



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: May 2, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda 2a-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 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 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.

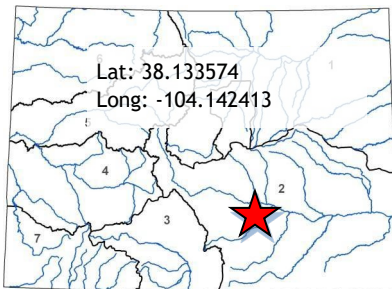
Water Supply Reserve Fund Balance Summary and Project Status Report:

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 Grant Application



LOCATION
Counties: Otero, Pueblo
Drainage Basin: Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$92,500
Total WSRF Grant Request:	\$78,625
<i>Arkansas Basin Account Request:</i>	\$9,250
<i>Statewide Account Request:</i>	\$69,375
Recommended Amount:	\$78,625
<i>Other CWCB Funding:</i>	\$0
<i>Other Funding Amount:</i>	\$0
<i>Applicant Match:</i>	\$13,875
<i>Project Type(s):</i> Other - Planning	
<i>Water Use Type:</i> Agricultural	
<i>Statewide Category:</i> Aging Infrastructure	
<i>Measurable Result:</i> "The many farmers that are served under the Highline Canal will have a clear vision of the best alternative to replace or repair their diversion structure."	

If approved, the applicant will use WSRF funds to conduct a feasibility study to determine the best course of action to repair or replace the aging diversion structure for the Rocky Ford Highline Canal on the Arkansas River. The applicant states the existing structure is over 100 years old and has significant seepage issues and is in jeopardy of failure. The structure diverts water to approximately 22,500 acres of irrigated farmland in Pueblo and Otero Counties.

The main objective of the feasibility study is to determine the best course of action for the applicant to take, to ensure that it will be able to continue to deliver water to the shareholders. The applicant will hire a consultant who will develop up to three design alternatives for the applicant to consider that may improve efficiency and reduce sediment buildup in the canal system.



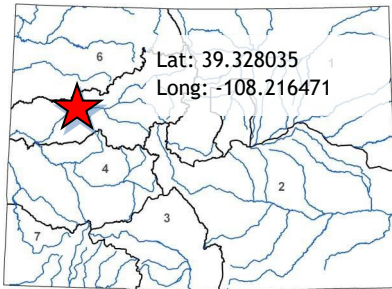
The Arkansas Basin Roundtable believes this project supports the goals of the Colorado Water Plan and the Basin Implementation plan by helping to sustain a strong agricultural presence in the Arkansas Valley and it meets another focus area of their Basin Implementation Plan by replacing aging infrastructure.

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

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of \$9,250 from the Arkansas Basin Account & up to \$69,375 from the Statewide Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.



Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



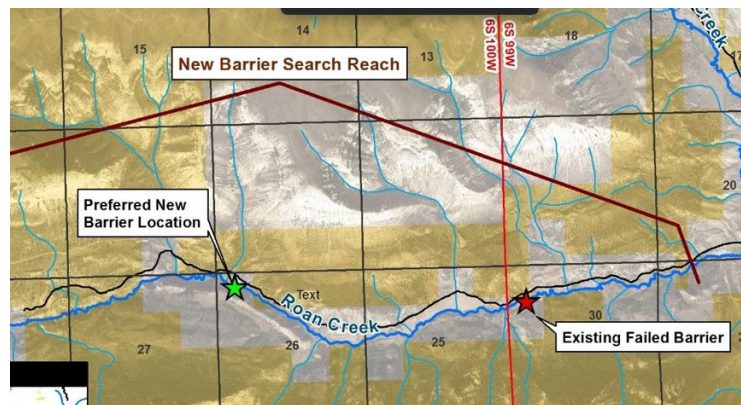
LOCATION
County: Garfield
Drainage Basin: Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$847,512.31
Total WSRF Grant Request:	\$84,754
Colorado Basin Account Request:	\$84,754
Recommended Amount:	\$84,754
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$760,658.31
Applicant Match:	\$2,100
Project Type(s): Construction/Implementation	
Major Water Use Type: Environmental	
Measurable Result: 162 linear feet of stream protection or restoration.	

The upper portion of Roan Creek contains a unique native fish assemblage comprised of Colorado River cutthroat trout, bluehead sucker, Paiute sculpin, and speckled dace. The applicant states that physical isolation of native fish species is a recognized management technique frequently employed by natural resource managers to protect unique and important populations and community assemblages. To protect the headwater populations of native fishes in the long-term, a new fish barrier must be constructed that effectively eliminates the upstream movement of non-native fish. Once constructed, the barrier will also facilitate a mechanical or chemical reclamation project to remove any remaining nonnative trout from portions of the headwaters of the stream.

The project is located on the mainstem of Roan Creek approximately 18 miles from the Town of De Beque. Roan Creek, a high-gradient stream with its headwaters in the Roan Plateau, is a 45.7-mile-long tributary to the Colorado River.

The project will benefit the water rights owner by providing overall enhancements for a more efficient water diversion that includes reconstruction of the concrete diversion and includes a head gate, fish screen, ditch lining and flow measuring devices. Maintaining the ability to divert the fully allocated water right is paramount.



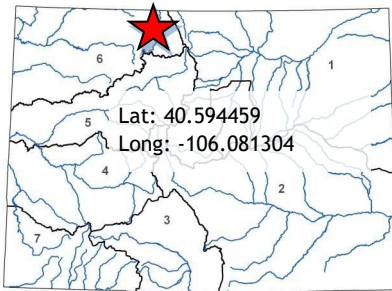
The project aligns with the goals & themes of the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan by protecting and restoring healthy streams, rivers, lakes, and riparian areas.

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

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval up to \$84,754 from the Colorado Basin Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.



Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION
County: Jackson
Drainage Basin: North Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$79,899
Total WSRF Grant Request:	\$50,369
North Platte Basin Account Request:	\$50,369
Recommended Amount:	\$50,369
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$21,780
Applicant Match:	\$7,750
Project Type(s): Construction/Implementation	
Major Water Use Type: Agricultural	
Measurable Result: \$100 efficiency savings per year; Other: 10% increase in irrigation water use efficiency; 1,050 feet of canal improvement	

If approved, the applicant would use WSRF funds to purchase and install and/or replace eight irrigation water check structures along a 1,050 foot section of the Gibbs ditch in Jackson County. The installation of the structures will improve water control in the ditch, greatly reducing irrigation induced erosion and sediment movement. The headgate for the Gibbs ditch is located on Peterson Creek, a tributary of the Michigan River.

The applicant has also secured funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS to contribute to the project. NRCS staff will be performing a field visit to inspect and certify the structures are built to NRCS standards and specifications.

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

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of up to \$50,369 from the North Platte Basin Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.

