



Last Updated: June 2020

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

Matthew.Stearns@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	Montezuma School to Farm Project	
Name of Water Project	Montezuma CWP Education Initiative	
CWP Grant Request Amount		\$147,000
Other Funding Sources	<u>USDA Grant</u>	\$25,000
Other Funding Sources	<u>Montezuma Inspire Coalition</u>	\$25,000
Other Funding Sources	<u>RAD: La Puente</u>	\$67,000
Applicant Funding Contribution		\$32,000
Total Project Cost		\$296,000



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Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Montezuma School to Farm Project
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 604 Mancos, CO 81328
FEIN	84-4298006
Organization Contact	Gretchen Rank
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	director.mstfp@gmail.com
Phone	970-560-5638
Grant Management Contact	Hayley Kwasniewski
Position/Title	Financial Administrator
Email	hayley.kwasniew@gmail.com
Phone	219-689-4827
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
Description of Grantee/Applicant	
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).	
<p>Montezuma School to Farm Project began in 2009 as a farm field trip. The goal was to encourage environmental stewardship and ignite pride in local agriculture. This effort grew to building and maintaining school gardens. The educational pieces were integrated into daily curriculum and expanded to all public schools in the county. Currently, MSTFP works with the Mancos, Cortez, and Dolores School Districts on curriculum, providing hands-on experiential education for k-12 students. Programs include lessons on conservation, science, math, art, and literature, summer programming, high school FarmCorps cohorts, and paid internships.</p>	

Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public (Districts): Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Incorporated: Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.



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	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:

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	Montezuma County
Latitude	N/A- project will be located at public schools in the county



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Longitude	N/A- project will be located at public schools in the county
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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.

MSTFP seeks to utilize its existing capacity to implement detailed CWP curriculum. The Montezuma CWP Education Initiative will develop K-12th curriculum centered around the CWP for over 2,100 students in the county. Our programming will focus on three age ranges: elementary, middle, and high school students. Montezuma School to Farm Project (MSTFP) will create a K-8th grade curriculum map with lessons that build on each other from one year to the next. Topics will cover conservation, water as a crucial resource, watershed health, soil and drought conditions, and human impacts. These lessons combined create a holistic picture of water importance for students, from the soil that facilitates plant growth to water in their own homes. These lessons will have specific focus on the three local southwest sub-basins: the Mancos, the Dolores, and McElmo Creek. Building on this curriculum, MSTFP will outline middle school lessons and programs focusing on hands-on applications of water conservation. This will include how MSTFP grows between 4,000 - 7,000 lbs of produce annually utilizing water saving methods. These lessons will incorporate more complex math and science ideas and topics. For high school students, MSTFP will expand its internship and FarmCorps programs to provide older students with water conservation and sustainable agricultural career pathways. It is crucial to start environmental education early to ensure the future generation is passionate about water conservation in Colorado. Funding from the CWP Grant Program will be used for a two-year project, funding staff resources and lesson materials to bring CWP curriculum to over 2,100 students annually. MSTFP hopes to continue these educational pieces past 2023, adjusting to the CWP as it grows and develops based on Colorado needs.

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



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2,158	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity	
7,050	Other	Explain: Student hours of CWP educational programming

Water Project Justification

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).

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;)

Section 9.5 Outreach, Education, and Public Engagement of the Colorado Water Plan describes the collaboration with the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education and others to create the Water Education Taskforce. One of their recommendations was to "support a statewide public education initiative." The Montezuma CWP Education Initiative will bring critical environmental education to the Montezuma County public education system. Additionally, Section 9.5 of the CWP outlines some BIP long-term goals, including to "[1.] work closely with organizations that specialize in the facilitation of public education and outreach programs in order to leverage existing resources within each basin and increase overall impact and [2.] enhance coordination and financial support that enable watershed groups and other grassroots organizations to effectively engage the public and increase participation." MSTFP will support these endeavors through our capacity to engage with the public-school system. MSTFP has partnered with the school districts within Montezuma County for more than a decade. Our robust communication and implementation systems will be used to support Colorado Water Plan objectives and goals, while maintaining adaptable and high-quality education.

The Statewide Water Supply Initiative discusses implications of Colorado population growth on water systems. This is a critical priority in Montezuma County. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs projects that Montezuma County's population will see a 67% increase by 2050 (The Journal, "Water experts prepare for state population boom"). MSTFP curriculum will include these statistics and emphasize the priority of closing the supply and demand gap outlined in the Statewide Water Supply Initiative.

MSTFP will also support the objectives set forth by the Southwest Basin Roundtable. A significant part of the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan covers educational and outreach objectives. MSTFP's Montezuma CWP Education Initiative will include information pertinent to local watersheds in the southwest region, including specific information on the Dolores River and Mancos River, both of which are critical to the county. Lessons will also cover drought resiliency, which significantly impacts Montezuma County. These efforts also align with the Southwest Basin Roundtable Education Plan. If community members experience environmental education in outdoor learning garden classrooms during their formative years, they are more likely to make decisions based on the information. They will also likely share these lessons with their families and others in the community, adding to the overall awareness of the county.

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.



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In early 2020, MSTFP conducted its own study on local opinions and priorities related to the county's educational system. Our surveys found that 80.6% of parents, 68.96% of county teachers, 91.93% of community members prioritize teaching conservation and drought resiliency to students. After communication with school districts and increasing school representation on our Board of Directors and Programs Committee, we found that teachers often have too much on their plates to prioritize outside curriculum inside their classrooms. Through this collaboration, MSTFP will be a supportive role in the endeavor to increase conservation awareness within students that live in a water-precarious community. This will relieve the burden on teachers and provide students with important educational resources and career pathways.

