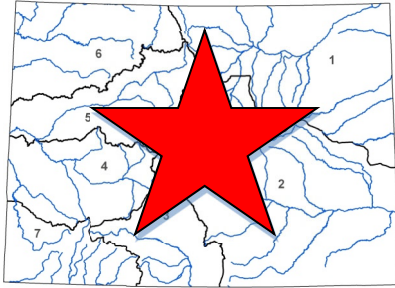




**Ag Drought Resilience  
 & Innovative Water Conservation  
 Colorado Ag Water Alliance**

September 2022 Board Meeting

**Water Plan Grant Application**



D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$258,700
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$183,700
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$75,000
Project Type(s):	Study
Project Category(Categories):	Agricultural
Measurable Result:	Completion of 5-10 on-farm Ag water conservation demonstration and pilot projects

L O C A T I O N	
County/Countries:	Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Statewide

Colorado Water Plan grant funding will be used to convene a diverse stakeholder advisory group, conduct outreach and technical assistance to agricultural communities to help develop ideas for drought adaptation, and assist with implementing 5-10 on-farm projects. The goal of this advisory group and of the 5-10 on-farm projects is to identify connections between agricultural water conservation strategies and farm profitability.

The project has potential to increase and accelerate adoption of innovative drought resilience strategies with the technical and financial support provided by the advisory group and project participants. The project has potential to identify highly scalable solutions with positive impacts for agricultural producers statewide. The project will convene a broad group of diverse stakeholders who will collaborate to guide the project(s).

This project fills a gap in resources available to support early-stage, innovative concepts in agricultural water conservation strategies. Project proponents plan to seek additional funding including federal funding with the promising solutions that emerge from the demonstration and pilot projects conducted with this grant funding.

Success will result in more agricultural water users engaged in drought resilience and strategic water conservation work, shared learning opportunities for agricultural communities, and an expanded network of people, organizations, and partnerships supporting agricultural water conservation work.

**Funding Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Board approval of \$183,700 to the Colorado Ag Water Alliance for the Agricultural Drought Resilience & Innovative Water Conservation Project.



Last Updated: May 2021

<b>Colorado Water Conservation Board</b>
<b>Water Plan Grant – Statement of Work – Exhibit A</b>

Statement Of Work	
<b>Date:</b>	6/27/2022
<b>Name of Grantee:</b>	Colorado Ag Water Alliance
<b>Name of Water Project:</b>	Agricultural Drought Resilience & Innovative Water Conservation
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Water Plan Grant – Agriculture
<b>Water Project Overview:</b>	
<p>Previous efforts have shown that interest in pursuing this work exists within the agricultural community, but that direct outreach and resources are needed to mobilize it for project work. While public funding for this type of work is increasing, there is a gap in resources available to support early-stage projects and the capacity needed to identify and develop projects from concept to implementation. This proposal would directly address that gap through a short-term effort focused on providing financial and technical resources directly to communities to develop activities and strategies to respond to a long-term decline in water availability.</p> <p>This project will provide technical and financial resources directly to agricultural communities to develop and implement strategies to build resilience in the face of a long-term decline in water supply reliability. This project will also help accelerate project development so that proponents are more capable of accessing federal funds available for the next five years from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.</p> <p>We will use Colorado Water Plan funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Convene and facilitate a multi-stakeholder advisory group to guide the project.</li> <li>- Conduct outreach and technical assistance to agricultural communities to help develop ideas for adaptation strategies.</li> <li>- Assist agricultural communities with acquiring the necessary resources to implement their strategies.</li> </ul> <p>We will use matching private funds to directly support agricultural communities.</p>	
<b>Project Objectives:</b>	

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The overall objectives of this project are to:

- 1) Engage ag water users/communities/organizations in multiple geographies.
- 2) Provide support to identify appropriate activities, projects, and strategies to adapt to a long-term reduction in water supplies, and:
- 3) Move this work from concept to reality by providing technical, legal, economic, and other expertise.

