



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ben Wade
Water Supply Planning Section

DATE: September 2, 2021

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

Staff Recommendation - Action Items: WSRF Grant Requests:

A summary of staff's recommendation for each WSRF application are provided in the first component of the attached table.

Favorable recommendations may be contingent on providing the CWCB with additional information, clarifications, or modifications in the scope of work. Please refer to the Water Activity Summary Sheets contained within this agenda item to find a summary of staff's review and any conditions associated with each recommendation.

Background:

For this consent agenda item, the Board is provided with a brief overview of applications to the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF). Attachments to this memo include:

- Summary spreadsheet detailing funding requests for the basin and statewide accounts;
- Summary spreadsheet displaying current WSRF Balance Summary of Fund Appropriations and Receipts by Fiscal Year, and Fund Distribution by Basin and Statewide Account.
- Water Activity Summary Sheets, which provide an overview, discussion, issues/additional needs, and staff recommendation regarding funding, partial funding, or not funding the applications.

Staff's review of the applications involves the following steps:

- 1) Applications are reviewed for completeness based on the information requirements, which are primarily outlined in the Criteria and Guidelines (C&G).
- 2) Applications are reviewed to verify that the water activity meets the eligibility requirements in Section 39-29-108 (III) C.R.S. (C&G, Part 2) and the threshold criteria, which are based on the requirements of Section 39-29-108 (III) C.R.S., and two sections of the Water for the 21st Century Act (House Bill 1177);



Section 37-75-102 and Section 37-75-104(2)(c) (C&G, Part 3). Staff also verifies that the applicant was an eligible entity to receive funding (C&G, Part 2).

- 3) Staff then prepares the Water Activity Summary Sheet which documents the outcome of the review process and contains staff's recommendations.

Water Supply Reserve Fund Balance Summary and Project Status Report:

To provide the Board updates on the status of specific Water Supply Reserve Fund grant applications and projects, staff can provide a status report of the following information upon request:

- List of completed WSRF projects;
- List of WSRF projects in progress; and
- List of WSRF projects in the contracting and procurement process.



**Water Supply Reserve Fund
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 15-16, 2021
Consent Agenda Item 2(a)**

Applicant & Grantee: Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority
Water Activity Name: Regional Reuse Study
Water Activity Purpose: Municipal/Industrial and Other - Study
County: El Paso County
Drainage Basin: Arkansas River
Water Source: Fountain & Monument Creek Basins
Amount Requested: \$7,500 Arkansas Basin Account
\$7,500 Metro Basin
\$38,000 Statewide Account
\$53,000 Total Request

Matching Funds: **Basin Account Match = \$15,000**
• 39.4% of statewide request (meets 10% min)
Applicant & 3rd Party Match = \$80,000 (cash)
• 210.5% of the statewide request (meets 10% min)
Total Match (Basin request & Applicant Match) = \$95,000
• 250% of the statewide request (meets 50% min)

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$7,500 from the Arkansas Basin Account, up to \$7,500 from the Metro Basin Account and up to \$38,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project: Regional Reuse Study

Water Activity Summary: The objective of the “Regional Reuse Study” is to identify key conveyance, storage and delivery infrastructure and management concepts and provide cost estimates for, regional reuse projects that could maximize the use and reuse of reusable water supplies within El Paso County.

The applicant states the study will provide technical analysis and planning support for various options to recapture, store, and deliver fully-reusable return flows in the Fountain and Monument Creek basins. Participants include entities within El Paso County that utilize unsustainable Denver Basin groundwater as well as entities with other groundwater issues. In addition, the analysis shall incorporate values to consider multiple-use storage needs within El Paso County.

The applicant will develop minimum operational criteria, to include storage volume, conveyance capacity in and out for peak and non-peak times, ability to connect to existing infrastructure, and identification of potential treatment requirements. Quantitative and

qualitative value sets will be used to identify top performing concepts, which will then undergo a more detailed feasibility analysis.

Discussion: The proposed project furthers the Colorado Water Plan stated support of water reuse and it meets goals in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan of developing cost effective solutions to local water supply gaps and working to eliminate groundwater dependence for municipal users. The study also meets the South Platte’s Basin Implementation Plan by enhancing current levels of municipal water reuse.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components.

Evaluation Criteria: Staff has determined this activity satisfies the Evaluation Criteria.

Funding Sources/Match	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Status
Woodmoor Water & Sanitation District	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Secured
Triview Metropolitan District	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Secured
Town of Monument	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Secured
Forest Lakes Metropolitan District	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Secured
Cherokee Metropolitan District	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Secured
Donala Water & Sanitation	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Secured
Security Water District	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Secured
Colorado Springs Utilities	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Secured
Sub-Total Matching Funds	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000	
WSRF Arkansas Basin Account	\$7,500	\$0	\$7,500	Secured
WSRF Metro Basin Account	\$7,500	\$0	\$7,500	
WSRF Statewide Account	\$38,000	\$0	\$38,000	
Sub-Total WSRF Funds	\$53,000	\$0	\$53,000	
Total Project Costs	\$133,000	\$0	\$133,000	

CWCB Project Manager: Kevin Reidy

**Water Supply Reserve Fund
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 15-16, 2021
Consent Agenda Item 2(b)**

Applicant & Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Water Activity Name: Field Support for the “Evaluating Conserved Consumptive Use in the Upper Colorado River” Project

