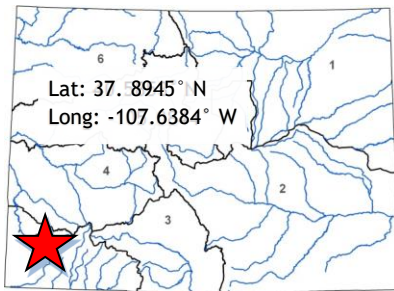




Water Plan Grant Application



L O C A T I O N	
County/Countries:	Costilla, Conejos, Huerfano, Las Animas
Drainage Basin:	Rio Grande

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$45,000
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$22,500
Recommended Amount:	\$15,500
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$5,200
Applicant Match:	\$17,300
Project Type(s):	Other
Project Category(Categories):	Engagement/Innovation
Measurable Result:	1,250 Number of Coloradoans Impacted by Engagement Activity (450 Education Project Development for the Acequia Communities in southern Colorado to date)

The grantee, the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association (SdCAA) is a 501(c)3 organization representing over 73 acequias, which in turn support approximately 300 families. Formed in 1991, the organization works closely with a variety of partner organizations. The mission of the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association is to preserve acequias as the core social, political, and economic institution in Costilla, Conejos, Huerfano and Las Animas counties. SdCAA is an education and outreach organization supporting the viability of the acequia system, and the rich water, ecology, heritage, and food production they support.

This project includes 5 tasks which will create sustainability within the acequia community. Tasks include the development of a resource library for the community, upgrade their bimonthly newsletter, develop and offer hands-on land experiences that will help acequia Irrigators understand important concepts around water, irrigation and land use. The applicant would also use funds to continue their annual Congreso de Acequias. SdCAA has been hosting this forum for 8 years and has many as 160 attendees. This annual event is held each January in San Luis, CO.

This project would help meet goals identified in the Rio Grande Basin Implementation by working to “Protect, preserve, and/or restore the sustainability of the Rio Grande Basin watersheds by focusing on watershed health and ecosystem function” as well as “manage water use to sustain optimal agricultural economy throughout the Basin’s communities” and establishing long term education and outreach effort for water use and needs in the Basin. This project also meets several goals in Section 6.2 of the Water Plan by addressing the environmental and recreational needs such as “*Promote restoration, recovery, and sustainability of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian-dependent species and plant communities*” in the Hermosa and Animas watersheds.

Funding Recommendation: Staff is recommending a grant of \$15,500 from the Engagement and Innovation category of funding. The recommended funding is \$7,000 less than the requested amount for outreach components can comply with current COVID-19 guidelines.



Last Updated: July 2019

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	Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association	
Name of Water Project	Acequia Community Education and Outreach Program	
CWP Grant Request Amount	\$22,500	
Other Funding Sources: Tailwater LLC	\$1,000	
Other Funding Sources: CCCD	\$1,500	
Other Funding Sources: SdCNHA	\$2,700	
Applicant Funding Contribution	\$15,000	
Total Project Cost	\$42,700	



Last Updated: July 2019

Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association
Mailing Address	PO Box 721, San Luis, CO 81152
FEIN	37-1551174
Organization Contact	Nancy Escalante
Position/Title	Administrator
Email	sangredecristoacequia@gmail.com
Phone	719-298-6731
Grant Management Contact	Norman Maestas
Position/Title	Grant Manager
Email	Satchama@hughes.net
Phone	719-298-6731
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	Same as Above
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 Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association (SdCAA) is a 501(c)3 organization representing over 73 acequias, which in turn support approximately 300 families. We were formed in 1991 and work closely with a variety of partner organizations. Our office is located in the town of San Luis, Colorado. The mission of the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association is to preserve acequias as the core social, political, and economic institution in Costilla, Conejos, Huerfano and Las Animas counties. We are an education and outreach organization supporting the viability of the acequia system, and the rich water, ecology, heritage, and food production they support.,</p>	



Last Updated: July 2019

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)
X	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:



Last Updated: July 2019

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	Costilla, Conejos, Huerfano and Las Animas
Latitude	
Longitude	

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.

