

Science, Stewardship, and Education in the Saint Vrain Watershed Left Hand Watershed Center

January 2020 Board Meeting

Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Application



DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$772,241
Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Request:	\$377,241
Recommended amount:	\$377,241
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$385,000
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type(s): Planning, Design, Construct	ction
Project Category(Categories): Watershed Restoration	and Stream
Measurable Result: Restoration of 1,000 lir stream. Repair two hydraulic structures fo diversion. Weed control on 15 acres. 10-19 trainings/student events.	r one

The project sponsor is the Saint Vrain

Creek Coalition, however the Left Hand Watershed Center will be the fiscal agent, coordinating entity, and lead technical organization. The purpose of this multi-objective project is to apply Left Hand Watershed Center's (LHWC) existing watershed stewardship approaches rooted in adaptive management and community science in the Saint Vrain Watershed. The goal is to improve the health and resilience of the Saint Vrain Watershed and through a combination of science-based watershed management, K-12 education, and adoption of tested approaches that have been effective in Left Hand Creek. To achieve this goal, LHWC will:

• Continue and expand monitoring and assessment efforts at restoration project and reference sites throughout the Saint Vrain Watershed;

• Continue and expand stewardship and maintenance actions at restoration project and reference sites throughout the Saint Vrain Watershed; and

• Expand place-based watershed science programing and community science in Lyons K-12 schools.

This project will provide the benefit of a more holistic approach to watershed health and resilience in the Saint Vrain Watershed by improving connectivity among diverse restoration efforts in and around the Town of Lyons. By connecting multiple restoration efforts completed by different consultant and contractor teams via one adaptive management approach, this project will help increase understanding of where there are issues, how issues are related among project sites, and how management actions can be consolidated to address multiple issues in a coordinated and cost effective manner. With coalition-based leadership at the helm of these highly collaborative efforts, this project is well aligned with Colorado Water Plan recommendations regarding coalition-based partnership plans, projects, monitoring, and adaptive management strategies. This project also builds on momentum created through complete and ongoing restoration work by strengthening existing partnerships (e.g. Saint Vrain Creek Coalition and LHWC) and supporting growing partnerships (e.g. Lyons schools) to achieve greater benefits for the St. Vrain and Left Hand Watershed through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and holistic thinking.

COLORADO WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

Project Title:

Science, Stewardship, and Education in the Saint Vrain Watershed



Submitted by:

SAINT VRAIN CREEK COALITION P.O. Box 706 | Longmont, CO 80502 http://www.saintvraincreekcoalition.org/

Project Title	Science, Stewardship, and Education in Saint Vrain Watershed
Project Location	Project Map (see map – Attachment 1)
Grant Type	Watershed/Stream Restoration and/or Protection (Restoration)
Grant Request/Amount	\$377,241
Cash Match Funding	\$385,000
In-Kind Match Funding	\$10,000
Total Match Funding	\$395,000
Project Sponsor(s)	Saint Vrain Creek Coalition
Project Fiscal Agent	Left Hand Watershed Center
Contact person	Jessie Olson; jolson@lwog.org; 303.746.7937
Brief description of the project	

The purpose of this multi-objective project is to apply Left Hand Watershed Center's existing watershed stewardship approaches rooted in adaptive management and community science in the Saint Vrain Watershed. Our goal is to improve the health and resilience of the Saint Vrain Watershed and other Front Range watersheds through a combination of science-based watershed management, K-12 education, and adoption of tested approaches that have been effective in Left Hand Creek. To achieve this goal, we will:

- Continue and expand monitoring and assessment efforts at restoration project and reference sites throughout the Saint Vrain Watershed;
- Continue and expand stewardship and maintenance actions at restoration project and reference sites throughout the Saint Vrain Watershed; and
- Expand place-based watershed science programing and community science in Lyons K-12 schools.

This project will provide the benefit of a more holistic approach to watershed health and resilience in the Saint Vrain Watershed by improving connectivity among diverse restoration efforts in and around the Town of Lyons. By connecting multiple restoration efforts completed by different consultant and contractor teams via one adaptive management approach, this project will help increase understanding of where there are issues, how issues are related among project sites, and how management actions can be consolidated to address multiple issues in a coordinated and cost-effective manner.

With coalition-based leadership at the helm of these highly collaborative efforts, this project is wellaligned with Colorado Water Plan recommendations regarding coalition-based partnership plans, projects, monitoring, and adaptive management strategies. This project also builds on momentum created through complete and ongoing restoration work by strengthening existing partnerships (e.g. Saint Vrain Creek Coalition and Left Hand Watershed Center) and supporting growing partnerships (e.g. Lyons schools) to achieve greater benefits for the St. Vrain and Left Hand Watershed through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and holistic thinking.

BASIC APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

- Our commitment to collaborative approaches is demonstrated by our cross-watershed project partners, including Left Hand Watershed Center, Lyons schools, and Town of Lyons who are all providing financial sponsorship, in-kind match, or cash match.
- Our commitment to restoring and protecting ecological processes while also protecting life and property is demonstrated by our project goal to improve watershed health and resiliency through adaptive management and education. This is accomplished by implementing adaptive management (including monitoring and stewardship/maintenance actions) efforts on private property and adjacent to dwellings within restoration project sites.
- Our commitment to multi-objective approaches is demonstrated by the multiple objectives integrated into our restoration designs and management goals. These goals include directly improving the ecology, health, safety, and quality of life for private landowners within the project areas (e.g. improved protection of homes, improved private landowner access, improved flood protection, and reduction of hazards). Restoration work includes channel grading, floodplain grading, asset protection, and bank protection in various locations.
- Broad-based support for this application and appropriate match are demonstrated by the letters of support and detailed budget table provided in the attachments.