MSTFP also found that the garden classes impassion students to be environmental stewards. 90.32% of students said that garden classes increased their interest in agriculture and/or environmental science. 29.03% of students stated that garden classes increased the likelihood of them continuing environmental education in high school and of them planning a future career in the environmental industry. It is important to note that over 50% of students stated that this was not applicable to them since they have not started planning for high school or careers due to their age. This data shows that outdoor learning environments help foster environmental stewardship. With an increase in water conservation programming, it is likely that MSTFP's garden classes and career pathways will further impact students and their professional and educational goals.

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.

Montezuma School to Farm Project received support from CWCB in 2016 to educate students when MSTFP was a program under the Mancos Conservation District. For context, MSTFP was founded by the Mancos Conservation District in 2009. However, both Cortez and Dolores School Districts voiced that they wanted MSTFP to expand into their jurisdictions. What started as a farm field trip grew into an organization serving thousands of students by providing 30,000+ student hours of programming annually. To increase MSTFP's capacity and reach, in 2020 it became its own 501(c)3 non-profit with a diverse 9 member Board, 11 staff members, and is now represented countywide.

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.

TABOR does not affect MSTFP.



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Submittal Checklist	
	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⁾
	Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
x	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
	Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
x	Letters of Support (Optional)
	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾
	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾
	W-9 ⁽²⁾
	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.



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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)?

The Montezuma CWP Education Initiative will educate over 2,100 K-8th students on critical concepts relating to the Colorado Water Plan. Depending on grade level, students will learn about water conservation, watersheds, the water cycle, and why conserving water is a significant priority in Colorado. These lessons will focus on both local and statewide concepts. Additionally, MSTFP will provide more focused curriculum to middle school students and career pathway development for high school students centered on water conservation and environmental resources.

Who is/are the target audience(s)? How will you reach them? How will you involve the community?



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Overview (answer for both tracks)

MSTFP will incorporate water conservation lessons and programs throughout Montezuma County, resulting in a largescale educational campaign with significant impacts. The curriculum will cover statewide water initiatives, as well as focused concepts specific to the Southwest Basin. One target audience for the Montezuma CWP Education Initiative is all K-5th students in the Montezuma County public school system. This includes the Cortez, Dolores, and Mancos School Districts. Over the last ten years, MSTFP has worked to build, maintain, and teach in school gardens at all 7 public elementary schools in Montezuma County. MSTFP's staff collaborates with the school districts and teaches monthly garden classes to every student during the school day. Lessons cover a range of topics, including nutrition, math, science, art, and literature. All lessons are in accordance with state educational standards. The Montezuma CWP Education Initiative would be incorporated into regular garden classes, guaranteeing all 2,158 students would be apart of the initiative.

Middle school curriculum will also be a part of the K-8th curriculum map. These lessons will increase in complexity and provide more challenging education in accordance with state standards. Cortez Middle School, Dolores Middle School, and Mancos Middle School have voiced interest in expanding elementary in-school garden classes to the middle schools. Additionally, MSTFP will provide summer programming to K-8th grade students who are interested in a more in-depth experience with experiential education. This weeklong program will incorporate a water conservation track into the schedule for all students. These fun activities will promote student enjoyment towards STEM education, increasing their interest and participation levels.

Another audience will be our older students. The Cortez Middle School (CMS) is the site of our 2-acre production plot, one of our school gardens, and an outdoor pavilion classroom. MSTFP will use this space to provide students with professional development opportunities through FarmCorps cohorts and intensive internship programs. These students will work alongside our Production Manager learning about the hands-on applications of growing food while conserving water. There will also be trainings and professional development resources available for students wishing to expand their knowledge of and experience with water conservation professional pathways.

There is also evidence, both academically and within our community, that students share these concepts with their families and parents/guardians. MSTFP's model works to ensure parents are aware of what their children are learning in these programs. School district partners are also involved in the process and collaborate with MSTFP consistently. Food partners in the area work with us to determine best practices and organize food distribution efforts. This model joins several partners in an effort to support environmental stewardship and sustainable agriculture in Montezuma County that centers around the Colorado Water Plan.

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?



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Overview (answer for both tracks)
<p>Montezuma School to Farm Project will partner with several entities to ensure students have high-quality water conservation education. MSTFP has close partnerships with the Mancos Conservation District and the High Desert Conservation District. Along with other partners, including local agricultural producers and educators, these entities collaborate with MSTFP to make sure the curriculum maps are informative, comprehensive, and attainable. Additionally, MSTFP partners with the Cortez, Dolores, and Mancos School Districts and the Southwest Open School. The planning, scheduling, and implementation of garden classes and other programming requires consistent communication and collaboration. The schoolteachers are also present during the lessons, allowing them to contribute to the water conservation educational process. We also work with teachers so that garden class curriculum coincides with their STEM programming. This deepens students' comprehension of STEM core concepts through hands-on, practical applications. This system also promotes constructive feedback on lesson planning and curriculum.</p>
<p>Describe how you plan to measure and evaluate the success and impact of the project?</p>
<p>MSTFP utilizes several tracking methods to evaluate program implementation and success. Quantitative data will be collected, including how many students participate in the lessons, how many program student hours take place, and how many topics were taught during the school year. We will also analyze the effectiveness of the curriculum mapping and the grade-to-grade progression.</p> <p>Additionally, MSTFP will utilize surveys to gather feedback from the students and teachers, who will be actively involved in programming. AmeriCorps Garden Coordinators will give short surveys at the beginning and end of each semester to gauge changes in student attitudes towards water conservation. Teachers will also be surveyed on how the curriculum map corresponded with their lesson plans, how garden classes deepen students' comprehension of core curriculum, and on their experience partnering with MSTFP and the efficiency of the process.</p>
<p>What research, evidence, and data support your project?</p>



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Overview (answer for both tracks)

Several studies indicate that school garden environments enrich students' educational experiences. They help with focus, social-emotional wellbeing, and promote responsibility in students. One such study is "Student Growth Within the School Garden: Addressing Personal/Social, Academic, and Career Development" by J. M. Swank of the University of Florida. This study states several benefits of experiential learning environments, including academic improvements, social-emotional learning, and increased focus and core curriculum comprehension, making gardens a wonderful place to learn about the natural world and water conservation outlined in the CWP.