Water Activity Purpose: Agricultural - Study

County: Grand County

Drainage Basin: Colorado River

Water Source: Upper Colorado River

Amount Requested: \$19,800 Colorado Basin Account
\$40,000 Statewide Account
\$59,800 Total Request

Matching Funds: **Basin Account Match = \$19,800**

- 49% of statewide request (meets 10% min)

Applicant & 3rd Party Match = \$22,400 (cash)

- 56% of the statewide request (meets 10% min)

Total Match (Basin request & Applicant Match) = \$42,200

- 105% of the statewide request (meets 50% min)

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$19,800 from the Colorado Basin Account and up to \$40,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project: Field Support for the “Evaluating Conserved Consumptive Use in the Upper Colorado River” Project

Water Activity Summary: The overall goal of this proposal is to work with local water users on field-based research to address priority feasibility questions related to temporary reductions in water use, including: best practices for reducing irrigation on perennial irrigated pastures; estimating and verifying actual water savings from those practices, and; working with producers to identify multi-year strategies to create conserved consumptive use while maintaining viable agricultural operations.

The project involves field work and data collection in support of the research, and funding from WSRF grant program will allow the applicant to hire two seasonal field technicians for the remaining three years of the project (2021-2023). These field technicians will work in coordination with the applicant’s university research partners to collect forage samples, soil moisture and groundwater data, and maintain research equipment on multiple field sites in the Kremmling area. The applicant anticipates hiring locally to fill these positions, which serves a tangential goal of building local capacity and expertise in water and ag related research.

The applicant believes this project will provide important information on the opportunities and challenges related to temporary Ag water conservation.

The CWCB Board has previously approved funds for this project from the Alternative Transfer Methods grant program, and through a Water Plan Engagement/Innovation grant.

Discussion: The proposed project furthers the Colorado Basin Roundtable’s stated objective in its Basin Implementation Plan of sustaining agricultural production, increasing education among the Ag community about Colorado River issues, securing safe drinking water and encourage basin wide to promote agricultural conservation that maintains production and viability.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components.

Evaluation Criteria: Staff has determined this activity satisfies the Evaluation Criteria.

Funding Sources/Match	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Status
American Rivers	\$22,400	\$0	\$22,400	Secured
Sub-Total Matching Funds	\$22,400	\$0	\$22,400	
WSRF Colorado Basin Account	\$19,800	\$0	\$19,800	Secured
WSRF Statewide Account	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	
Sub-Total WSRF Funds	\$59,800	\$0	\$59,800	
Total Project Costs	\$82,200	\$0	\$82,200	

CWCB Project Manager: TBD

**Water Supply Reserve Fund
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 15-16, 2021
Consent Agenda Item 2(c)**

Applicant & Grantee: Grand Mesa Water Users' Association
Water Activity Name: Grand Mesa Water Users' Efficiency Project
Water Activity Purpose: Agricultural & Municipal/Industrial - Implementation
County: Delta & Mesa
Drainage Basin: Gunnison River
Water Source: Upper Colorado River
Amount Requested: \$20,000 Colorado Basin Account
\$45,000 Statewide Account
\$65,000 Total Request

Matching Funds: **Basin Account Match = \$20,000**

- 44% of statewide request (meets 10% min)

Applicant & 3rd Party Match = \$10,000 (in-kind)

- 22% of the statewide request

Total Match (Basin request & Applicant Match) = \$30,000

- 66.7% of the statewide request (meets 50% min)

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$20,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account and up to \$45,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project: Grand Mesa Water Users' Efficiency Project

Water Activity Summary: The applicant, the Grand Mesa Water Users' Association (GMWUA), administers irrigation and municipal water captured in over 100 reservoirs located within a 35 square mile area on US Forest Service land on the Grand Mesa. These reservoirs have a total capacity of over 28,000 acre feet irrigating approximately 10,000 acres of land and providing water for four municipalities. Approximately 2,000 users, including ranchers, orchardists, and municipal residents benefit from services provided by GMWUA.

Overall, the GMWUA Water Efficiency Project is a two phase, multi-year project. This current proposal is for phase 1. WSRF funds will be used to help install electronic reservoir water measuring sensors and telecommunication systems for two reservoirs per the request of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable and will help fund capacity surveys for 26 reservoirs. GMWUA will implement a software program to collect, analyze, and distribute data collected by the electronic sensors. The computer program will be located at the GMWUA office.

Discussion: GMWUA’s reservoirs are listed in the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan for needed improvements. The applicant states this project supports the Basin Implementation Plan by protecting existing water in the basin and restoring, maintaining and modernizing critical water infrastructure. The project also meets goals in the Water Plan by using water efficiently to reduce overall future water use by accurately quantifying their water supply and improve aging agricultural infrastructure.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components.

Evaluation Criteria: Staff has determined this activity satisfies the Evaluation Criteria.

Funding Sources/Match	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Status
Grand Mesa Water Users’ Association	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	Secured
Sub-Total Matching Funds	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	
WSRF Gunnison Basin Account	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	Secured
WSRF Statewide Account	\$45,000	\$0	\$45,000	
Sub-Total WSRF Funds	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000	
Total Project Costs	\$65,000	\$10,000	\$75,000	

CWCB Project Manager: Matt Stearns