Qualifications Evaluation (Maximum of 20 points)

Identify the lead project sponsor and describe the other stakeholders' level of participation.

The lead project sponsor Saint Vrain Creek Coalition (SVCC), with Left Had Watershed Center as the fiscal sponsor. Direct project partners include Town of Lyons and Lyons Feeder Schools. Town of Lyons will partner on all aspects of the project and Lyons Feeder Schools will partner on all aspects related to education. Left Hand Watershed Center is the fiscal agent and will be responsible for task delivery in partnership with SVCC on all tasks.

Also, as a coalition of watershed stakeholders, we partner with many additional individuals and organizations with an interest in watershed resources along Saint Vrain Creek. Some of our most significant relationships are with the landowners and residents in the watershed, City of Longmont, Town of Lyons, Boulder County, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, and the U.S. Forest Service. All of these entities are represented on our Board and/or participate as partners by attending meetings, commenting on project plans, and coordinating our efforts with their own related efforts.

Specify in-kind services and cash contributions (match) amount for the proposed activities. Project partners are contributing significant cash and in-kind contribution towards this project. Further details are included in Attachment B - Budget Table and Schedule.

Туре	Source	Amount	Status
Cash	Town of Lyons	\$10,000	Received
In-Kind	Lyons Schools	\$10,000	Committed
Cash	Department of Local Affairs	\$350,000	Received
Cash	Corporate & Landowner Contributions	\$25,000	Committed

Organizational Capability (Maximum of 30 points)

What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in the watershed?

SVCC has obtained funding for multiple projects focused on watershed restoration and stewardship. As mentioned, our Board of Directors includes many diverse partners that contribute to all of our projects. Below we highlight some of our projects, including key project-specific partners.

	Description	Partners and Funders
Apple Valley	Planning and design for watershed resiliency (\$285,000; Completed July 2017)	Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Town of Lyons, Boulder County, City of Longmont, St. Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District, Private landowners
Apple Valley North	Design-build for channel grading, floodplain grading, asset protection, and bank protection (\$2,206,757; June – December 2017)	DOLA, Town of Lyons, Boulder County, City of Longmont, St. Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District, private landowners
Apple Valley South	Design-build for channel grading, floodplain grading, asset protection, and bank protection (\$701,151; June – December 2017	DOLA, Town of Lyons, Boulder County, City of Longmont, St. Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District, private landowners
McConnell Pond to Hwy 36	Design-build for channel grading, floodplain grading, asset protection, and bank protection (\$1,375,000; June – December 2017)	DOLA, Town of Lyons, Boulder County, City of Longmont, St. Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District, private landowners.

Additionally, as the fiscal agent and core partner, Left Hand Watershed Center bring diverse project experience in the areas of watershed science, restoration, stewardship, outreach, and education.

	Description	Partners and Funders								
St. Vrain	Adaptive management at recently	St. Vrain Creek Coalition, Colorado								
Adaptive	completed creek restoration projects	Water Conservation Board (CWCB),								
Management	(\$52,500; Nov 2018- Dec 2019)	Lyons Schools, CEMEX								
Community	Citizen science program using mobile	CSU, Trout Unlimited, Lyons Schools,								
Science	platforms for collection, management,	Gates Family Foundation, CWCB, and								
(ongoing)	and sharing of data (\$143,500; 2018–23).	Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).								
Upper Left	Channel grading, floodplain grading, asset	USFS, Boulder County, Left Hand Fire								
Canyon	protection, and bank protection at eight	Protection District, Left Hand Ditch								
(ongoing)	project sites (\$2,000,000; 2018–20).	Company, Left Hand Water District,								
		and 20 landowners, CWCB, and DOLA.								
Stewardship	Adaptive management in Left Hand Creek	>100 private landowners and Citizen								
(ongoing)	Watershed (\$384,271; 2018–23)	Scientists, CWCB, and DOLA.								
Adaptive	Development of framework, conceptual	Boulder County, City of Boulder, USFS,								
Management	model, and guide for watershed adaptive	landowners, and DOLA.								
Plan	management (\$46,500; 2018).									
Foothills,	Channel grading, floodplain grading, asset	Boulder County, Left Hand Ditch								
Plains, 63 rd ,	protection, and bank protection at eleven	Company, Left Hand Water District,								
and 3B	project sites (over \$8,750,000; 2016–17).	CDOT, >100 landowners, and DOLA.								
What level of staffing will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project?										
	SVCC Board Members have designated Left Hand Watershed Center staff to lead all aspects of project									
	bers have designated Left Hand Watershed	Center staff to lead all aspects of project								

one person's staff time over three years to this project, including contracting, planning,

implementation, data collection, data analysis, data reporting, hiring contractors, overseeing maintenance projects, general project management, and closeout. Below we provide brief resumes for each team member.