Numerous studies also indicate that environmental education not only impacts student attitudes, but also influences how families think and function in terms of the environment and water conservation. "Child-orientated environmental education influences adult knowledge and household behavior" by P. Damerell, C. Howe, and E. J. Milner-Gulland and "Effects of a Water Conservation Education Program on Water Use in Single-family Homes in Dallas, Texas" by V. Faubion Serna showcase these findings. In both studies, families were likely to alter their water conservation behaviors when their child was learning about water conservation in the classroom. This shows that outreach via students improves community knowledge outside of the classroom. MSTFP believes the Montezuma CWP Education Initiative will have lasting impacts on Montezuma County adults and families.

During the study MSTFP conducted in early 2020, 89.39% of parents said their children were excited to share what they learned in garden class with them, showing students would likely share water conservation topics with their parents and families as well. This supports studies indicating that water conservation education impacts more individuals than only the students. Of the students surveyed, 83.87% said garden classes improved their comprehension of core curriculum, 93.65% said garden classes increased their excitement towards attending school, and 90.32% said garden classes increased their excitement to learn about environmental science. Additionally, a quarter of students said garden classes increased the likelihood of them continuing environmental education in high school. It is important to note that over 50% of students stated that this was not applicable to them since they have not started planning for high school or careers due to their age. MSTFP wants to build on this momentum and create the Montezuma CWP Education Initiative to further increase students' knowledge and passion about water conservation.

Describe potential short- and long-term challenges with this project.

Short-term challenges mainly relate to the COVID-19 pandemic. When schools closed in early 2020, MSTFP still brought programming to students through online materials and at-home activities. In the case that schools close again, we have plans to still reach students. This will require flexibility and communication with schools, parents, and teachers. MSTFP ensures that all state and local guidelines are adhered to, while also following all three school districts' PPE plans and mitigating any spread of the virus.

Montezuma School to Farm Project wants its CWP and water conservation curriculum to stay relevant as water needs, technologies, and innovations grow in the coming years. A long-term challenge is to ensure that 5-10 years from now, when the climates and landscapes change, MSTFP is able to annually adapt and update its curriculum so that students are as prepared as possible to be high-quality water stewards.

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



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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."

Montezuma School to Farm Project will reach over 2,100 K-5th grade students, educating all public-school elementary students in the county. We will expand our existing elementary school programs to the middle school level, collaborating with the Cortez, Mancos, and Dolores Middle Schools. Topics will vary by age, ranging from what is water conversation to actionable items that conserve water. This ensures student engagement with CWP topics, goals, and implementations. Each grade receives specialized lessons dedicated to teaching students about the critical importance of water and the Colorado Water Plan. Furthermore, there is significant data to support the idea that students will share this information with their families. To increase the probability of this, the crafts created during classes are taken home, which are likely to spark conversations in the house. As students go through each grade level of the curriculum map, they will be equipped with deep knowledge of local and statewide watershed issues, water conservation, and environmental sustainability. That, along with the holistic educational pieces given to students, will increase community awareness in water conversation, best practices for conserving water, and the Colorado Water Plan.

The career pathway programming for middle and high school students includes paid internships and FarmCorps cohorts, allowing students to work in the gardens and production plot every day for four weeks. Our CMS production plot produces between 4,000 - 7,000 lbs of produce annually while being fed by one 1.5" "lay flat" mainline connected to 5/8" drip tape, putting out roughly 0.25 GPM on 25' long beds. MSTFP also utilizes crop rotation and a cover crop regiment aimed to increase the organic matter and water holding capacity in our soil. Other gardens are set up with a 1/2" poly pipe to drip tape system set on a 2 to 3-day timer depending on the season/heat. These systems water at sunrise to minimize loss to evaporation. Middle and high school students will learn about these water conservation systems happening right in their own community. They will also see the reward as they help deliver the thousands of pounds of produce to local foodbanks and food shares. This holistic overview of water conservation, soil health, sustainable practice, agriculture, and community will impact students and showcase the significance of water conservation.

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.

Colorado Water Plan concepts are included in the curriculum map. These include the supply and demand gap, land use and agricultural practices, and watershed health. This will increase community knowledge and support for projects that promote water conservation, especially as these students grow. Additionally, garden classes have already demonstrated themselves to be pathways for students to seek further environmental education and career opportunities. By increasing water conservation curriculum, MSTFP will deepen its professional pipelines for community leaders that are passionate about water conservation, the environment, and natural resources.