When you enter the Culebra Basin, it's immediately clear that this is a special place. The green fields that line the meandering Culebra River and its tributaries are a beautiful feature of the small farms and ranches that are fed by acequia waters. Acequia properties are a Colorado treasure - the oldest agricultural settlements, fed by the state's first adjudicated water rights. These properties have been owned by the same hispano families for over 150 years. The importance of the acequias cannot be understated. They are a communal system of irrigation canals and ditches, that serve as the agricultural, social, and ecological foundation of the community. Acequias still function in their original form only in Southern Colorado and in New Mexico, making them a nationally unique treasure and a key part of Colorado's living history.

The Acequia Community Education and Outreach Project aligns with the communities values and more importantly their needs to understand how to keep their traditions alive in changing times. This project aligns with the State and Rio Grande Basin water plans by delivering comprehensive water education that examines the uses, policies and changes as they pertain to water and natural resource management.

This project was developed by a cooperative group of partners that include: The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association, the Costilla County Water Conservancy District, Costilla County Commissioners, CU Boulder School of Law and the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area. The Colorado Water Plan recognizes that "outreach creates public awareness of policies and processes, whereas education promotes a deeper understanding of these topics and further recognizes, that both are prerequisites to public engagement". This project includes 5 tasks which will create sustainability within the acequia community. They include the development of an important resource library for the community, upgrade our bimonthly newsletter, develop and offer hands-on land experiences that will help acequia Irrigators understand important concepts around water, irrigation and land use.

Finally, our goal will be to continue our annual Congreso de Acequias. We have been hosting this important forum for 8 years and have seen it grow from 40 attendees to over 160. This annual event is held each January in San Luis.



Last Updated: July 2019

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	
1250	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity	
450	Other	Explain: Education Project Development for the Acequia Communities in southern Colorado to date

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>The Colorado Water Plan Section 9.5 notes: Outreach creates public awareness of policies and processes, whereas education promotes a deeper understanding of these topics.</p> <p>Both are prerequisites to public engagement. - As we have brought more information around water to our community it has increased their general knowledge and served to debunk random myths that were crippling our community.</p> <p>As far as the Rio Grande Basin roundtable BIP:</p> <p>Goal 1- Protect, preserve, and/or restore the sustainability of the Rio Grande Basin watersheds by focusing on watershed health and ecosystem function: by understanding what and how things can be done in a more efficient way we are increasing the number of irrigators that are able to receive water but we are also ensuring more remains in the creeks that feed our irrigation. We are also ensuring that ag ground maintains its moisture which is an overall help for the watershed.</p> <p>Goal 5- Manage water use to sustain optimal agricultural economy throughout the Basin's communities. When irrigators understand what to do to improve their water</p>



Last Updated: July 2019

management they will and we have seen this due to the increase of gated pipe, irrigation structure improvement as well as cross fencing to move livestock and keep them off of the riparian area.

Goal 8: Establish a long-term education and outreach effort for water use and needs in the San Luis Valley/Rio Grande Basin. This is the most profound way that the SdCAA serves our community. We bring current information to the community, we give them access to information and we engage with them on the land. It is important to remember that the average annual income here is \$16,700 annually, and the only most water users get information is to come to our office.

Goal 10: Promote water management and administrative practices that are adaptive, flexible, and responsive to optimize multiple benefits. When we can introduce new practices and help implement them - we meet the outcomes of goal ten.

The Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan notes in section 7.3 : RIO GRANDE BASIN LONG-RANGE OUTREACH STRATEGIES To achieve this goal, the

RGBRT will use strategies such as:

- active and diverse Roundtable members
- news articles
- website pages
- e-letters
- educational opportunities
- strategic planning forums
- use of an active educational liaison who participates in the CWCB public education, participation, and outreach process

This project meets 5 of these.

- news articles
- website pages
- e-letters
- educational opportunities
- strategic planning forums

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.



Last Updated: July 2019

In a 2006 study Ian Hunt and John Flattery found that “Relations between external researchers and indigenous communities have been increasingly strained by differences in understanding and in expectation about the relevance of research. In the field of resource management, the potential for conflict over research is increased by the politics surrounding control over the resource management decision making processes. Yet when we propose the creation of dialogic networks that engage a climate researchers and indigenous people work as collaborators in a process of knowledge production. There is then support for planning and decisions making by indigenous people”

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.

CWP: Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association – Acequia Curriculum Project- Rio Grande Basin Roundtable- CWP GRANTS –POGG1-PDAA-201900002073 Water Plan Grant Water Sangre de Cristo Hispano Water Curriculum

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.

We do not have Tabor issues.