- Jessie Olson, Executive Director: Jessie is a watershed planner who has worked professionally in the field of ecological restoration since 2003, overseeing restoration and land management projects with non-profits, land trusts, and in the private sector. She is experienced with outreach, non-profit leadership, and long-term land management plans.
- Yana Sorokin, Project Manager: Yana is an ecosystem ecologist with nine years of experience. She holds a Master's degree in Plant Ecology and she is a skilled project manager with background in ecological research, data analysis, experimental design, watershed planning, outreach, and all aspects of managing watershed restoration projects.
- **Deb Hummel, Project Coordinator:** Deb is a fish biologist with experience working on fish and wildlife habitat restoration and mitigation projects. She received her Master's degree in Fisheries Biology and coordinates watershed science and stewardship projects from data collection and weed management to community engagement and education.

Direct project partners bring additional expertise and experience to the project team. Brief resumes and roles for a subset of staff representatives from each project partner who have been closely involved in developing this proposal are included below. All partners have committed to providing additional staff as needed to support integration of individual partner goals and efforts.

- Victoria Simonsen, Town of Lyons Will collaborate directly on all tasks.
- Colleen Ford, Lyons Middle-High School Assistant Principal Will collaborate directly on watershed science program and curriculum planning for middle and high school.
- Andrew Moore, Lyons Elementary School Principal Will collaborate directly on watershed science program and curriculum planning for elementary school.

Demonstrate that the project budget and schedule are realistic.

Please see attached budget and timeline table, including assumptions. In summary, the budget is a realistic estimate of cost based on cost estimates received for similar work, number of restoration project and reference sites, acres for proposed weed control and revegetation, and quotes for structure repair. The budget is also a realistic estimate of cost based on outreach and project management experience related to watershed restoration and community science projects completed in the past three years by SVCC and Left Hand Watershed Center at more than 100 private properties. Lastly, the budget is a realistic estimate of cost for engagement in K-12 education based on Left hand Watershed Center staff's experience developing a pilot partnership this past year with Lyons school through the Center's Community Science Program

The schedule is a realistic estimate based on time required to collect and analyze data at 15 project sites, plan and implement weed control at six project sites, and work with Lyons schools to develop protocols, host 10-15 teacher trainings, and integrate watershed science curriculum with existing K-12 state/district standards. This estimate was also based on Left Hand Watershed Center's experience implementing similar projects in Left Hand and Saint Vrain Watersheds, as well as working with Lyons school to pilot test a partnership. However, the team recognizes that adaptive management and

education efforts are a process rather than a destination and anticipates that these efforts will need to continue beyond the initial two-year period.

Proposal Effectiveness (50 points)

What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed plan or project?

The proposed project will be informed by numerous resources to guide and prioritize activities. Design plans, as-builts, the <u>Watershed Master Plan</u>, project-specific Operations and Maintenance Plans, <u>professional structure assessment at Apple Valley North</u>, and Left Hand Watershed Center's <u>Adaptive Management Plan</u> will inform adaptive management activities at completed and future restoration project sites. Left Hand Watershed Center's <u>Community Science Plan</u> and Lyons schools standards will help inform education efforts.

Discuss the multiple objective aspects of the project and how they relate to each other.

A multi-objective approach is inherent to this project because SVCC's watershed restoration and stewardship efforts are designed to meet multiple objectives. These include improving the ecology, water quality, fluvial-geomorphic function, and aquatic habitat. Further, the projects provide improved water delivery reliability for agriculture and improved health, safety, and quality of life for private landowners (e.g. improved protection of homes, improved flood protection, and reduction of hazards).

With this in mind, this project includes multiple interrelated objectives: (1) monitor and assess progress towards watershed health goals at completed restoration project sites by implementing Left Hand Watershed Center's existing adaptive management framework; (2) monitor and assess preproject conditions and progress towards watershed health goals at project sites where restoration work will be implemented in 2020 (work also includes separately funded project restoration implementation); (3) implement weed control and revegetation activities at all project sites by hiring contractors to perform work as needed; (4) implement maintenance activities related to structure repair at one restoration project site where two failing structures are impairing water delivery for agriculture and causing bank erosion by hiring professional contractors to implement required repairs.; and (5) engage with Lyon's schools to develop a comprehensive K-12 watershed science program by assisting Lyon's teachers and administrators with technical expertise related to watershed data collection, data analysis, and place-based learning.

Generally, the multiple objective nature of this project is also well summarized in the project title, 'Science, Stewardship, and Education.' We are achieving our objective to improve stewardship (e.g. weed control, revegetation, and structure repair; Objectives 2 and 3) in the Saint Vrain Watershed through science-based adaptive management (Objectives 1 and 2), while simultaneously using adaptive management as a foundation for a K-12 watershed science program (Objective 5).

Similar activities include Left Hand Watershed Center's proposed "Adaptive Management at Scale" project, which aims to develop a shared adaptive management framework for the Saint Vrain Basin in collaboration with diverse partners. That proposal is currently submitted as a separate application for this grant. That proposal is separate and non-duplicative of this application because it focuses on basin wide-watershed health rather than project-related watershed health monitoring in and around

the Town of Lyons. It also focuses on developing a new adaptive management framework that is applicable at the basin-scale through a through a collaborative multiple-partner process rather than applying the existing established framework at a local level. Eventually the framework developed as part of that proposal will likely compliment data collection efforts proposed here and may include collecting additional and/or different data at these sites. However, efforts will not be duplicated between this approach and the basin-wide approach proposed in the separated application.

