout the school year in conjunction with the state Envirothon competition. Colorado is building their Envirothon competition, with a majority of teams currently located in the San Luis Valley. Students will participate in field workshops focusing on a topic related to watershed health such as forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, land use, and the current (and extremely timely) issue for 2020: local water issues and management.
Method/Procedure:



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Tasks
RGWCEI staff will coordinate a workshop related to each topic on a different site in the San Luis Valley. This will allow students from different areas to become familiar with the wide geography and environment of the Rio Grande Watershed. RGWCEI will coordinate with local professionals to provide high level interaction with students on their particular topic. I.e. the aquatic ecology workshop will feature presentations and activities with local water managers from water conservancy districts. These workshops will take place over the course of a school day, replacing the students' normal school schedule. RGWCEI staff will supplement these workshops by providing one on one coaching sessions for each of the participating teams during the course of the school year. This will provide deeper interaction with the issues and allow more time for discussion and student engagement.
Deliverable:
Approximately 5 teams from 4 schools will participate in these workshops, with at least 7 students per team. RGWCEI is currently in the process of inviting other schools to participate, with the hope that we will include 2 new teams of at least 7 students in the upcoming school year. Workshops will occur at least 3-4 times throughout each year, with individual coaching sessions occurring at least 2 times per year, per team.

Repeat for Task 3, Task 4, Task 5, etc.

Tasks
Task 3 – [Youth Summer Programs]
Description of Task:
RGWCEI will facilitate the summer youth conservation camp for students ages 8-12, with small group tracks available in wildlife, hunters' safety, soil & water, rangeland science, and forestry. This camp will take place over multiple days in the Rio Grande National Forest and provide opportunities for interaction with numerous collaborators. RGWCEI will also coordinate with the Adams State University Adventure Program to facilitate the Teen Outdoor Stewardship Camp for teens ages 13-16. This stewardship camp will take place over a week and include site visits to various locations around the San Luis Valley, with the combined purposed of introducing teens to recreation opportunities while impressing upon them the importance of land and water stewardship ethics.



Last Updated: July 2019

Tasks
Method/Procedure:
RGWCEI staff will coordinate registration available to students throughout the San Luis Valley (and possibly in other parts of Colorado). We will work with local agencies and partners to provide exciting, engaging activities for all small group participants with an emphasis on the Rio Grande Watershed. Youth Conservation Camp will occur over three days in June, with at least 4 hours per day dedicated to small group education sessions. The Teen Outdoor Stewardship camp will take place in a day camp format over a week, with one and possibly two nights camping at a local public campground. RGWCEI staff will coordinate with ASAP staff to provide engaging activities and utilize local experts as students explore the Rio Grande Watershed. Transportation will be provided by Adams State.
Deliverable:
Approximately 55 students from around the San Luis Valley or Colorado, as well as 10 teen counselors, and approximately 15-20 partners from a variety of government and NGO partners will participate in each youth conservation camp. Approximately 10-15 high school students will participate in the Teen Camp for a week in June, with at least 5 partner agencies involved in the week, such as the Great Sand Dunes National Park.

Tasks
Task 4 – [Water Fest on the Rio]
Description of Task:
Students in grades 3-4 from around the San Luis Valley will participate in water activities specifically designed to illustrate watershed issues in the Rio Grande Basin. The water festival will take place on the Rio Grande corridor near Alamosa. Water activities will range from educational to recreational, such as monitoring water quality with local restoration experts and observing riparian corridors by kayaking.



Last Updated: July 2019

Tasks

Method/Procedure:

RGWCEI staff will coordinate activities by collaborating with local agencies to provide a wide range of water issue representations. Each activity will have their own station, with a rotation established to ensure maximum participation by each small group. Snacks and lunch will be provided so that students may spend several hours engaged in the water festival's many exciting activities. The water festival planning process begins in February and will continue with collaborative meetings and emails until the actual festival in mid-May.

Deliverable:

Students from at least 10 schools in the Valley will be invited, with a likelihood of participation by at least three schools, with an anticipated increase in school participation each year. We anticipate at least 50 children in grades 3,4, or 5 engaged in the Water Festival, with at least 10-15 local partners from the CDOWR, Trout Unlimited, and others participating.

Budget and Schedule

This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format.

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.



Last Updated: July 2019

Reporting Requirements

Final Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

Payment

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this contract are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this contract must be provided to CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation.

Performance Measures

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit B. Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.



Last Updated: July 2019

Performance Measures

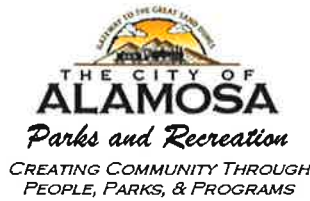
(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board**Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B****Budget and Schedule****Prepared Date: 7/17/2019****Name of Applicant: Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative****Name of Water Project: Water in the Real World: Youth Education in the Rio Grande Watershed****Project Start Date: January 15, 2020****Project End Date: November 15, 2022**

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	High School Environmental Resource Workshops	3/2020	11/2022	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$12,000
2	Youth Conservation Camp	2/2020	6/2022	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$12,000
3	Teen Outdoor Stewardship Camp	2/2020	6/2022	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000
4	Class 2 Field Programs	1/2020	5/2022	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000
5	Program Administration Support	1/2020	11/2022	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
Total				\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000



Alamosa Family Recreation Center

2222 Old Sanford Rd. Alamosa, CO 81101

719-589-2105 719-587-3541 (fax)

www.alamosarec.org www.cityofalamosa.org

July 23rd, 2019

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO

To the Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Planning Grant Committee,

On behalf of the City of Alamosa, the fiscal agent for the Alamosa County Generation Wild grant initiative (formerly "Inspire Initiative") with Great Outdoors Colorado, I acknowledge that the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative is part of the this grant and will receive \$18,720 for the upcoming 2019-2020 year for use with RGWCEI programs and support.

Funding for this grant was secured in 2018, and we are currently embarking on year 2 of the three year grant cycle. With RGWCEI's successful grant outcomes from Year 1, we have received notification of continued funding for year 2, which will be disbursed through the City of Alamosa's financial department. Funding from Great Outdoors Colorado will be disbursed to the City of Alamosa on August 2nd, 2019. Shortly thereafter, \$18,720 we be passed on to RGWCEI.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this funding.

Sincerely,

John Reesor
Outdoor Recreation Specialist
719-937-7832
jreesor@ci.alamosa.co.us

August 14, 2019

Ben Wade and the CWCB Board of Directors
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant for the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative

Dear Mr. Wade,

Please accept this letter of enthusiastic support for the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative (RGWCEI) for their application to the Colorado Water Plan grant program. The mission of Colorado Open Lands (COL) is to preserve the significant open lands and natural heritage of Colorado through private and public partnerships, innovative land conservation techniques and strategic leadership. The unique work of the RGWCEI in the Rio Grande Basin has long worked towards similar goals and been a partner of COL.

We are especially excited to support this project in conjunction with our recent application to the same grant program. Not only will this application fund essential outreach and education activities for K-12 students in the San Luis Valley, but funding RGWCEI's program will also amplify the outreach efforts of COL through our Sandhill Crane Water Education and Engagement project.

COL strives to work with partners that share our values and work towards similar goals. We are proud to support RGWCEI and their grant application to provide environmental education opportunities to local children and imbue the importance of open lands onto future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Max Ciaglo
Grain for Cranes Fellow
Colorado Open Lands