Last Updated: July 2019

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⁾
X	Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
NA	Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾
X	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support (Optional)
NA	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾
X	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾
X	W-9 ⁽²⁾
NA	Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY	
X	Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application ⁽¹⁾

(1) Required with application.

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



Last Updated: July 2019

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 develop a comprehensive education and outreach program for the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association that includes: Informational Library Development, Bi-Monthly Newsletter, Landowner Outreach Events and an annual Congreso.
Who is/are the target audience(s)? How will you reach them? How will you involve the community?
Acequia communities in Southern Colorado
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?
This project was developed by a cooperative group of members that include: The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, the Costilla County Water Conservancy District, CU Boulder Law School, Costilla County Commissioners and many agency partners. Cash Partners for the project are SdCAA-\$9,000; the Costilla County Water Conservancy - \$500; Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area - \$2700. The in-kind partners include: Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association - \$6000; Tailwater, LLC- \$1000;



Last Updated: July 2019

Overview (answer for both tracks)
We do have all funding secured. I
Describe how you plan to measure and evaluate the success and impact of the project?
We have been careful to research community needs and to ensure that the programs offered meet expectations and interests. We always consider attendance but will also utilize an event evaluation tool. What we expect to have happen is that water users within the community will utilize our resources even more than they do now. For the website and learning library is we will keep track of utilization and we fully expect it to increase. We have seen an uptick in newsletter distribution when we started sending by text we really got a bump in readers, we are now sending the newsletter to over 200 subscribers. At all of our events like Congreso we use participant evaluations. (see attached).
What research, evidence, and data support your project?
In 2016, the USDA conducted a comprehensive survey of producers from across the country to better understand what type of outreach mechanism influenced their decision making. The study found that documents that were sent to them through the mail or inbox, hands-on site visits were most like to influence their decision making. Additionally, producers in historically underserved populations/cultures were much more likely to accept information that was generated from within their community.
Describe potential short- and long-term challenges with this project.
Short term challenges that we have worked to overcome were getting buy in, which is why we did comprehensive outreach to ensure we had relevant topics. Like most folks who have been in agriculture all of their lives they have developed ways of doing things that worked well when there was less people and water was plentiful. Since 2002 we have seen things change dramatically, the effects of long-term drought have been very wearing on ag producers in the Culebra basin. When we first started our outreach sessions and annual Congreso attendance was low, but gradually as folks came and went and implemented practices and ideas attendance has increased ,we have gained a seat on the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable and our community sees us the place to get information. So, when I talk about buy-in, it refers to building trust around new ideas. I can say that we did get the buy-in we were hoping to get.

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."



Last Updated: July 2019

We have designed a set of education and outreach mechanisms designed for the specific target audience - acequia irrigators. By having educational and outreach programs designed for each audience we believe, and studies show that we can “significantly improve landscape decision making and enhance long-term resource sustainability. As part of our outreach we will be including our acequia Curriculum that was developed using our previous CWP grant. The full curriculum will be available in June. We have had requests for the trial version now that teachers are sending assignments home and we have sent out the trials for them to use. We spent extra time on the curriculum getting feedback from teachers.

We currently have about 40 people per week that come into the office looking for information. We would expect that to double as we build an archive of material. I think key reason that this is important here is that most people do not have internet. So, while we will put materials on the website we actually believe that the library will get used more.

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.

Agricultural producers in Southern Colorado have undergone 14 years of drought as tradition flood irrigators they have experienced water supplied that have average 40% of the average water year. Helping them to understand and adopt practices that will insure their long-term sustainability. This project addresses the supply and demand gap, conservation, land use, and watershed health.

The project does impact other water users. Our partnership with Colorado Open Lands and their RCPP projects has seen a myriad of irrigation water management practices implemented (gated pipe, small structures, cross fencing) these not only help acequia irrigators, but also helps our neighbors out of the basin because water goes farther. These resources reach out to a variety of water users in Costilla and Conejos County.

Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement goals set forth in the applicable Basin Implementation Plan(s).

This project addresses the Rio Grande Basin Goal to establish a long-term education and outreach effort for water use and needs in the San Luis Valley/Rio Grande Basin. These projects employ the objectives that the Rio Grande Basin plan identifies: Outreach, Education and Participation through collaboration across demographics and audiences. They also use the RGBIP goals to engage, educate and call participants to action. - Can you explain more which 4 BIP goals this proposal meets and why?