Also, Left Hand Watershed Center is currently implementing their existing adaptive management framework at seven project sites in the Saint Vrain Watershed. This project will support continuation and expansion of those efforts without duplication by funding future iterations of the adaptive management process at completed restoration project sites (Objectives 1 and 3) while also expanding to new sites (Objective 2) and addressing priority management triggers that require maintenance actions beyond standard stewardship activities such as weed control and revegetation (Objective 4).

Lastly, this project will build upon Left Hand Watershed Center's Community Science Program without duplicating efforts by funding implementation of a project focused specifically on K-12 community at the Lyons schools. Left Hand Watershed Center's Community Science program, funded by CWCB, DOLA, and Gates Family Foundation, is focused on program-level planning, stakeholder engagement, pilot-testing, and mobile app development. Initial planning and pilot testing of the Lyons school watershed science program partnership is wrapping up in 2019. This application seeks funding for SVCC and Town of Lyons to participate in this partnership and support building upon the initial planning and pilot testing to develop a robust curriculum focused on data collection protocols, staff trainings, and integration with Lyons K-12 standards.

Describe the proposed monitoring or implementation plan.

The success of our project will be measured by our ability to complete adaptive management at restoration projects sites in the Saint Vrain Watershed and integrate Left Hand Watershed Center's adaptive management framework into a K-12 watershed science curriculum. We will use the following quantifiable measures of success:

- Complete implementation (existing six protocols; five watershed health parameters) of adaptive management framework at seven completed restoration project sites and reference sites.
- Complete implementation (existing six protocols; five watershed health parameters) of adaptive management framework at eight new restoration project sites and reference sites, including pre-project and post-project monitoring and assessment.
- Reduction in percent weeds and increase percent natives over time at all project sites.
- Reduction in excessive erosion (as measured by monitoring and assessment framework) and improvement of water delivery (as measured by water owner survey) by repairing failed structures.
- Development/refinement 13 K-12 specific protocols for watershed science, hosting of 10-15 staff training for K-12 educators, and integration of watershed science curriculum with K-12 standards.

Attachments

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Attachment 1: Project Map



SOURCE: Project areas shapefiles created by Left Hand Watershed Center Floodplain Data provided by Boulder County. USGS Topo map as base layer.

Attachment 2: Budget and Schedule Table



Science, Stewardship, and Education in the St. Vrain Watershed

Task No.	Task Description	Start Date	End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match nding (Cash nd In-Kind)	Total
1	Task 1 – Adaptive Management: St. Vrain Monitoring and Assessment	5/1/2020	5/1/2021	\$ 113,300.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 123,300.00
2	Task 2 – Adaptive Management: St. Vrain Management Actions	5/1/2020	5/1/2021	\$ 191,741.00	\$ 365,000.00	\$ 556,741.00
3	Task 3 – Adaptive Management: K-12 Community Science	5/1/2020	5/1/2021	\$ 42,400.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 57,400.00
4	Task 4 – Project Management and Planning	5/1/2020	5/1/2021	\$ 29,800.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 34,800.00
			Total	\$ 377,241.00	\$ 395,000.00	\$ 772,241.00

Science, Stewardship & Education in the St. Vrain Watershed

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Science, Stewardship & Education in the St. Vrain Watershed

	Project 1		CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant (this req.)	Mat		Grant (Town of	Individual & Corporate Donations		SVCC Donations (Town of Lyons)	Lyons Scl Kind)	hools (In
Status											
Task 1 – Adaptive Management: St. Vrain Monitoring and Assessment	\$	123,300	\$ 113,300	\$	10,000	\$-	\$	-	\$ 10,000	\$	-
Task 2 – Adaptive Management: St. Vrain Management Actions	\$	556,741	\$ 191,741	\$	365,000	\$ 350,000	\$	15,000	\$ -	\$	-
Task 3 – Adaptive Management: K-12 Community Science	\$	57,400	\$ 42,400	\$	15,000	\$ -	\$	5,000	\$ -	\$	10,000
Task 4 – Project Management and Planning	\$	34,800	\$ 29,800	\$	5,000	\$-	\$	5,000	\$-	\$	-
Total	\$	772,241	\$ 377,241	\$	395,000	\$ 350,000	\$	25,000	\$ 10,000	\$	10,000

Attachment 3: Scope of Work

Scope of Work

GRANTEE: Left Hand Watershed Center

PRIMARY CONTACT: Jessie Olson

ADDRESS: jolson@lwog.org

PHONE: 303.746.7937

PROJECT NAME: Science, Stewardship, and Education in Saint Vrain Creek Watershed

GRANT AMOUNT \$377,241

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this multi-objective project is to apply Left Hand Watershed Center's existing watershed stewardship approaches rooted in adaptive management and community science in the Saint Vrain Watershed. Our goal is to improve the health and resilience of the Saint Vrain Watershed and other Front Range watersheds through a combination of science-based watershed management, K-12 education, and adoption of tested approaches that have been effective in Left Hand Creek. To achieve this goal, we will:

- Continue and expand monitoring and assessment efforts at restoration project and reference sites throughout the Saint Vrain Watershed;
- Continue and expand stewardship and maintenance actions at restoration project and reference sites throughout the Saint Vrain Watershed; and
- Expand place-based watershed science programing in Lyons K-12 schools.