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



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Section 4.1 Education, Participation, and Outreach of the Southwest Regain Basin Implementation Plan lists short-term goals of their education objectives and goals. Two of the goals are to “encourage education and conservation to reduce demand and implement informational events about [water conservation and land-use planning] and water reuse efforts, tools and strategies.” The K-5th grade lessons MSTFP developed through the Montezuma CWP Education Initiative will educate the public and community. The lessons will focus on reducing demand on the Colorado system through actionable conservation items, increased passion for the environment, and a collective effort to protect the local watersheds. The career pathways for older students will allow young professionals and leaders to utilize this knowledge for real-world, practical applications. This student to professional pipeline focused on water conservation will allow the future workforce of Montezuma County to thrive while facing water gaps, conservation issues, and other environmental complexities.

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

The Southwestern Basin’s 2016-2018 PEPO Education Action Plan states that “the PEPO Workgroup... is tasked with: creating a process to inform, involve, and educate the public on the IBCC’s activities and the progress of the inter-basin compact negotiations; creating a mechanism by which public input and feedback can be relayed to the IBCC and compact negotiators; and educating IBCC and roundtable members on water issues.” In order to educate the public and create mechanisms to ensure feedback and progress on water conservation projects, the public must be knowledgeable about baseline environmental science, water conservation, and quantitative reasoning. The Montezuma CWP Education Initiative provides the high-quality, holistic education necessary for the community to comprehend all aspects of the CWP and implement important water conservation practices, especially as students share information with their families and grow up to become the county leadership.



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Colorado Water Conservation Board	
Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A	

Statement Of Work	
Date:	06/01/2021-08/01/2023
Name of Grantee:	Montezuma School to Farm Project
Name of Water Project:	Montezuma CWP Education Initiative
Funding Source:	CWP Education and Innovation Grant
Water Project Overview:	
<p>Montezuma School to Farm Project is proposing a two-year comprehensive, holistic educational curriculum campaign for Montezuma County elementary, middle, and high school students. The Montezuma CWP Education Initiative will inform young students on foundational water conservation and CWP topics, bolster environmental and water conservation career pathways, and create a Montezuma County pipeline for future leaders that advocate for efficient and sustainable water conservation practices.</p> <p>Our elementary and middle school curriculum map will include 5-7 lessons per K-8th grade. MSTFP will develop 40 lessons based on the Colorado Water Plan, including population growth, local watersheds, and actionable steps. Each lesson will have an open circle to encourage discussion, garden journaling to promote independent reasoning, and crafts to spark creativity and provide different platforms for education. These crafts and take-home activities will likely promote conversations at home and with families. With the gardens as the backdrop, students will experience the outdoors fully and have access to the topics discussed in the lessons. The lesson curriculum map will build from one year to the next, ensuring that young students have a foundation of knowledge regarding water conservation and environmental stewardship. Additionally, MSTFP will provide a weeklong summer programming for K-8th grade students, with consistent emphasis on water conservation and CWP curriculum.</p> <p>The middle and high school professional pathway programs will build on this foundation and provide hands-on experience in water conservation practices. Students will learn about, observe, and partake in growing thousands of pounds of produce using a one 1.5" "lay flat" mainline connected to 5/8" drip tape, agriculture practices that regenerate the soil, cover crop rotations to improve soil watering capacity, and the communication among local partners required to sustainably produce food. They will comprehend the foundational lessons learned in their earlier curriculum and see the process unfold directly. These positions will bolster professional development and pipelines for water conscientious students in the county.</p> <p>This project will deliver Colorado Water Plan curriculum to students K-12 in the county. Older students with deeper passions for water conservation will have the opportunity to further their experiences and begin their professions in these industries. Younger students will have the critical foundation necessary for them to understand water conservation and become water stewards in the community. As the Colorado Water Conservation Board adjusts plans and goals based on Colorado needs, MSTFP will respond and adjust their programs. As technology evolves and practices change, so will lessons on problem solving and water conservation. As the county implements policies and procedures, MSTFP will include these pieces in students' education. This adaptable, holistic approach will equip our students with necessary knowledge and skills to better understand water conservation.</p>	



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Project Objectives:

- 1) Increase knowledge and awareness of the Colorado Water Plan and Southwest Basin Implementation Plan among all K-5th grade students in the Montezuma County public school system**
- 2) Increase knowledge and awareness of foundational water conservation terms and topics, like soil health, demand gaps, and land usage, among all K-5th grade students in the Montezuma County public school system**
- 3) Increase knowledge and awareness of the CWP, SWBIP, and foundational water conservation terms and topics among 6-8th grade students in the Montezuma County public school system**
- 4) Promote environmental stewardship among students as they become the county's leaders**
- 5) Improve local awareness of issues pertinent to Montezuma County, namely increasing droughts and populations, further straining the county's water systems**
- 6) Support conversations around water conservation and the Colorado Water Plan among families and households**
- 7) Increase awareness on actionable steps and innovative solutions relating to water conservation efforts among Montezuma County students and families**
- 8) Provide career pathways for students interested while focusing on sustainability and water conservation**
- 9) Provide professional development resources for middle and high school students interested in learning about how to take their environmental stewardship and create a lifelong career out of it**