Goal 1- Protect, preserve, and/or restore the sustainability of the Rio Grande Basin watersheds by focusing on watershed health and ecosystem function: by understanding what and how things can be done in a more efficient way we are increasing the number of irrigators that are able to receive water but we are also ensuring more remains in the creeks that feed our irrigation. We are also ensuring that ag ground maintains it moisture which is an over all help for the watershed.

Goal 5- Manage water use to sustain optimal agricultural economy throughout the Basin’s communities. When irrigators understand what to do to improve their water management they will and we have seen this due to the increase of gated pipe, irrigation structure improvement as well as cross fencing to move livestock and keep them off of the riparian area.

Goal 8: Establish a long-term education and outreach effort for water use and needs in the San Luis Valley/Rio Grande Basin. This is the most profound way that the SdCAA serves our



Last Updated: July 2019

community. We bring current information to the community, we give them access to information and we engage with them on the land. It is important to remember that the average annual income here is \$16,700 annually, and the only most water users get information is to come to our office.

Goal 10: Promote water management and administrative practices that are adaptive, flexible, and responsive to optimize multiple benefits. When we can introduce new practices and help implement them - we meet the outcomes of goal ten.

Describe how the project achieves the basin roundtable's PEPO Education Action Plans.

By providing comprehensive educational efforts regarding the basins issues issue that include drought management, groundwater issues and irrigation efficiency..

The Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan outline the following methods to achieve the goal of both education and outreach, the RGBRT will use strategies such as:

- active and diverse Roundtable members
- news articles
- website pages
- e-letters
- educational opportunities
- strategic planning forums
- use of an active educational liaison who participates in the CWCB public education, participation, and outreach process

This project meets 5 of these.

- news articles
- website pages
- e-letters
- educational opportunities
- strategic planning forums

Innovation Track

Describe how the project enhances water innovation efforts and supports a water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

Describe how the project engages/leverages Colorado's innovation community to help solve our state's water challenges.



Last Updated: July 2019

Innovation Track
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.



Last Updated: July 2019

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work	
Date:	January 27,2020
Name of Grantee:	Sangre de Cristo Acequia Associatio
Name of Water Project:	Acequia Community Education and Outreach Program
Funding Source:	Colorado Water Plan Grant
Water Project Overview:	
<p>When you enter the Culebra Basin, it's immediately clear that this is a special place. The green fields that line the meandering Culebra River and its tributaries are a beautiful feature of the small farms and ranches that are fed by acequia waters. Acequia properties are a Colorado treasure - the oldest agricultural settlements, fed by the state's first adjudicated water rights. These properties have been owned by the same hispano families for over 150 years. The importance of the acequias cannot be understated. They are a communal system of irrigation canals and ditches, that serve as the agricultural, social, and ecological foundation of the community. Acequias still function in their original form only in Southern Colorado and in New Mexico, making them a nationally unique treasure and a key part of Colorado's living history.</p> <p>The Acequia Community Education and Outreach Project aligns with the communities values and more importantly their needs to understand how to keep their traditions alive in changing times. This project aligns with the State and Rio Grande Basin water plans by delivering comprehensive water education that examines the uses, policies and changes as they pertain to water and natural resource management.</p> <p>This project was developed by a cooperative group of partners that include: The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association, the Costilla County Water Conservancy District, Costilla County Commissioners, CU Boulder School of Law and the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area. The Colorado Water Plan recognizes that "outreach creates public awareness of policies and processes, whereas education promotes a deeper understanding of these topics and further recognizes, that both are prerequisites to public engagement". This project includes 5 tasks which will create sustainability within the acequia community. They include the development of an important resource library for the community, upgrade our bimonthly newsletter, develop and offer hands-on land experiences that will help acequia Irrigators understand important concepts around water, irrigation and land use. Finally, our goal will be to continue our annual Congreso de Acequias. We have been hosting this important forum for 8 years and have seen it grow from 40 attendees to over 160. This annual event is held each January in San Luis.</p>	
Project Objectives:	



Last Updated: July 2019

Objective for the project are as follows:

- **Create an informational database to located on the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association Website.**
- **Expand the bi-monthly newsletter making it more relevant and useful to our audience.**
- **Hold 3 landowner outreach events in 2020. The goal will be to develop a model that encourages resource partner and landowner participation and implementation.**
- **Hold the annual Congreso de Acequias in January 2021**