This project will provide the benefit of a more holistic approach to watershed health and resilience in the Saint Vrain Watershed by improving connectivity among diverse restoration efforts in and around the Town of Lyons. By connecting multiple restoration efforts completed by different consultant and contractor teams via one adaptive management approach, this project will help increase understanding of where there are issues, how issues are related among project sites, and how management actions can be consolidated to address multiple issues in a coordinated and cost-effective manner.

With coalition-based leadership at the helm of these highly collaborative efforts, this project is wellaligned with Colorado Water Plan recommendations regarding coalition-based partnership plans, projects, monitoring, and adaptive management strategies. This project also builds on momentum created through complete and ongoing restoration work by strengthening existing partnerships (e.g. Saint Vrain Creek Coalition and Left Hand Watershed Center) and supporting growing partnerships (e.g. Lyons schools) to achieve greater benefits for the St. Vrain and Left Hand Watershed through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and holistic thinking.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 **Monitor and assess progress towards watershed health goals at completed restoration project sites** by implementing Left Hand Watershed Center's existing adaptive management framework.
- 2 Monitor and assess pre-project conditions and post-implementation progress towards watershed health goals at project sites where restoration work will be completed in 2020 by implementing Left Hand Watershed Center's existing adaptive management framework.
- 3 **Implement stewardship activities related to weed control and revegetation at all project sites** by hiring contractors to perform work as needed.
- 4 Implement maintenance activities related to structure repair at one restoration project site where two failing structures are impairing water delivery for agriculture and causing bank erosion by hiring professional contractors to implement required repairs.
- 5 **Engage with Lyon's schools to develop a comprehensive K-12 watershed science program** by assisting Lyon's teachers and administrators with technical expertise related to watershed data collection, data analysis, and place-based learning.

TASKS

Task 1 – Adaptive Management: Monitoring and Assessment

Description of Task

The purpose of this task is to continue and expand monitoring and assessment of completed and future watershed restoration project sites and associated reference sites in and around the Town of Lyons. Monitoring and assessment will be completed using Left Hand Watershed Center's <u>Adaptive</u> <u>Management Plan</u>. The plan includes a <u>Monitoring and Assessment Framework</u>, which addresses ecological conditions in the watershed using performance standards and triggers that tie future management and monitoring actions to watershed health indicators.

Key watershed health indicators included in the framework are floodplain connectivity, channel morphology and habitat, riparian condition, macroinvertebrate community, and fish community. Each key indicator includes associated hypotheses related to indicator performance that tie directly to restoration and management goals. Each hypothesis includes performance standards that identify an acceptable science-based threshold of performance for each indicator and suggested actions for when thresholds are exceeded. Additional elements in the framework include metrics, protocols, parameters, and drivers. Complete details are available at the link above. Together, these components of the framework contribute to a robust monitoring and assessment approach that helps ensure that restored areas of the watershed maintain a trajectory towards desired future conditions (or goals).

SVCC hired Left Hand Watershed Center in 2018 to perform one year of monitoring and assessment at three restoration sites and three reference sites. Work under this task would allow continued monitoring and assessment to track changes in watershed health and recovery for additional years and continued iteration of the adaptive management process.

Work under this task would also expand monitoring efforts to include new sites in the watershed where restoration and road reconstruction work will occur in 2020 (one project led by Town of Lyons near McConnell Drive and another led by CDOT along Highway 7). Monitoring and assessment at these future project sites mentioned will include both pre-project and post-project monitoring. This approach will

provide important additional data about pre-project conditions to quantitatively document benefits achieved through restoration and assess which approaches are most effective in achieving desired outcomes based on pre-project data. This step in the of the adaptive management process is critical for testing new restoration approaches, learning and adjusting based on what's learning, and contributing to continual improvement of the knowledge used to make future decisions about watershed restoration.

Method/Procedure

- Left Hand Watershed Center staff will collect watershed health data at selected sites using their existing adaptive management framework; SVCC will engage throughout the task process to provide guidance and oversight.
- Left Hand Watershed Center staff will collect data independently, utilizing hired consultants, community scientists, and volunteers as needed and where appropriate (e.g. BMI sample processing).
- Left Hand Watershed Center staff will analyze data independently, utilizing hired consultants as needed and where appropriate (e.g. vegetation surveys).
- Left Hand Watershed Center staff will develop an annual report based on data results.

Deliverable

• Annual report for Saint Vrain Creek detailing monitoring and assessment results and recommendations for adjusting management and monitoring actions.

Task 2 – Adaptive Management: Management Actions

Description of Task

The purpose of this task is to implement management actions related to restoration, weed control, revegetation, and repair of failed structures.

