



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Ben Wade & Dori Vigil  
Water Supply Planning Section

**DATE:** September 8, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consent Agenda 3a-c, Water Supply Reserve Fund, Grant Funding Recommendations

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**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 the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs in the attached Water Activity Summaries. 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 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 Grant Guidelines.
- 2) Applications are reviewed to verify that the water activity meets the eligibility requirements, 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.
- 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 20-21, 2022  
Consent Agenda Item 3(a)**

**Applicant & Grantee:** Colorado Master Irrigator  
**Water Activity Name:** Master Irrigator Program - Expanded Course Offerings SLV  
**Water Activity Purpose:** Agricultural, Education & Outreach - Implementation  
**County:** Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande & Saguache  
**Drainage Basin:** Rio Grande River  
**Water Source:** N/A  
**Amount Requested:** \$94,112.50 Rio Grande Basin Account  
**Matching Funds:** Basin Account Match = \$104,350 (\$35,000 cash & \$69,350 in-kind)

- 52.5% of Total Project Cost (meets 25% min)

<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$94,112.50 from the Rio Grande Basin Account to help fund the project: <i>Master Irrigator Program - Expanded Course Offerings SLV</i> . Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs discussed below.

**Water Activity Summary:** The Master Irrigator Program is a four-day, classroom-based program designed to equip San Luis Valley farmers with science-backed information on strategies and tools primarily relevant to crop management that producers can use to remain profitable while reducing on-farm consumptive water use.

The applicant has received previous funding from a Water Plan Grant and Sub district 1 to run the program for three years across the state, with 25 students every year. In 2022, there was significant interest in the program from the San Luis Valley for the applicant to run two classes of 25 to meet demand. If approved, this grant would allow the applicant to host a class of 25 in 2023 and an additional class in 2024.

Each class of 25 participants will represent at least 12,000 irrigated acres (four 120-acre crop circles per participant). A 35-member program advisory committee assists the program coordinator with curriculum design and delivery, program communications, and recruiting participants and sponsors, and developing partnerships.

To graduate, participants must complete all 32 hours, engage with classmates and instructors, and consider committing to using certain management strategies and/or tools

covered by the program. With their consent, the applicant will track graduates' commitment-related progress for three years. The applicant states their overall aim is to increase long-term regional economic and drought-related resilience, support state compact compliance, and provide management-oriented alternatives to mandatory well curtailment.

**Discussion:** This project supports the Rio Grande's education and outreach goals and aligns with the Water Plan's agricultural vision and actions including wise water use, engaging partners to prevent buy & dry.

**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.

<b>Funding Sources/Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Status</b>
Colorado Master Irrigator	\$35,000	\$31,850	\$66,850	Secured
Rio Grande Water Cons. District Sub-Districts	\$0	\$37,500	\$37,500	Secured
<b>Sub-Total Matching Funds</b>	\$35,000	\$69,350	\$104,350	
WSRF Rio Grande Basin Account	\$94,112.50	\$0	\$94,112.50	Secured
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$129,112.50</b>	<b>\$69,350</b>	<b>\$198,462.50</b>	

**CWCB Project Manager:** Nora Flynn

**Water Supply Reserve Fund  
Water Activity Summary Sheet  
September 20-21, 2022  
Consent Agenda Item 3(b)**

**Applicant & Grantee:** Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed  
**Water Activity Name:** Phase 2 - Fish Passage Design for the Whitney & BH Eaton Reach of the Cache la Poudre River  
**Water Activity Purpose:** Agricultural, Education & Outreach, Nonconsumptive (Environmental) - Study  
**County:** Weld  
**Drainage Basin:** South Platte River  
**Water Source:** Poudre River  
**Amount Requested:** \$72,970 South Platte Basin Account  
**Matching Funds:** Basin Account Match = \$24,900 (cash)

- 25% of Total Project Cost (meets 25% min)

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of up to \$72,970 from the South Platte Basin Account to help fund the project: *Phase 2 - Fish Passage Design for the Whitney & BH Eaton Reach of the Cache la Poudre River.*

Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs discussed below.

**Water Activity Summary:** The proposed water activity is the second phase of a multi-objective project to restore fish passage to the Whitney and BH Eaton Reach of the Cache la Poudre River (Poudre).

The applicant's goals for this multi-phase project include improving the resiliency of the Reach by restoring 13 miles of the Poudre to be fish passable while benefiting local ditch companies. The Whitney & BH Eaton Diversion structures are located on the Poudre in the Town of Windsor.