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Tasks
Task 1 – Create an intentional, comprehensive K-8th curriculum map around the Colorado Water Plan and Southwest Basin Implementation Plan
Description of Task:
<p>Montezuma School to Farm Project staff will create 5-7 lessons for K-8th grade students. This map will allow MSTFP to teach several key topics and mechanisms as they relate to water conservation. Lessons will become more challenging as students age, building on each other as the students move through the educational system. MSTFP will conduct research with local and state education, agriculture, and conservation partners to ensure these lessons are well informed, impactful, and applicable to current climates. MSTFP will also ask partners and stakeholders for feedback on this curriculum map. This curriculum map will be available to other entities. These lessons and the map will be living documents, providing a foundation of curriculum while being adaptable to changing environments and climates, with careful attention and updates following year 1 programming. As Colorado water needs change and plans are updated, MSTFP will respond quickly and provide students with up-to-date, pertinent education.</p>
Method/Procedure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with state and local partners, educators, and organizations to create informed lessons on the Colorado Water Plan and Southwest Basin Implementation Plan• Identify key learning objectives as they relate to state and local water conservation initiatives and efforts• Utilize existing MSTFP Drought Curriculum Manuals to support educational efforts with an emphasis on local issues• Incorporate topics, objectives, and actionable steps outlined by the Colorado Water Plan and the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan with foundational knowledge on water conservation• Outline a comprehensive curriculum map and guide by grade• Create lessons with opening circle, learning objectives, journaling, and creative activities to foster deep learning experiences• Combine lessons to create a comprehensive and digestible curriculum map to act as a teaching tool for not only MSTFP's teaching staff, but also for others who want the information• Adjust, as needed, based on feedback, CWP developments, and year 1 data for year 2 implementation-continue this process for future years
Deliverables:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop 5-7 lessons per grade that incorporate water conservation, soil health, supply demand gaps, sustainable agriculture, and technological innovations• Ensure that lessons have actionable steps and take-home material to increase family and parental/guardianship exposure to Colorado Water Plan objectives• Create the overarching K-8th grade curriculum map with over 40 lessons



Last Updated: June 2020

Tasks
Task 2 – Engage elementary and middle school students in Colorado Water Plan topics, objectives, and goals
Description of Task:
<p>Montezuma School to Farm Project will implement the CWP lessons during regular, in-school garden classes at our seven school garden locations: Dolores Elementary School, Mancos Elementary School, Mesa Elementary School, Kemper Elementary School, Manaugh Elementary School, Lewis-Arriola Elementary School, and Cortez Middle School. The Dolores, Mancos, and Cortez Middle Schools want to implement similar programming, but at a more challenging curriculum level. We hope to expand our elementary garden classes to the middle school level. All 2,100+ students will be a part a monthly garden lesson, each student partaking in 3-5 CWP-related garden glasses annually. Additionally, MSTFP will provide more detailed curriculum programming during the summer for students interested in expanding their experiential education. This weeklong program will consistently include CWP and water conservation topics and activities. Students will be engaged in critical thinking processes, interactive teachings, and creative activities on water conservation while being in the outdoor garden classrooms.</p>
Method/Procedure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule the 210+ garden lessons with Mancos, Cortez, and Dolores Teachers and School Districts• Provide the AmeriCorps Garden Coordinators with the CWP and SWBIP so they comprehend where the lesson materials derive from• Train the AmeriCorps Garden Coordinators on the lesson layouts and general overview of the CWP curriculum map• Implement 3-5 CWP-focused garden classes per grade annually (this range is to account for things like absences or class cancelations)• Register students for and schedule garden summer programming at public elementary schools• Implement summer programming• Track student engagement and excitement towards the materials
Deliverables:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reach over 2,100 students at the 7 public elementary schools and 3 public middle schools in the county• Provide over 7,000 students hours of Colorado Water Plan and Southwest Basin Implementation Plan education annually• Report on successes and areas of improvement, receive feedback on student engagement



Last Updated: June 2020

Tasks
Task 3 – Provide career pathway programs for middle and high schools students relating to water conservation, sustainability, and environmental science
Description of Task: <p>Montezuma School to Farm Project will provide middle and high school students with professional opportunities that relate to water conservation and regenerative agriculture. We will host paid internship and FarmCorps cohorts for local students who want a closer look into water conservation practices with practical applications. Our growing system produces over 4,000 pounds of produce annually using a 1.5" "lay flat" mainline connected to 5/8" drip tape, putting out roughly 0.25 GPM on 25' long beds, crop rotations and cover crop regiments to increase the organic matter and water holding capacity in our soil, and solar energy to conduct our work. Students will work alongside our Production Manager to implement these processes and procedures. Their programming will directly relate to the Colorado Water Plan and build from the CWP curriculum learned in the K-5th courses. MSTFP will work with local landowners, farmers, and partners to provide these students with other trainings and professional opportunities. These experiences will let students deepen their passions for water conservation and provide career experiences. It is important to note that if schools close in 2021, we will still be able to provide these career pathways, since it is very doable to maintain distance and adhere to protocols at the 2-acre production plot with older students.</p>
Method/Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan tasks and topics to cover during their four-week long programming, including CWP related concepts, water conservation practices, and professional development• Coordinate how middle and high school programs will incorporate topics, problem solving methods, and innovative technique learned at the K-5th level• Schedule the sessions for the paid internships and FarmCorps positions• Promote the open positions in schools, online, and in other ways to reach students interested in these professional opportunities• Complete the hiring process and any necessary administrative duties before beginning the paid internship and FarmCorps programming• Implement four-week long professional development programming, with trainings, practical applications, and intensive educational efforts• Track student feedback and engagement
Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Host 10 professional positions for middle and high school students• Provide over 1,000 students hours of professional development, training, and experience for older students in Montezuma County• Ensure these students understand that there are several career options for people who are interested in water conservation, regenerative agriculture, and/or environmental science• Track and report successes and room for improvements to increase the impact of this programming