- Restoration includes a design-build restoration project led by the Town of Lyons and located along McConnell Drive. Project goals are to improve bank stability, maintain and improve water quality, and protect life and property. This project is funded separately through a Department of Local Affairs Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery. Work includes project complete implementation from design through construction closeout.
- Weeding and revegetation actions will be implemented at completed restoration project sites (see Attachment 1 for map). The need for these actions was determined based on monitoring and assessments completed in 2019 by Left Hand Watershed Center staff. Monitoring results indicated that riparian condition performance standards were exceeded, triggering the need for weeding and revegetation actions. Work includes initial weeding and revegetation and continued weeding and revegetation based on annual monitoring and assessment completed under Task 1.
- Repair of failed structures will be implemented based on assessments completed by
 independent consultants in 2018 and 2019. These assessments identified performance issues at
 two hydraulic structures located near a dwelling. Failures at both structures are resulting in
 localized bank erosion near a dwelling and impaired water delivery to the Sosey head gate,
 which is currently sitting above the water level due to incorrect grade control at one of the

failed structures. Work includes further professional analysis and corrective action at both failed structures.

Method/Procedure

- Town of Lyons will implement a design-build watershed restoration project along McConnell Drive. Left Hand Watershed Center staff will review design plans and provide feedback during the design process and periodically throughout the project process as needed.
- Left Hand Watershed Center staff will lead task implementation related to weeding, revegetation, and repair of failed structures; SVCC will engage throughout the task process to provide guidance and oversight.
- Left Hand Watershed Center staff will implement management actions, including procurement of consults/contractors and materials. Some management actions, such as weed control or revegetation will be completed with help from volunteer groups, whereas professional consultants/contractors will be hired for more complex projects involving structure repair.

Deliverable

- Reports with photographs describing implemented actions and justification.
- As-built documentation (e.g. number of plants planted, acres weeds pulled, etc.)

Task 3 – Adaptive Management: K-12 Education

Description of Task

The purpose of this task is to engage with Left Hand Watershed Center and Lyons schools in developing a K-12 watershed science program rooted in adaptive management. This task will build upon an existing partnership between Left Hand Watershed Center and Lyons schools started in 2019 to pilot test an approach for teaching watershed science in a K-12 setting through the lens of adaptive management. Based on the success of six pilot activities completed by Left Hand Watershed Center and Lyons schools, SVCC will engage in supporting efforts to help continue program development based on adaptive management and focused on data-centered approaches for learning that students can apply in the classroom (e.g. data collection, data analysis, and place-based learning activities).

Method/Procedure

- Left Hand Watershed Center will lead task implementation; SVCC will engage throughout the task process to provide guidance and oversight. Left Hand Watershed Center will work with Lyons schools to refine, adapt, and test existing adaptive management protocols and other appropriate protocols for a K-12 audience.
- Left Hand Watershed Center will host 10-15trainings for Lyons school teachers and staff
- Left Hand Watershed Center will work with Lyons schools teachers and staff to integrate of watershed science curriculum with state and local education standards.

Deliverable

• Report describing the watershed science K-12 program, including photos, grade-pecific data collection and analysis protocols/activities, training approaches, and how curriculum is integrated with state and local standards.

Task 4 – Project Management and Planning

Description of Task

The purpose of this task is to track project progress, deliverables, reports, budget, and scope compliance, as well as complete planning for future management needs, as identified via monitoring and assessment. Planning efforts would include grant writing to support continued management.

Method/Procedure

- Left Hand Watershed Center to oversee all aspects of project management; SVCC will engage throughout the task process to provide guidance and oversight.
- Left Hand Watershed Center will implement all aspects of this task by coordinating regularly with all project partners at regularly scheduled meetings.
- Left Hand Watershed Center staff will lead planning efforts, including grant writing.

Deliverable

- Timesheets and reimbursement requests demonstrating time spent on project management and planning.
- Six-month status reports detailing progress and accomplishments.
- Final report

Attachment 4: Letters of Support



October 23, 2019

Chris Sturm chris.sturm@state.co.us Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, CO 80203 Phone: 303-866-3441, ext. 3236

RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain Creek Coalition Watershed Restoration application

Dear Chris,

I am writing in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Watershed Restoration Program application being submitted by the St. Vrain Creek Coalition (SVCC), entitled "St. Vrain Creek Stewardship & Science." Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work toward restoration and recovery from the 2013 flood and help ensure long term resilience of the St. Vrain Creek.

The proposed project under consideration with CWCB brings together partners in the St. Vrain Creek Watershed to (1) complete monitoring and stewardship (adaptive management) of flood recovery project sites within and adjacent to the Town of Lyons; (2) repair a failed structure at the Apple Valley North project site; and (3) continue engagement and watershed science programing in Lyons schools, working with K-12 students in data collection, analysis, and place-based learning.

We feel that the St. Vrain Creek Coalition, in partnership with Left Hand Watershed Center, has done a good job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table, to develop a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the CWCB and the stakeholders. By completing this project, we will build upon the legacy of recently completed work throughout the St. Vrain Creek Watershed and increase connectivity and resilience of the St. Vrain Creek Watershed.

We are particularly pleased that the proposed project will stabilize the creek bank, improve ecological function of the Saint Vrain Creek, and protect private residences adjacent to the creek. We are contributing approximately \$350,000 in construction costs as match funding to complete the proposed project, through restoration of 350 linear feet of the St. Vrain Creek near McConnell Drive.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with the St. Vrain Creek Coalition and the Left Hand Watershed Center to build resiliency along the St. Vrain.