Tasks
Task 1 – Informational Library Development
Description of Task:
This project will develop an important resource database and library for the community that will help connect them to programs offered by area partners.
Method/Procedure:
The SdCAA as reached out to a variety of partners to gather input on the type and kind of information that will be available. Over and over what we heard was if they had a way to get information locally then it would really help our agency partners (NRCS, DOWR, etc.) meet the needs of area landowners. By expanding our offering of informational materials, we can help ensure the viability of water and soil resources within the community.
Deliverable:
<p>The goal of this program is to develop a resource database that can be accessed on the SdCAA website and at the Acequia Association office in San Luis Colorado. The database would be developed along specifics lines. This will include: Water, Agriculture, Economics. Each would include best practices, latest data and contact information for key resource folks.</p> <p>Establish a water and natural resources library include a catalog of materials at the office in san Luis where community members can access viable information. All archived materials will also be available in our website library</p>



Last Updated: July 2019

Tasks
Task 2 – Bi-Monthly Newsletter
Description of Task:
This task will be to expand our newsletter not only in outreach but also in the quality and variety of the content in the newsletter. The grant will upgrade our bimonthly newsletter format and engaged a variety of contributors that can address water uses, water quality and quantity, soil health, cropping systems, grazing methodology and river and riparian health. We have worked very hard this past year to increase our outreach base and now have over 400 subscribers in Costilla, Conejos, Huerfano and Las Animas counties and feel we are poised to increase circulation as content improves.
Method/Procedure:
The format will be redesigned and include more partner contribution and be sent via email, text and snail mail for folks who need that platform.
Deliverable:
A newsletter format that reaches a majority of acequia irrigators. A fully developed newsletter program that will continue as an acequia staple

Tasks
Task 3 – Landowner Outreach Events
Description of Task:
Hold 4 landowner workshops that include a morning seminar session and afternoon field experiences
Method/Procedure:
The SdCAA as reached out to a variety of partners to gather input on the type and kind of information that will be available. Over and over what we heard was if they had a way to get information locally then it would really help our agency partners NRCS and DOWR, meet the needs of area landowners. The sessions will cover irrigation water management, soil health, and grazing.
Deliverable:
<p>Three workshops for landowners as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 20 <i>Making the Most of the Irrigation Season</i>: This workshop will help landowners understand, some best use practices to ensure they are getting the most from their irrigation water • June 20 <i>Grazing – Maximizing Your Ground Forage</i> This workshop will take participants thru the rotational grazing process, evaluation of available forage and fencing options. • September 20 <i>Ensuring your operations soil health</i>: This workshop will demonstrate how restore and preserve organic matter in pastureland and crop ground. • November 20 <i>Why a Watershed Assessment</i>: This workshop will help attendees understand



Last Updated: July 2019

Tasks
<p>The Field trips will visit a variety of farms and ranches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look at their irrigation management and how they have implemented BMP's to make the most of their water and then include some volunteer producer to evaluate their IWM needs and develop an improvement plan.• Examine the grazing operations on a few ranches and learn how they have implemented grazing bmp's and visit a volunteer operation to help then assess their operational needs.• Look at soil health practices and how they have increased productivity and resiliency. and visit a volunteer operation to help then assess their operational needs.• Do site visit with the Tailwater Assessment Team <p>Partners who will give presentations and tours are as follows: Water Rights and decrees – Craig Cotton and Pat McDermott, DOWR; Cleave Simpson – Rio Grande Water Conservation District; Irrigation Water Management – Ron Riggensbach, Joseph Lobato, Jenny Stricker – NRCS; Grazing to include cross fencing, water availability, time placed in use/time on each pasture, animal numbers and seeding recommendations – Ron Riggensbach and Cindy Villa NRCS, Aaron Swallow, Trinchera Ranch. Weed Management – Costilla Conservation District, Costilla County Weed Manager and Cindy Villa, NRCS; Ditch maintenance – Costilla County, Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association, Colorado Open Lands and the Tailwater Assessment team</p> <p>Four workshops with field days and three subject properties that will be the subject of our 2021 workshop series</p>

Tasks
Task 4 – Congreso
Description of Task:
The 2021 Congreso de Acequias will be held in January 2021(day TBD). This annual acequia meeting will reach out specifically to Acequia Irrigators, but all are welcome to attend the annual event. Proposed topics include: Understanding Acequia bylaws (CU Boulder Law Center); Hemp in Colorado – Two Seasons In; Building Soil Health to Preserve Productivity; Agritourism – Building A Model that Works; Results of the Culebra Watershed This event will be held at Centennial school in San Luis.
Method/Procedure:
We will begin finalizing plans in May and then contract and confirm speakers, secure location and audio.
Deliverable:
Completed Congreso even in January 2021. Flyers, attendee packet, pictures and an opportunity to attend.