Last Updated: June 2020

Tasks
Task 4 – Prepare online and at-home materials and activities in case of school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic
Description of Task: <p>Montezuma School to Farm Project understands we are living in unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemics has made reaching students more challenging, but MSTFP will be dedicated to providing students with comprehensive water conservation education, especially since students and families will need support and activities to do at home. To fill this gap, MSTFP will create a website dedicated for students and their educational endeavors. This will include an entire section dedicated to water and water conservation. It will have versions of lessons to be taught in garden classes that are more applicable to at-home learning with an emphasis on getting outside and observing the natural world. Students will still be passionate water stewards and partake in the Colorado Water Plan curriculum. MSTFP has discussed this with the Cortez, Dolores, and Mancos School Districts and they will promote it directly to the parents of all students in the county. We also have support from teachers who will help promote this platform and work closely with us to determine which lessons are most applicable to classroom lessons. When MSTFP provided online resources in 2020, our website saw over 1,000 views. Since we will have more time to prepare and promote, we believe we will have more student engagement if this is needed in 2021.</p>
Method/Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create the website, mstfpkids.org, with water conservation lessons• Create 5-7 lessons or hands-on activities per grade relating to the CWP, SWBIP, and water conservation• Develop at-home materials and activities that engage students in water conservation education who may not have access to reliable devices or Wi-Fi• Promote the platform through the three school districts, teachers, and social media• Track and report student online engagement
Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create 30-40 online K-8th lessons and captivating activities that educate students on water conservation, while also getting them outside during the pandemic• Receive over 1,000 views on our website pertaining water conservation and environmental stewardship• Host online classes with AmeriCorps Garden Coordinators for more personal education



Last Updated: June 2020

Tasks
Task 5 – Evaluate and Share Year 1 Efforts
Description of Task:
Montezuma School to Farm Project will track and report all Colorado Water Plan programming with emphasis on student engagement, feedback, and staff experiences. It is crucially important to MSTFP that we critically analyze our programming to ensure it is reaching students in the most effective way possible. MSTFP will evaluate the year 1 efforts and feedback, make all adjustments necessary to year 2 implementation, and effectively improve programming.
Method/Procedure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect all data and reporting on garden classes with CWP curriculum and tabulate it based on grade and specific lessons• Analyze student engagement and staff, partner, and student feedback• Identify any improvement areas• Give advice and next steps for improving the programming and curriculum
Deliverables:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make any pertinent adjustments to the comprehensive Colorado Water Plan curriculum and programming• Create a report on year 1 programming, including number of students reached, number of student hours of programming provided, success, and area for improvement



Last Updated: June 2020

Tasks
Task 6 – Create a Year 2 Implementation Plan
Description of Task: <p>Based on the Task 5 reports, MSTFP will implement year 2 programming. This will include over 40 lessons on the Colorado Water Plan, career pathway programming, local and state water conservation efforts, actionable steps, and key foundational topics necessary to understand water and natural resource systems. Any improvements to these deliverables will be informed by partners, staff, AmeriCorps Coordinators, students, and teachers. We hope to reach more students during the year 2 programming, or the 2022-2023 school year, since the COVID-19 pandemic will likely have less of an impact on public schools and student attendance. We will, however, be prepared to strengthen our at-home resources for students if the pandemic still represents an issue.</p>
Method/Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update programming, curriculum maps, and procedures based on the reporting done on year 1 efforts and projects• Train the new AmeriCorps Cohort similarly to the year 1 process with the addition of the improvements made for the year 2 programming• Implement K-5th grade programming through the in-school garden classes with lessons involving water conservation, the Colorado Water Plan, and Southwest Basin Implementation Plan• Implement the middle and high school career pathway programming, which includes paid internships and FarmCorps cohort• Track and report student engagements and feedback to continue Colorado Water Plan curriculum past the 2022-2023 school year
Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement over 200 garden classes on the Colorado Water Plan• Reach over 2,100 students• Host at least 10 professional positions for middle and high school students• Provide over 7,000 students hours of CWP classes for elementary students and professional development, training, and experience for older students in Montezuma County• Ensure young students receive the foundational education necessary to comprehend the Colorado Water Plan and key concepts of water conservation• Ensure these students understand that there are several career options for people who are interested in water conservation, regenerative agriculture, and/or environmental science• Track and report successes and room for improvements to increase the impact of this programming



Last Updated: June 2020

Tasks
Task 7 – Administration and Progress Reports
Description of Task:
Montezuma School to Farm Project will submit timely and comprehensive progress reports to the Colorado Water Conservation Board in accordance with grant guidelines. Additionally, MSTFP will provide staff time for oversight and administration of CWP grant programming. This will include tracking, reporting, and organizational needs that will develop as MSTFP implements the grant.
Method/Procedure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on grant implementation• Organize and tabulate programming materials and reports• Track program financials and expenditures• Consistently communicate with partners on reporting, deliverables, and program updates
Deliverables:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four reports every six months of the 2-year grant cycle• Provide a final report for the entire 2-year Colorado Water Plan Grant programming and implementation



Last Updated: June 2020

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



Last Updated: June 2020

Performance Measures

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.

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board**Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A
Budget and Schedule****Date: 12/1/20****Name of Applicant: Montezuma School to Farm Project****Name of Water Project: Montezuma CWP Education Initiative**

Task No.	Task Description	Start Date⁽¹⁾	End Date	Water Project Funding Category	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Create an intentional, comprehensive K-8th curriculum map around the Colorado Water Plan and Southwest Basin Implementation Plan	6/1/2021	7/1/2022	Engagement	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
2	Engage elementary and middle school students in Colorado Water Plan topics, objectives, and goals	6/1/2021	8/1/2023	Engagement	\$62,000	\$77,000	\$139,000
3	Provide career pathway programs for middle and high schools students relating to water conservation, sustainability, and environmental science	6/1/2021	8/1/2023	Engagement	\$50,000	\$28,100	\$78,100
4	Prepare online and at-home materials and activities in case of school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic	6/1/2021	8/1/2021	Engagement	\$5,000	\$13,200	\$18,200
5	Evaluate and Share Year 1 Efforts	6/1/2022	8/31/2022	Engagement	\$0	\$2,100	\$2,100
6	Create Year 2 Implementation Plan	6/1/2022	8/1/2022	Engagement	\$0	\$3,600	\$3,600
7	Administration and Progress Reports	6/1/2021	8/1/2023	Engagement	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
Total					\$147,000	\$149,000	\$296,000

(1) Start Date for funding under \$100K, minimum 45 Days from Board Approval; Start Date for funding over \$100K, minimum 90 Days from Board Approval.