The affected reach is approximately 800ft long. The Whitney is ~1/10 mile upstream of the BH Eaton reach. Both structures are complete barriers for the Poudre's native fish species migration. The Whitney diversion is 150 feet long & diverts up to 70cfs, supplying water for both agriculture & municipalities. The BH Eaton diversion is 90 feet long & diverts up to 40cfs, supplying water for agriculture & municipalities.

In 2021, a 50% design for fish passage & diversion replacement was completed for both structures. If approved, funding from the WSRF program will be used to complete the

hydraulic design & develop more accurate models based on field calibration to ensure the proposed fish passage & upgraded diversion structures will operate as desired.

**Discussion:** This project aligns with goals the Water Plan and the updated South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, specifically, goal 7C to identify, assess, and implement actions, programs and measures that aim to protect, maintain, and improve conditions and long-term sustainability of streams, lakes, floodplains, riparian areas, wetlands, and wet meadows for self-sustaining fisheries and functional waterfowl, beaver, and other aquatic habitats.

**Issues/Additional Needs:** If approved, the applicant must secure match funding prior to contracting. No other 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.

<b>Funding Sources/Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Status</b>
US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$16,900	\$0	\$16,900	Pending
Mighty Arrow Family Foundation	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000	Secured
<b>Sub-Total Matching Funds</b>	<b>\$24,900</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$24,900</b>	
WSRF South Platte Basin Account	\$72,970	\$0	\$72,970	Secured
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$97,870</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$97,870</b>	

**CWCB Project Manager:** Chris Sturm

**Water Supply Reserve Fund  
Water Activity Summary Sheet  
September 20-21, 2022  
Consent Agenda Item 3(c)**

**Applicant & Grantee:** Nicholas & Ann Charchalis  
**Water Activity Name:** Drescher Dam Rehabilitation - Phase 2  
**Water Activity Purpose:** Agricultural - Implementation  
**County:** Moffat  
**Drainage Basin:** Yampa River  
**Water Source:** Bear River/Stillwater Reservoir  
**Amount Requested:** \$62,440 Yampa/White/Green Basin Account  
**Matching Funds:** Basin Account Match = \$62,440 (cash)

- 50% of Total Project Cost (meets 25% min)

<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$62,440 from the Yampa/White/Green Basin Account to help fund the project: <i>Drescher Dam Rehabilitation - Phase 2</i> . Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs discussed below.

**Water Activity Summary:** The applicants operate a farm and cattle ranch, totaling 3,000 acres. The acreage includes 1,500 acres of expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land converted to improved grazing land, 400 acres of dryland hay, 120 acres of irrigated hay, and 980 acres of native pasture. The applicants are hoping to increase their mother cow herd of 80 head of cattle to 175, which will require increased forage production.

The Drescher Dam is currently on the Division of Dam Safety's Restricted List, and its storage capacity has been reduced to 8 feet below the emergency spillway. The applicant held a meeting with the Dam Safety Engineer and their design engineer and they completed a preliminary plan to develop approved specifications for rehabilitation, and immediate risk reduction measures back in 2020 and was completed in 2021. WSRF funds were used for the engineering & design of the project and is near completion.

The current proposal involves the long-term rehabilitation repairs. If approved, grant funds will be used to repair several components to meet the requirements of Dam Safety including: embankment earthwork to repair upstream water erosion scarp and re-shape embankment crest and repair deep rodent holes; remove concrete rubble from dam and use on spillway; placing wave-protection rock riprap on upstream face; mitigate seeps by installing toe drains; and replace outlet pipe and excavation work.

**Discussion:** This aligns with several goals in the Yampa-White-Green Basin Implementation Plan including: Protecting and encouraging agricultural uses of water in the YWG Basin within the context of private property rights; improving agricultural water supplies to increase irrigated land and reduce shortages; and restoring, maintaining, and modernizing water storage and distribution 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.

<b>Funding Sources/Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Status</b>
Nicholas & Ann Charchalis	\$62,440	\$0	\$62,440	Secured
<b>Sub-Total Matching Funds</b>	\$62,440	\$0	\$62,440	
WSRF Yampa/White/Green Basin Account	\$62,440	\$0	\$62,440	Secured
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$124,880</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$124,880</b>	

**CWCB Project Manager:** Ben Wade