Sincerely,

Victoria Simonsen Town Administrator

DOUBLE GATEWAY TO THE ROCKIES

TELEPHONE

303.823.6622

FACSIMILE

303.823.8257

432 5TH AVENUE • P.O. BOX 49 LYONS • COLORADO 80540 October 30, 2019

Chris Sturm chris.sturm@state.co.us Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, CO 80203 Phone: 303-866-3441, ext. 3236

RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain Creek Coalition Watershed Restoration application

Dear Chris,

CEMEX Lyons is pleased to write in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Watershed Restoration Program application being submitted by the St. Vrain Creek Coalition (SVCC), entitled "**St. Vrain Creek Stewardship & Science.**" Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work toward restoration and recovery from the 2013 flood and help ensure long-term resilience of the St. Vrain Creek.

The proposed project under consideration with CWCB brings together partners in the St. Vrain Creek Watershed to (1) complete monitoring and stewardship (adaptive management) of flood recovery project sites within and adjacent to the Town of Lyons; (2) repair a failed structure at the Apple Valley North project site; and (3) continue engagement and watershed science programing in Lyons schools, working with K-12 students in data collection, analysis, and place-based learning.

We feel that the St. Vrain Creek Coalition, in partnership with Left Hand Watershed Center, has done an excellent job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table, to develop a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the CWCB and the stakeholders. By completing this project, we will build upon the legacy of recently completed work throughout the St. Vrain Creek Watershed and increase connectivity and resilience of the St. Vrain Creek Watershed.

We are particularly pleased that the proposed project will address stewardship of flood recovery sites, as well as supporting watershed science-based learning in schools. Natural resource conservation and restoration is a high priority for CEMEX. We plan to allocate 15,000 dollars toward this project in 2020.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project and look forward to working with the St. Vrain Creek Coalition and the Left Hand Watershed Center to build resiliency along the St. Vrain.

Sincerely,

Michael Clausen Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist, CEMEX Lyons

10/25/2019

Chris Sturm chris.sturm@state.co.us Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, CO 80203 Phone: 303-866-3441, ext. 3236

RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain Creek Coalition Watershed Restoration application

Dear Chris,

Iam pleased to write in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Watershed
 Restoration Program application being submitted by the St. Vrain Creek Coalition (SVCC), entitled "Science,
 Stewardship and Education in the St. Vrain Watershed." Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work toward restoration and recovery from the 2013 flood and help ensure long term resilience of the St. Vrain Creek.

The proposed project under consideration with CWCB brings together partners in the St. Vrain Creek Watershed to (1) complete monitoring and stewardship (adaptive management) of flood recovery project sites within and adjacent to the Town of Lyons; (2) repair a failed structure at the Apple Valley North project site; and (3) continue engagement and watershed science programing in Lyons schools, working with K-12 students in data collection, analysis, and place-based learning.

We feel that the St. Vrain Creek Coalition, in partnership with Left Hand Watershed Center, has done a GREAT job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table, to develop a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the CWCB and the stakeholders. By completing this project, we will build upon the legacy of recently completed work throughout the St. Vrain Creek Watershed and increase connectivity and resilience of the St. Vrain Creek Watershed.

I am personally pleased that the proposed project will focus on the N section of the St Vrain watershed, including the repair of my 3 v-weir structures. I am already personally donated stone, root wads, topsoil, over 400 plantings of willow, bush and trees, drill seeded, irrigation infrastructure, seeming endless time weeding/watering/managing my property since the flood. And I am happy to donate toward this project as well. I will donate \$10,000 if the project gets awarded.

Myself and others on the N St Vrain strongly urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with the St. Vrain Creek Coalition and the Left Hand Watershed Center to build resiliency along the St. Vrain.

Sincerely,

loon



October 24, 2019 Chris Sturm chris.sturm@state.co.us Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, CO 80203 Phone: 303-866-3441, ext. 3236

RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain Creek Coalition Watershed Restoration application

Dear Chris,

Lyons Middle Senior High School is pleased to write in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Watershed Restoration Program application being submitted by the St. Vrain Creek Coalition (SVCC), entitled **"Science, Stewardship and Education in the St. Vrain Watershed."** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work toward restoration and recovery from the 2013 flood and help ensure long term resilience of the St. Vrain Creek.

The proposed project under consideration with CWCB brings together partners in the St. Vrain Creek Watershed to (1) complete monitoring and stewardship (adaptive management) of flood recovery project sites within and adjacent to the Town of Lyons; (2) repair a failed structure at the Apple Valley North project site; and (3) continue engagement and watershed science programing in Lyons schools, working with K-12 students in data collection, analysis, and place-based learning.

We feel that the St. Vrain Creek Coalition, in partnership with Left Hand Watershed Center, has done a good job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table, to develop a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the CWCB and the stakeholders. By completing this project, we will build upon the legacy of recently completed work throughout the St. Vrain Creek Watershed and increase connectivity and resilience of the St. Vrain Creek Watershed.