·Round values up to the nearest hundred dollars.

·Reimbursement eligibility commences upon the grantee's receipt of a Notice to Proceed (NTP)

·NTP will not be accepted as a start date. Project activities may commence as soon as grantee enters contract and receives formal NTP if prior to the listed "Start Date".

·The applicant shall provide a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of contract execution.

·CWCB will withhold disbursement of the last 10% of the total grant amount until a Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff (2017 CWP Grant)

SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE

C/O La Plata Archuleta Water District
PO Box 1377
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

November 23, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant

Colorado Water Conservation Board,

The Southwest Basin Roundtable writes this letter to express support for Montezuma School to Farm Project (MSTFP) as it requests funding for implementing curriculum based on the Colorado Water Plan and the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan. This level of outreach and advocacy will help the Southwest Basin Roundtable and the Colorado Water Conservation Board reach its water system goals and objectives.

Montezuma County territory includes three of the nine distinct southwestern sub-basins: the Mancos, McElmo Creek, and the Dolores, all of which flow out of Colorado. Mesa Verde National Park, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are located within the county. Therefore, water conservation efforts in Montezuma County should be encouraged to support the complex water system and legal governing of water in the area, as well as meet gaps in water needs. This is especially true as Montezuma County's population, temperatures, and droughts increase.

Water conservation efforts are likely to not be as effective when there is not significant community awareness and support. Education and outreach are critical for success of the Colorado Water Plan. Objectives described in the Southwest Basin Roundtable Education Action Plan align with the work set forth by MSTFP. MSTFP's lessons and programming will equip thousands of students in the county with information on water conversation, sustainable agricultural, soil health as it relates to watersheds, and provide career pathways for students. This project will provide Montezuma County students with valuable education opportunities and create future leaders with a passion and advocacy for water conversation.

MSTFP will help the Southwest Basin Roundtable reach its future goals as the Colorado Water Plan and the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan change and adapt to ever-evolving landscapes. This is one reason the Southwest Basin Roundtable supports this educational campaign. We are confident that MSTFP will be an innovative, intentional, and impactful partner in our efforts to conserve water in the Southwest Basin. They will inform thousands of community members on critical topics and objectives set forth by the Southwest Basin Roundtable and Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Sincerely,



Edward Tolen
Southwest Basins Roundtable Chair

Mancos Elementary School

Cathy Epps, PK-5 Principal
cepps@mancosre6.edu

Alice Miller, Administrative Assistant
amiller@mancosre6.edu

Shanda Dalling, Behavior Analyst
sdalling@mancosre6.edu



301 West Grand Ave
Mancos, CO 81328
Ph: (970) 533-7744
Fx: (970) 533-1165

"In partnership with our community, we will foster safe, positive, and rigorous learning experiences."

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203
Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant

11/16/2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board,

It's with great excitement that the Mancos School District supports Montezuma School to Farm Project. MSTFP has been in our schools for over ten years and has consistently improved our educational system. The Mancos School District is excited for MSTFP to expand its programming and provide lessons and programming relating to the Colorado Water Plan. MSTFP has been incredibly successful at incorporating important issues into the school system.

Teachers, staff, and administrators consistently voice support for MSTFP. At every grade level, teachers have stated that MSTFP programs improve their students' learning experiences, increases students' excitement towards attending schools, and helps them teach core curriculum. Additionally, students have stated that MSTFP programming made them more interested in high school programs and careers in environmental science industries. We have no doubt these outcomes will transfer to water conservation curriculum.

We have found that students are incredibly impassioned when in experiential learning environments, especially when it comes to environmental stewardship. Water conservation is a top priority in Mancos, CO. Equipping students with the ability to address resource depletion, specifically water depletion, and learning how to conserve water will prepare them for their futures. Students need to be prepared to tackle an ever-changing landscape. MSTFP's Colorado Water Plan curriculum will improve our educational system and prepare students for their futures, while providing interesting and focused learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Epps', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Cathy Epps
Mancos PK-5 Principal
cepps@mancosre6.edu
970-533-7744



County Commissioners:

Larry Don Suckla

Jim Candelaria

Keenan G. Ertel

County Administrator:

Shalako L. Powers

Board of County Commissioners

109 West Main, Room 260

Cortez, CO 81321

(970) 565-8317

(970) 565-3420 Fax

Colorado Water Conservation Board

1313 Sherman St.

Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant

November 24, 2020

REF: Montezuma School to Farm Project

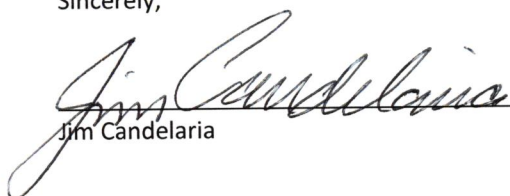
Dear Colorado State Conservation Board,

In our capacity as representatives of the Montezuma County Commissioners, we write this letter to voice support for the Montezuma School to Farm Project (MSTFP) and its intent to widely incorporate programming around the Colorado Water Plan and the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan. Water conservation is a top priority for Montezuma County and its Board of Commissioners. Drought, wildfires, increasing temperatures, and population growth all contribute to a greater strain on the county's water systems. The educational pieces MSTFP will deliver will help spread awareness of these issues and develop a professional pipeline for future county leaders.