Last Updated: July 2019

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.

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.



Last Updated: July 2019

Performance Measures

(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.

(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**

Date: January 29, 2020

Name of Applicant: Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association

Name of Water Project: Acequia Community Education and Outreach Program

Task No.	Task Description	Start Date	End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Informational Library Development	1-May-20	30-Apr-21	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$12,500
2	Bi-Monthly Newsletter	1-May-20	30-Apr-21	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$8,000
3	Landowner Outreach Events	1-May-20	30-Sep-21	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
3	Congreso	1-May-20	30-Jan-21	\$7,000	\$5,200	\$12,200
Total				\$22,500	\$20,200	\$42,700



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

**Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B
Budget and Schedule**

REVISED Date: June 27, 2020

Name of Applicant: Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association

Name of Water Project: Acequia Community Education and Outreach Program

Task No.	Task Description	Start Date	End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Informational Library Development	1-Jul-20	30-May-21	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$12,500
2	Bi-Monthly Newsletter	1-Jul-20	30-May-21	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$8,000
3	Landowner Outreach Events	1-Jul-20	30-May-21	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Total				\$15,500	\$15,000	\$30,500



352 Main Street
PO Box 100
San Luis, CO 81152

(719) 672-3372
(719) 672-3962 fax

www.costillacounty-co.gov

COSTILLA COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

"Where Colorado Began"

January 27, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 721
Denver, CO 80203
Attn: Mr. Ben Wade

Re: Acequia Education Grant Application

Dear Mr. Wade,

The Costilla County Commissioners' Office is writing this letter in support of the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association Educating Landowners Grant. The Culebra Watershed and its 14,000-foot namesake peak sits above the hispano villages that were established with the settlement of the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant in the mid 1800's. There are over 400 families who are heirs of this legacy that live below the watershed that provides irrigation and livestock water, wood for fires and building, grazing for cattle and sheep, and habitat for a myriad of wildlife species. The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association has been an integral part of ensuring water rights for Acequia irrigators for over 20 years. They have actively pursued educational opportunities for the acequia landowners that have helped them develop by-laws, improve irrigation techniques and soil health and understand Colorado water laws.

To this end, the Costilla County Commissioners' Office enthusiastically supports this application for the Colorado Water Plan Grant program for Building Landowner Knowledge of Natural Resources by the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association. The project is designed to provide educational and outreach opportunities through the development of an acequia database and document archive. Creating a database of information will not only help existing landowners in the Culebra Basin, but it will also ensure that new landowners to the area understand local water and history as it relates to their property.

This project has been supported by a variety of partners including the Sangre De Cristo National Heritage Area, the Costilla County Water Conservancy District, Costilla County Conservation District and the NRCS. The Colorado Water Plan recognizes that "outreach creates public awareness of policies and processes, whereas education promotes a deeper understanding of these topics and further recognizes, that both are

prerequisites to public engagement.” The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable has long recognized that in all communities the core social, political and economic institutions are supported by water and that when we protect the water rights and uses we will ensure the viability of these communities and their rich ecology, heritage and food production for generations to come.

Finally, we are lending our wholehearted support to their application for this important outreach project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Doon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Ben Doon
Costilla County Administrator



President – Gary Gurule Secretary - Ronda Lobato Treasurer - Earl Valdez

January 27, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 721
Denver, CO 80203
Attn: Mr. Ben Wade

Re: Acequia Education Grant Application

Dear Mr. Wade,

The Costilla County Conservancy District is writing this letter in support of the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association Educating Landowners Grant. The Culebra Watershed and its 14,000-foot peaks sit above the hispano villages that were established when the Sangre de Cristo Land was legally established in the mid 1800's. There are over 400 families who are heirs of this legacy that live below the watershed that provides irrigation and livestock water, wood for fires and building, grazing for our cattle and sheep, and habitat for a myriad of wildlife species. The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association has been an integral part of ensuring water rights for Acequia irrigators for over 20 years. They have actively pursued educational opportunities for the Acequia landowners that have helped them develop by-laws, improve irrigation techniques and soil health and help them understand Colorado water laws.