We are particularly pleased that the proposed project will address continued support to allow Left Hand Watershed Center to implement and support watershed science at Lyons Middle Senior High School. Left Hand Watershed Center will continue to collaborate with staff to support our state curriculum standards through river science, data collection, analysis, and project-based learning.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with the St. Vrain Creek Coalition and the Left Hand Watershed Center to build resiliency along the St. Vrain.

Sincerely,

Colleen Ford Lyons Middle Senior High School Assistant Principal ford_colleen@svvsd.org November 1, 2019

Chris Sturm chris.sturm@state.co.us Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, CO 80203 Phone: 303-866-3441, ext. 3236



RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain Creek Coalition Watershed Restoration application

Dear Chris,

St. Vrain Anglers Chapter Trout Unlimited is pleased to write in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Watershed Restoration Program application being submitted by the St. Vrain Creek Coalition (SVCC), entitled "**St. Vrain Creek Stewardship & Science."** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work toward restoration and recovery from the 2013 flood and help ensure long term resilience of the St. Vrain Creek.

The proposed project under consideration with CWCB brings together partners in the St. Vrain Creek Watershed to (1) complete monitoring and stewardship (adaptive management) of flood recovery project sites within and adjacent to the Town of Lyons; (2) repair a failed structure at the Apple Valley North project site; and (3) continue engagement and watershed science programing in Lyons schools, working with K-12 students in data collection, analysis, and place-based learning.

We feel that the St. Vrain Creek Coalition, in partnership with Left Hand Watershed Center, has done a good job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table, to develop a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the CWCB and the stakeholders. By completing this project, we will build upon the legacy of recently completed work throughout the St. Vrain Creek Watershed and increase connectivity and resilience of the St. Vrain Creek Watershed.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with the St. Vrain Creek Coalition and the Left Hand Watershed Center to build resiliency along the St. Vrain.

Sincerely,

Barbara a luneau

Barbara Luneau St. Vrain Chapter Trout Unlimited President



PUBLIC WORKS & NATURAL RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

(303) 651-8416 | LONGMONTCOLORADO.GOV/WATER

October 29, 2019

Chris Sturm Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain Creek Coalition Watershed Restoration application

Dear Chris,

As the Water Resources Manager for the City of Longmont, I am pleased to write a personal letter of support for the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Watershed Restoration Program application being submitted by the St. Vrain Creek Coalition (SVCC), entitled "St. Vrain Creek Stewardship & Science." Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work toward restoration and recovery from the 2013 flood and help ensure long term resilience of the St. Vrain Creek.

The proposed project under consideration with CWCB brings together partners in the St. Vrain Creek Watershed to (1) complete monitoring and stewardship (adaptive management) of flood recovery project sites within and adjacent to the Town of Lyons; (2) repair a failed structure at the Apple Valley North project site; and (3) continue engagement and watershed science programing in Lyons schools, working with K-12 students in data collection, analysis, and place-based learning.

We feel that the St. Vrain Creek Coalition, in partnership with Left Hand Watershed Center, has done a good job bringing the appropriate stakeholders to the table, to develop a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the CWCB and the stakeholders. By completing this project, we will build upon the legacy of recently completed work throughout the St. Vrain Creek Watershed and increase connectivity and resilience of the St. Vrain Creek Watershed.



This project will allow the local entities in the Saint Vrain Creek to continue to work together cooperatively in managing the completed flood damage repair projects in the basin. It will also assist the basin by providing one more tool to implementing the soon to be completed Stream Management Plan for the Saint Vrain Creek basin. More importantly, it will allow the local entities to have a coordinated approach to managing, coordinating efforts and most importantly improving the condition of the Saint Vrain Creek Watershed.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with the St. Vrain Creek Coalition and the Left Hand Watershed Center to build resiliency along the St. Vrain.

Sincerely,

Ken & Husan

Ken S. Huson Water Resources Manager



October 28, 2019

Chris Sturm chris.sturm@state.co.us Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, CO 80203 Phone: 303-866-3441, ext. 3236

RE: Letter of Support for the St. Vrain Creek Coalition Watershed Restoration application

Dear Chris,

On behalf of the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District ("District") I am writing in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board ("CWCB") Colorado Watershed Restoration Program application being submitted by the St. Vrain Creek Coalition ("SVCC"), entitled "**St. Vrain Creek Stewardship & Science."** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work toward restoration and recovery from the 2013 flood and help ensure long term resilience of the St. Vrain Creek.

The proposed project under consideration with CWCB brings together partners in the St. Vrain Creek Watershed to (1) complete monitoring and stewardship (adaptive management) of flood recovery project sites within and adjacent to the Town of Lyons; (2) repair a failed structure at the Apple Valley North project site; and (3) continue engagement and watershed science programing in Lyons schools, working with K-12 students in data collection, analysis, and place-based learning.

The District believes the SVCC, in partnership with Left Hand Watershed Center, has done a good job bringing the appropriate stakeholders, to develop a proposal that will result in implementation of a successful project that is well aligned with the goals of the CWCB and our community. By completing this project, we will build upon the legacy of recently completed work throughout the St. Vrain Creek Watershed and increase connectivity and resilience of the St. Vrain Creek Watershed.

Please consider funding this important work by the St. Vrain Creek Coalition and the Left Hand Watershed Center to build resiliency within the St. Vrain Watershed.

Thank you,

Sean T. Cronin Executive Director