The Four Corners Region is perhaps the hardest hit area in the county in terms of increasing droughts. A significant portion of Montezuma County's economy relies on water, including agriculture, tourism, food services, and recreation. As the water supply is strained, these economic avenues are impacted. This picture is worrisome. However, Montezuma County is committed to being aware, educated, and innovative as our local landscapes change. We share these priorities of innovation with MSTFP. They have always adapted programming to fit Montezuma County needs. The County Commissioners believe they will take this innovative mindset and apply it to water conservation curriculum.

The Montezuma County Board of Commissioners wants to ensure all students in the county have access to high-quality education and programs. MSTFP helps us in this endeavor by providing tailored curriculum and engaging learning spaces throughout the county. MSTFP works in 6 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 2 high schools in the county. Their impact goes far beyond the classroom. They help develop students to be forward thinkers and navigators. Montezuma County needs students who are prepared to confidently tackle modern-day problems. The Board of Commissioners for Montezuma County endorses MSTFP's efforts to support the next generation of water stewards. Our students are our legacy, and we approve of programming that helps them achieve success.

Sincerely,


Jim Candelaria
Keenan G. Ertel



**EVERY STUDENT.
EVERY DAY.**

P.O. Box R
400 North Elm Street
Cortez, Colorado 81321
Phone: (970) 565-7282
Fax: (970) 565-2161

www.cortez.k12.co.us

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203
Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant

November 17, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board,

The Montezuma-Cortez School District writes to the Colorado Water Conservation Board to express sincere support for Montezuma School to Farm Project (MSTFP). The local non-profit has built four elementary school gardens in our district, developed a production plot at the local middle school, and partners with several high schools by providing free produce and growing spaces. These fixtures improve the community landscape while also allowing students to experience high quality education in an interactive environment. These learning environments have been phenomenally successful in impacting students, engaging them with holistic education, and deepening their learning of topics covered.

We are seeing that the students take great pride in the gardens, their local landscapes, and agriculture in general. Their environmental stewardship is now on the forefront of their minds. We have no doubt that MSTFP incorporating water conservation lessons in their curriculum will improve the students' overall education. Our kids need to comprehend the significance of water conservation and the importance of our natural resources. This education will better prepare them for the future problems, available jobs, and problem solving.

The partnership between MSTFP and the Montezuma--Cortez School District represents educational innovation, promotes healthy lifestyles, and increases efforts to protect our environment and resources. The production plot and garden spaces will provide the perfect backdrop for the critical education around water conservation in a drought prone community.

Sincerely,

Lori Haukeness
District Superintendent
lhaukeness@cortez.k12.co.us

The Montezuma School to Farm Project unites our local agricultural heritage with our growing future by engaging students at the crossroads of sustainable agriculture, resource conservation, health, and economics experience in outdoor garden classes, on field trips, through youth farmers markets, and summer farm camp.



Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203
Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

The Montezuma School to Farm Project commits to a combination of cash and in-kind match in the amount of \$149,000.

This funding is a combination of private and federal funds. We will be receiving information on the approvals of these grant funding sources in December of 2020 and January of 2021. We are happy to send these letters of commitment and/or a letter explaining how we will compensate should funding be denied. The private and in-kind match commitments are already secured through our annual fundraising campaigns and in-kind volunteer contributions.

Our work within our programs will be stronger with this partnership. We will be better prepared to meet the needs within our county, serve each child as they grow in strength and maturity, and create opportunities for families that are facing challenges and barriers. In the last eleven years, the Montezuma School to Farm Project has created incredible life changing opportunities for Montezuma County youth. It is an inspirational example of how grass-roots outdoor conservation programming and a commitment to the stewardship of our future generations comes together to create lasting positive impacts.

We thank the Colorado Water Conservation Board for their consideration, and I am available to answer any follow up questions concerning our application or match commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gretchen Rank".

Gretchen Rank, Executive Director
Montezuma School to Farm Project

604 Bauer Avenue
P.O. Box 694
Mancos, CO 81328
970-533-7317



Southwest Open School

P.O. Box DD, Cortez, Co 81321

Phone 970-565-1150

Fax 970-565-8770

September 20, 2020

Re: Support for Montezuma School to Farm Project

Dear Grants Committee:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of strong support and enthusiasm for the proposed work that the Montezuma School to Farm Project is wishing to undertake. The students benefiting from this project, particularly the students and students' families from Southwest Open School, will reap the rewards from the expansion of this work.

As the Director of the Southwest Open School, I can attest to the ongoing collaborative relationship with the Montezuma School to Farm Project. Together, we can provide youth development programming in the areas of service-learning, leadership development, and character development. We are thrilled to continue collaboration with MSTFP in order to provide support to the program in the following areas:

- Educational programming related to service learning, leadership and character development
- Strong academic enrichment and credit offerings outside of the school year
- Continued youth development programming in future endeavors

It is our sincere hope that you will give this proposal your most careful consideration. The impact of this future work is substantial. Our students will be able to interface with the Montezuma School to Farm Project in new and meaningful ways. Children in our rural community face many barriers to success and we believe that this proposal will provide opportunities to the children, their families and the community that they may not have otherwise.

Sincerely,

Matthew Keefauver

Director, Southwest Open School