Success would result in more ag water users engaged in drought resilience and strategic water conservation work, additional work on the ground, public funding secured to support that work, shared learning opportunities, and an expanded network of people, organizations, and partnerships supporting project development and implementation.

Tasks
<p><b>Task 1 - Advisory Group</b></p> <p>Description of Task:</p> <p>Recruit key partners so serve on a project Advisory Group that will provide input on overall goals and project selection criteria, guide and help implement community outreach and engagement efforts, evaluate and prioritize proposals, provide expertise for awarded projects, evaluate impacts and advise on next steps. The Advisory Group should consist of agricultural producers and ag organizations as well as water management entities, NGOs, and others that work directly with the ag sector. The committee will be responsible for running the program, selecting projects, and identifying next steps.</p> <p>We have already confirmed group members from the following organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Grand Valley Water Users Association</li> <li>-Uncompahgre Water Users Association</li> <li>-Dolores Water Conservancy District</li> <li>-Colorado Cattlemen’s Association</li> <li>-Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association</li> <li>-Colorado Association of Conservation Districts</li> <li>-American Rivers</li> <li>-The Nature Conservancy</li> <li>-Trout Unlimited</li> <li>-Colorado River Water Conservation District</li> <li>-Southwestern Water Conservation District</li> <li>-Colorado Water Conservation Board</li> <li>-Colorado Department of Agriculture</li> </ul> <p>Method/Procedure:</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outreach to select individuals and organizations. See attached Letters of Support for individual/entities that have already agreed to participate.</li> <li>● The group will meet to finalize program goals, project criteria, example projects/case studies, and project requirements.</li> </ul>
Deliverable:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Final list of Advisory Group members.</li> <li>● Agendas and minutes from Advisory Group meetings</li> <li>● Guidance documents for the program and projects</li> </ul>

Tasks
<b>Task 2 – Outreach</b>
Description of Task:
Outreach to agricultural producers throughout the state about the opportunities of this program, and work with interested producers to help develop proposal projects
Method/Procedure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Starting in July, meet with agricultural producers and agriculture groups to discuss the program. The purpose will be to see if we can already identify individuals who may want to participate and plan how to communicate the program to their members in 2022.</li> <li>● These meetings will be directly with boards, with individuals, or at select small meetings during the summer. For example, with the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers this program will be the topic for their Water Committee this year to think of prospective projects and spread the word. We will take a similar path with other agricultural organizations and special districts.</li> <li>● We will also raise awareness about the program at a broad scale through announcements and meeting presentations and workshops where members of agricultural communities can discuss ideas and review the program application with members of the program leadership team.</li> </ul>
Deliverable:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A list of announcements and presentations about the program</li> <li>● Program workshop agendas</li> </ul>

Tasks
<b>Task 3 – Outreach</b>
Description of Task:



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Money will be spent on projects (five to ten) that the advisory group has identified. Agricultural producers will implement these projects in 2023 and be reimbursed by the program. There will be an emphasis on projects where we can gather data related to water conservation. One of the goals of these projects is to demonstrate and prove strategies for drought and data will be necessary to scale-up any of these projects. The potential projects will involve a diverse group of strategies that will include:

- Alternative forage and crops
- Irrigation management
- Herd size and stocking strategies
- Drought tolerant varieties of crops
- Soil Management
- Remote Sensing

The costs for each project will range \$10,000 - \$40,000. These costs will include items like monitoring equipment, seed, or other materials necessary for BMP implementation.

The goal of each project will be to identify connections between water conservation (conserved consumptive use) and farm profitability.

Method/Procedure:

- Identify projects using previously developed criteria
- Notify project proponents that their project was selected, review required paperwork, timelines, and obligations
- Reimburse project participants for expenses. During this time the Advisory Group's role will be to troubleshoot any problems with the projects or connect the project proponents to any necessary resources
- Evaluate each project once completed and determine next steps.

Deliverable:

- Write up for each project with evaluation and next steps from advisory group

### 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.



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**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 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 C. Per 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 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 Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

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

(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.