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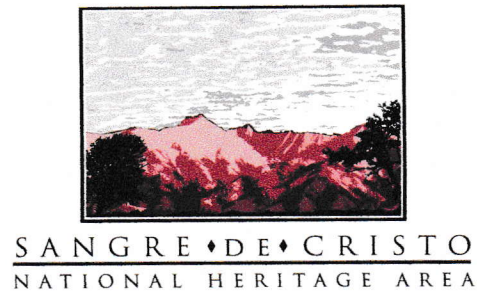
This project has been supported by a variety of partners who include Sangre De Cristo National Heritage Area, Costilla County Conservation District, and the NRCS. The Colorado Water Plan recognizes that "outreach creates public awareness of policies and processes, whereas education promotes a deeper understanding of these topics and further recognizes that both are prerequisites to public engagement". The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable has long recognized that in all communities the core social, political and economic institutions are supported by water and that when we protect the water rights and uses we will ensure the viability of these communities and their rich ecology, heritage, and food production for generations to come.

Finally, we are lending our wholehearted support to their application for this important outreach project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronda M. Lobato".

Ronda M. Lobato
Costilla County Conservancy District Board Member



January 29, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 721
Denver, CO 80203
Attn: Mr Ben Wade

Re: Acequia Education Grant Application

Dear Mr. Wade,

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is writing this letter in support of the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association Educating Landowners Grant. The Culebra Watershed and its 14,000-foot peaks sit above the Hispano villages that were established when the Sangre de Cristo Land was legally established in the mid 1800's. There are over 400 families who are heirs of this legacy that live below the watershed that provides irrigation and livestock water, wood for fires and building, grazing for our cattle and sheep, and habitat for a myriad of wildlife species. The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association has been an integral part of ensuring water rights for Acequia irrigators for over 20 years. They have actively pursued educational opportunities for the acequia landowners that have helped them develop by-laws, improve irrigation techniques and soil health and help them understand Colorado water laws.

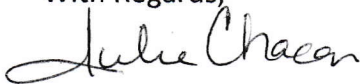
To this end, the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area enthusiastically supports this application for the Colorado Water Plan Grant program for Building Landowner Knowledge of Natural Resources by the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association. This project's design is to provide educational and outreach opportunities through the development of an acequia database and document archive. Creating a database of information will not help existing landowners in the Culebra Basin, but it will also ensure that new landowners to the area understand their properties many facets to include water and history.

P.O. Box 844, Alamosa, CO 81101

This project is supported by a variety of partners who include Sangre De Cristo National Heritage Area, the Costilla County Water Conservancy District, Costilla County Conservation District and the NRCS. The Colorado Water Plan recognizes that "outreach creates public awareness of policies and processes, whereas education promotes a deeper understanding of these topics and further recognizes that both are prerequisites to public engagement". The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable has long recognized that in all communities the core social, political and economic institutions are supported by water and that when we protect the water rights and uses we will ensure the viability of these communities and their rich ecology, heritage and food production for generations to come.

Finally, we are lending our wholehearted support to their application for this important outreach project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Chacon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" and last name "Chacon" clearly distinguishable.

Julie Chacon
Executive Director



Ben Wade
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

February 11, 2020

Dear Mr. Wade,

The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable enthusiastically supports this application by the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association for the Colorado Water Plan grant, entitled, Educating Landowners Grant. The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association has been an integral part of ensuring water rights for Acequia irrigators for over 20 years. They have actively pursued educational opportunities for the acequia landowners that have helped them develop by-laws, improve irrigation techniques and soil health, and helped them understand Colorado water laws.

Their project is designed to provide educational and outreach opportunities through the development of an acequia database and document archive. Creating a database of information will not help existing landowners in the Culebra Basin, but it will also ensure that new landowners to the area understand their properties many facets to include water and history.

This project has been supported by a variety of partners who include Sangre De Cristo National Heritage Area, the Costilla County Water Conservancy District, Costilla County Conservation District and the NRCS. The Colorado Water Plan recognizes that "outreach creates public awareness of policies and processes, whereas education promotes a deeper understanding of these topics and further recognizes, that both are prerequisites to public engagement.

The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable has recognizes that in all communities the core social, political and economic institutions are supported by water and when we protect water

rights we ensure the viability of these communities and their rich ecology, heritage and food production for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Coombs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nathan Coombs
Chairman, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable