

**RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING
October 19, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room
And By Zoom Teleconference**

Present: Greg Higel, President; Armando Valdez, Vice-President; Dwight Martin, Secretary/
Treasurer; Peggy Godfrey, Director; Steve Keller, Director; Zeke Ward, Director; Mike Kruse,
Director; and Cory Off, Director.

Absent: Bill McClure, Director.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Cleave Simpson, General Manager; Amber Pacheco, Program Manager; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Marisa Fricke, Program Manager; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; and Michael Carson, Database Administrator.

Guests: David Hofmann, Deb Sarason, Chris Schaefer, Anna Greenburg, Rio de la Vista, Becky Brooks, Erin Minks, Donald Valdez, Brian David, Antonio Huerta, Bob Kirkham, Hannah Thill, Christine Arbogast, Allen Law, Ryan Unterreiner, Daryl Kohut, Emma Ressor, Heather Dutton, Monica McCafferty, Sharon Vaughn, Suzanne Beauchaine, Mary Finnegan, John Gerstle, Jeff Derry, Chris Lopez, Daniel Boyes, Heather Greenwolf, Bill Udlebrock.

CALL TO ORDER

President Greg Higel called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. There was a quorum present for the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF AND GUESTS

President Greg Higel welcomed all those present and asked for introductions.

APPROVE AGENDA

President Higel announced a few changes to the agenda. Cleave Simpson added an action item under the District Attorney report. A motion was made by Armando Valdez to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Cory Off and unanimously approved.

APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

President Higel asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Peggy Godfrey requested the removal of the June 18, 2021, special meeting minutes and September 27, 2021, special meeting minutes from the consent agenda for further discussion.

- ~~June 18, 2021-Special Meeting Minutes~~
- July 20, 2021-Quarterly Meeting Minutes
- July 29, 2021-Special Meeting Minutes
- ~~September 27, 2021-Special Meeting Minutes~~

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to approve the consent agenda with changes. The motion was seconded by Cory Off and unanimously approved.

Peggy Godfrey requested additional language be added to the June 18, 2021, special meeting minutes. Pete Ampe stated he would work on an amendment to the minutes.

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to table the June 18, 2021, special meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Dwight Martin and unanimously approved.

Peggy Godfrey asked to submit her written notes and requested they be attached to the September 27, 2021, special meeting minutes and become part of the record.

A motion was made by Mike Kruse to accept Peggy Godfrey's written notes and attach them to the September 27, 2021, special meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Steve Keller and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to add wording to the September 27, 2021, minutes to state “Page 12 of the audit contained an error which read Subdistrict No. 5 was approved by the Court in 2018, and was changed to the correct year of 2017”. The Board corrected the date in their individual printed copies rather than having the page reprinted. The motion was seconded by Mike Kruse and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Dwight Martin to approve the September 27, 2021, minutes with amendments. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Higel asked for public comment. There were none.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Higel asked for the financial report. Cleave Simpson presented the financial statements for the District and Subdistricts. Mr. Simpson highlighted the special projects, total expenditures, and stated the revenues are tracking better than last year. He also presented the Check Register for the District.

A motion was made by Cory Off to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

SALAZAR RIO GRANDE DEL NORTE CENTER-RIO DE LA VISTA

President Higel asked for the Salazar Rio Grande Del Norte Center report. Rio de la Vista provided an update on the Water 101 course she and Armando Valdez are co-instructing at Adams State University, as well as, an update on the Rio Grande Natural Area. Ms. De la Vista presented her request for support for the 2022 State of the Basin Symposium at Adams State University. Armando Valdez reported on the importance of educating and promoting to the new generation and individuals in the community on water issues. Discussion was held on possibly entertaining an Eco Flight as a work session of the Board of Directors.

KOGOVSEK & ASSOCIATES-CHRISTINE ARBOGAST

President Higel asked for the Kogovsek & Associates report. Christine Arbogast provided an update on the Congressional funding bills related to programs and infrastructure of interest to the Board. She highlighted that the emergency supplemental bill had been enacted and what the funds could be used for, as well as the pending infrastructure and human infrastructure packages at the Senate. Ms. Arbogast reported on the status of the general annual appropriations process and the Farm Bill.

STEALEY II-BECKY BROOKS

President Higel asked for the Stealey II report. Becky Brooks echoed Rio de la Vista and Armando Valdez on how important it is to educate others about water issues in Colorado. Ms. Brooks highlighted upcoming legislation that would be of interest to the Board of Directors and discussed a bill written by Senator Cleave Simpson. Mr. Simpson provided some information about the bill he wrote. Ms. Brooks also provided an update on the redistricting within the state and the impact on the urban population.

MANAGER’S REPORTS

President Higel asked for the Manager’s report.

- *Recognize past Directors Brian David & Mike McClure*
Cleave Simpson thanked Brian David for his service to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board of Directors. Mr. David was presented with a plaque of appreciation for his time on the Board from 2002-2020. Mr. Simpson reported Mike McClure was going to also be recognized but was unable to attend the meeting due to ongoing health issues. Brian David thanked Mr. Simpson and the Board and said he was grateful for the opportunity to serve the community and the people.
- *Consider changes for General Manger compensation plan*
Cleave Simpson provided an overview of how he was compensated as the general manager of the District while serving as a State Senator. Mr. Simpson highlighted that the obligations at the Capitol were greater than he predicted and asked how the Board would like his compensation plan to be structured moving forward. The Board highlighted uniqueness of the

situation and the need to be transparent. The Finance Committee was directed to come back to the Board with a recommendation.

A motion was made by Armando Valdez to encompass Cleave Simpson's duties as part of the General Manager salary without the need for additional leave time for the remainder of the year. The motion was seconded by Zeke Ward and unanimously approved.

- *Present Draft 2022 budget*
Cleave Simpson presented the Rio Grande Water Conservation District draft 2022 budget and provided details of the approval process. Mr. Simpson reported the Finance Committee would be meeting to discuss the budget in detail. He highlighted the expenditures and discussion was held on building a garage at the District office and replacing one of the District work trucks. The management of the District grounds and the possibility of hiring a part time grounds keeper was also discussed.
- *Consider date in November for Budget work session and Closed Basin Project work session (week of November 15th)*
Cleave Simpson reported he was trying to organize a Closed Basin Project work session. It was scheduled for November 18, 2021, with a Budget work session beginning at 8:00 a.m. and the Closed Basin Project work session after lunch.
- *Consider date in December for 2022 Budget Hearing (week of December 6th)*
The Budget Hearing was scheduled for December 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Cleave Simpson highlighted the storage agreement the District entered into with the San Luis Valley Irrigation District. Mr. Simpson reported that all of the storage space was not taken advantage of and that he was seeking direction on how to get the bill paid. Discussion was held on possibly renegotiating the agreement, allocating the storage and keeping the option open in order for other Subdistricts to build up their sources.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:35 p.m. and resumed at 1:35 p.m.

PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORTS

President Higel asked for the Program Manager's reports.

- ***Subdistrict No. 1-Marisa Fricke:*** Marisa Fricke provided an update on recent projects and reported staff is working on water usage calculations. She highlighted the preliminary pumping numbers are down 20% lower than the prior year. Ms. Fricke reported on a gathering held in August and the new direction of the fourth Plan of Water Management. She also reported on the Master Irrigators Course and the Rocky Mountain Ag conference. Pete Ampe explained the Subdistrict No. 1 budget was being presented at the October meeting because it is required in the Subdistrict No. 1 Plan of Water Management that it be adopted by the Board of Directors in October. Ms. Fricke presented the proposed Subdistrict No. 1 2022 budget. She highlighted each fee and explained how each was calculated.

A motion was made by Mike Kruse to adopt Subdistrict No. 1 2022 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

- ***Subdistrict's No. 2, 3, and 6-Amber Pacheco:*** Amber Pacheco reported she was finishing up the 2022 budgets for Subdistricts 2, 3 and 6. She highlighted all the Subdistricts she manages are continuing to seek permanent water supplies. She described a potential purchase Subdistrict No. 3 is working on with the Trinchera Subdistrict and gave an overview of how forbearance went throughout the irrigation season. Ms. Pacheco reported on the approved CWCB and Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant and gave an update on a project on the Centennial Ditch. She also reported staff is working on assessments and stated the calculations would be done soon. Ms. Pacheco updated the Board on the contracts she is working on as well. Ms. Pacheco informed the Board she has been assisting with accounting duties for the District and Subdistricts and will continue until a replacement for the Office Manager is found.
- ***Subdistrict's No. 4 and 5-Chris Ivers:*** Chris Ivers reported there was 100% Well Injury Payment coverage in Subdistrict No. 4. Mr. Ivers highlighted he is working on negotiations with a land owner to potentially purchase and retire groundwater withdrawals and retain the

ability to use some of the historical consumptive use as replacement water to the stream. Cleave Simpson explained Colorado Open Lands involvement and the groundwater conservation easement concept. Mr. Ivers provided an update on the augmentation well Subdistrict No. 5 is drilling and discussion was held on the Subdistrict possibly needing additional financial support. He also highlighted the initiatives the Board of Managers have taken by voting to increase their fees and approving the Groundwater Withdrawal Allocation Rules. Mr. Ivers explained the penalties if Subdistrict members fail to abide by the Groundwater Withdrawal Allocation rules and the purpose of the restrictions. Discussion was held on how and when pumping allocations would be set.

A motion was made by Cory Off to approve Subdistrict No. 5 Rules and Regulations Governing Groundwater Withdrawal Allocations for Subdistrict Wells. The motion was seconded by Dwight Martin. Mike Kruse, Steve Keller and Peggy Godfrey voted No. The motion passed.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S REPORT-CLINTON PHILLIPS

President Higel asked for the District Engineer's report. Clinton Phillips presented the change in the confined and unconfined aquifer, the current aquifer levels, current 5-year average in the unconfined aquifer and the acre-feet needed in the unconfined aquifer to reach the -400,000 level.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S REPORT-PETE AMPE

President Higel asked for the District Attorney's report. Pete Ampe reported on an application for an augmentation plan in the October resume involving twenty-eight (28) circles in Subdistrict No. 1. Mr. Ampe suggested the District file a statement of opposition in order to monitor the case. Mike Kruse stated he is in support of augmentation plans. Mr. Ampe stated for the record that Mr. Kruse has a pending augmentation plan.

A motion was made by Cory Off to file a statement of opposition to the application for an augmentation plan in Water Division 3 Court Case 21CW3021. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

Pete Ampe provided an update on the Texas vs. New Mexico case and stated there were no direct claims made against Colorado.

DIVISION NO. 3 ENGINEER'S REPORT-CRAIG COTTEN

President Higel asked for the Division No. 3 Engineer's report. Craig Cotten reported the Valley was doing well on compact obligations. He provided the projections and highlighted the curtailment rate on the Rio Grande. Mr. Cotton also reported when the irrigation season would come to an end and provided an update on compliance with the groundwater rules.

COLORADO STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE REPORT-RYAN UNTERREINER

President Higel asked for the Colorado State Parks and Wildlife report. Ryan Unterreiner reported he would like to continue to work with Subdistrict No. 5 on a contract to cover the wells owned by CPW and to include other Subdistricts for the consideration of covering the assessments for these wells at Russell Lakes. He stated Subdistrict No. 2 and No. 6 will be in discussions to go over storage in Beaver Reservoir.

U.S.F. & W.S. REPORT-CHRIS SCHAFFER

President Higel asked for the U.S.F. & W.S. report. Chris Schaffer highlighted the poor water situation and reported he needed to review contracts with Program Managers Amber Pacheco and Chris Ivers.

SENATOR BENNET'S OFFICE-ERIN MINKS

President Higel asked for a report from Senator Bennet's office. Erin Minks provided some brief information on the CREP program and how it is tied to the Farm Bill.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE-DARYL KOHUT

Daryl Kohut was not present but provided a written report which Cleave Simpson read into the record. (Copy attached)

U.S.P.S. REPORT-PAM RICE

President Higel asked for the U.S.P.S. report. Pam Rice reported on the Park surpassing the prior year visitation numbers with another busy year. She provided the amount of precipitation at the Park, the

snowpack average, and the average percent of flow through Medano Creek. Ms. Rice highlighted the Cutthroat Trout restoration project, the elk dispersal project and a potential purchase of 9,000 acres.

SLVWCD/CWCB REPORTS-HEATHER DUTTON

President Higel asked for the SLVWCD/CWCB report. Heather Dutton reported her office has been helping the community comply with the groundwater rules and she has been busy issuing augmentation certificates. She also reported she was working on the budget for next year.

COLORADO DUST ON SNOW PROGRAM-JEFF DERRY

President Higel asked for the Colorado Dust on Snow Program report. Jeff Derry reported on another successful season of travel throughout the state assessing the dust on snow conditions. He provided the locations of study and the number and severity of dust events. Mr. Derry highlighted the projects completed throughout the summer and fall and thanked the Board for their continued support.

EDUCATION REPORT-HANNAH THILL

President Higel asked for the Education report. Hannah Thill introduced herself and provided an update on the new programs that were created this year. Ms. Thill highlighted the creativity involved in creating programs to be held outside due to COVID-19. She stated many of the new programs would likely continue to be implemented.

RIO GRANDE HEADWATERS RESTORATION PROJECT-EMMA REESOR

President Higel asked for the Rio Grande Headwater Restoration Project report. Emma Reesor provided an update on grant support and stream management plans. She highlighted current projects and partnerships and their locations. Ms. Reesor highlighted her fall fundraisers and thanked the Board for their continued support.

HEADWATERS ALLIANCE-HEATHER GREENWOLF

President Higel asked for the Headwaters Alliance report. Heather Greenwolf updated the Board on the progress of the Comprehensive Willow Creek Watershed Planning Project. She also provided an update on work being done to create a data bank, how it's being built and the project's partners. Ms. Greenwolf reported on water efficiency planning, growing the water smart conference and the Rio Grande tributary project.

RIO GRANDE INITIATIVE/R.i.G.H.T.-ALLEN LAW

President Higel asked for the Rio Grande Initiative report. Allen Law reported on the hiring of two new conservation project managers. He provided an update on 2021 projects and upcoming projects for 2022. Mr. Law reported on the conservation easements that have closed and the ones being worked on, including restoration projects. Mr. Law reported the groundwater easements were moving slower than hoped and he touched on some of the tax benefits and challenges with appraisals.

SAN LUIS VALLEY PUBLIC OPINION POLLING FUNDING REQUEST-CHIS LOPEZ

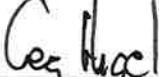
President Higel asked for the San Luis Valley Public Opinion Polling funding request. Chris Lopez reported being the founder of AlamosaCitizen.com and was present to request support of a public opinion poll to get gauge where the valley residents are on a variety of topics. Cleave Simpson provided additional insight. Mr. Lopez highlighted the local media market, the number of users, views, people reached so far and the pros of digital newspaper. He explained how he would determine the survey audience to make sure each county has representation based on the population.


A motion was made by Dwight Martin to approve the funding request in the amount of \$5,000 to the San Luis Valley Citizen public opinion poll for current year 2021. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

The next scheduled quarterly meeting will be held on January 18, 2022.



President


Secretary/Treasurer

Rio Grande National Forest
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Report
10/19/2021
Forest Hydrologist, Daryl Kohut

- Offices are open Monday through Friday
- Construction of the new Supervisor's Office in Del Norte is progressing. The move is expected sometime in the summer of 2022.
- We have some Prescribed burns planned for the Fall conditions permitting.
 - English Valley – 1200 Acres on Divide five miles north of Del Norte (improve pronghorn habitat).
 - Bighorn/Stateline Unit 5 – 565 acres on Conejos Peak 10 mi south of Antonito (improve deer and elk winter range).
 - Buffalo Pass – 250 acres 20 mi west of Saguache adjacent to Buffalo Pass Campground (improve elk habitat).
 - Burn area maps will be posted. For info contact Kent Smith 719-850-1064.
- Area Closure around Poage Lake is closed for safety. Heavy logging equipment is being used to remove dead trees from areas adjacent to the lake. For info contact the Divide office: 719-850-2374
- Construction on the Jasper Creek Crossing on the 250 road is complete after the washout in 2019.

DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 3, STATE OF COLORADO
TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS FILED IN
WATER DIVISION 3.

Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302(3), you are notified that the following is a resume in Water Division 3, containing notice of applications and certain amendments filed in the office of the Water Clerk during the month of September, 2021 for each county affected.

21CW3021: APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN WATER RIGHTS AND PLAN FOR AUGMENTATION INCLUDING RECHARGE IN ALAMOSA, HINSDALE, MINERAL AND RIO GRANDE COUNTIES

1. Name, Address and Telephone Number of Applicant: McCullough Farms, LLC, Attn: Lynn McCullough, 2544 East Road 4 North, Monte Vista, CO 81144, c/o William H. Caile, Kylie J. Crandall, Hayley K. Siltanen, Holland & Hart LLP, 555 17th St., Ste. 3200, Denver, CO 80202-3921, (303) 295-8000. **2. Overview:** A. Applicant owns and operates a potato/grain farm which currently includes 55 irrigation wells and 3 commercial wells, all of which pump from the unconfined aquifer of the Closed Basin. The Closed Basin is the area of the San Luis Valley located north of the Rio Grande that is separated from the Rio Grande by both a topographic and hydraulic divide. Twenty-eight quarter sections are currently irrigated by groundwater. Commercial wells are used for potato storage humidification and a potato packing warehouse. B. Applicant seeks approval of a “one-for-one” recharge and augmentation plan to allow for the continued use of groundwater in compliance with the Rules Governing the Withdrawal of Groundwater in Water Division No. 3 (The Rio Grande Basin) and Establishing Criteria for the Beginning and End of the Irrigation Season in Water Division No. 3 for All Irrigation Water Rights (“Groundwater Rules”). For wells that are subject to the Groundwater Rules, groundwater withdrawals may occur only if they are made pursuant to a court-approved augmentation plan, a substitute water supply plan, or a groundwater management plan adopted by a Subdistrict. C. Under the approval sought in the Application, fully consumable surface water will be recharged into the aquifer in exchange for the right for Applicant’s wells to pump against the amount recharged. Applicant owns surface water rights decreed for irrigation, including shares in the Rio Grande Canal Water Users Association, the Santa Maria Reservoir Company, the Billings Ditch Company, and the Prairie Ditch Company. All of these companies also have decrees which allow use of water for recharge of the aquifer. To the extent that these approvals do not include Applicant’s intended use for recharge and augmentation pursuant to the Application, Applicant requests a change of its surface water rights to allow such use. D. Applicant’s wells are currently included in the Annual Replacement Plan (“ARP”) operated by Subdistrict No. 1 of the Rio Grande Water Conservancy District (“District”). Applicant will continue to participate in, and operate under, the Subdistrict No. 1 ARP (and subsequently-approved ARPs) or a substitute water supply plan approved by the State Engineer, while the Application herein is pending. Upon approval of a decree in this matter, Applicant may elect to implement the augmentation plan approved herein upon notice to the District and the Division Engineer, or may continue to operate under the Subdistrict No. 1 ARP for so long as that remains practical and/or desirable. **3. Irrigated Lands:** Applicant currently owns 28 quarter sections that are or will be irrigated by groundwater pursuant

to the augmentation plan claimed. The location of Applicant's fields is depicted on the map attached to the Application as Figure 1. The legal descriptions are further described as follows: SE1/4 Sec. 32 T40N R8E; SW1/4 Sec. 33 T40N R8E; NW1/4 Sec. 4 T39N R8E; NW1/4 Sec. 16, T39N, R8E; SW1/4 Sec. 3, T39N R8E; NE1/4 Sec. 35 T40N R8E; NW1/4 Sec. 12 T39N R8E; NW1/4 Sec. 30, T39N R9E; NE1/4 Sec. 23 T40N R8E; NE1/4 Sec. 4 T39N R8E; SE1/4 Sec. 29 T40N R8E; NW1/4 Sec. 21 T40N R8E; SW1/4 Sec. 14 T40N R8E; SW1/4 Sec. 9 T39N R9E; SE1/4 Sec. 34 T40N R8E; NE1/4 Sec. 32 T40N R8E; NE1/4 Sec. 33 T40N R8E; NW1/4 Sec. 34 T40N R8E; NE1/4 Sec. 16 T39N R8E; NE1/4 Sec. 8 T39N R8E; NE1/4 Sec. 15 T40N R8E; SW1/4 Sec. 10 T40N R8E; SE1/4 Sec. 9 T40N R8E; SW1/4 Sec. 9 T40N R8E; NW1/4 Sec. 9 T40N R8E; SW1/4 Sec. 4 T40N R8E; SW1/4 Sec. 31 T40N R9E; and NW1/4 Sec. 31 T40N R9E. **4. Structures to be Augmented:** A. Applicant currently operates 55 irrigation wells and 3 commercial wells that will be augmented by this plan. These existing wells are listed in the following table. All of the wells pump groundwater from the unconfined aquifer of the Closed Basin. The map attached to the Application as Figure 2 shows the location of each well. The legal description, well permit information, decree information, authorized amounts and uses are specified in the following table.

No.	Case No.	Permit No.	Well Location	Flowrate (gpm)	Volume (acre-ft)	Use
1	92CW039 Well No 02R	11294-R-R	SE/32/40N/8E/N	1200	480	Irr.
2	W0345 Well No 04	11296-R	NWSE/32/40N/8E/N	1350	480	Irr.
3	W0345 Well No 03	11295-R-R	NWSE/32/40N/8E/N	1340	480	Irr.
4	W3748 Well No 09R	13148-F-R	SW/33/40N/8E/N	1400	400	Irr.
5	W0103 Well No 11	3945-F	NW/SW/33/40N/8E/N	1900	Not Specified	Irr.
6	Permit 24119-F	24119-F	NW/4/39N/8E/N	1100	400	Irr.
7	W0515 Well No 02	7207-R	SW/NW/4/39N/8E/N	1200	534	Irr.
8	W0372 Well No 01	126-R,126-R-R	NW/NW/16/39N/8E/N	1200	480	Irr.
9	W0372 Well No 01	126-R,126-R-R	NW/NW/16/39N/8E/N	1200	480	Irr.
10	W0372 Well No 03	5654-F	NW/NW/16/39N/8E/N	1500	Not Specified	Irr.
11	W3392 Well No 02R	8696-R-R	SW/3/39N/8E/N	1000	480	Irr.
12	W0359 Well No 01	8695-R	NW/SW/3/39N/8E/N	1100	Not Specified	Irr.
13	W3485 Well No 07	18680-F	NE/NE/35/40N/8E/N	1500	480	Irr.
14	W1479 Well No IRR 02	6040-R-R	SW/NE/35/40N/8E/N	2050	500	Irr.
15	81CW006 Well No 04A	25116-F	NW/12/39N/8E/N	1350	400	Irr.
16	W2280 Well No 06	11237-F-R	NW/30/39N/9E/N	1000	480	Irr.
17	W2280 Well No 01	11676-F	NW/NW/30/39N/9E/N	1250	480	Irr.
18	W3797 Well No 03A	22907-F	NE/23/40N/8E/N	1000	480	Irr.
19	W0115 Well No 04	54-R	SW/NE/23/40N/8E/N	1600	Not Specified	Irr.

20	W0320 Well No 06	6218-F	NE/NE/4/39N/8E/N	1400	Not Specified	Irr.
21	W3882 Well No 06A	23183-F	SE/29/40N8E/N	1000	350	Irr.
22	W0471 Well No 06	13551-R	NW/SE/29/40N8E/N	1200	Not Specified	Irr.
23	W3882 Well No 01A	21581-F	NW/21/40N/8E/N	1000	350	Irr.
24	W0508 Well No 02	13553-R	SW/NW/21/40N/8E/N	1100	230	Irr.
25	83CW028 Well No 02R	1966-R	SW/14/40N/8E/N	1145	400	Irr.
26	W0725 Well No 01	1967-R	NW/SW/14/40N/8E/N	1500	1400	Irr.
27	W3424 Well No 01	8693-R-R	SW/9/39N/8E/N	1000	480	Irr.
28	W0340 Well No 02	8694-R	NW/SW/9/39N/8E/N	1100	420.6	Irr.
29	W3437 Well No 01R	11446-R-R	NW/SE/34/40N/8E/N	1000	480	Irr.
30	W0408 Well No 02	11447-R	NW/SE/34/40N/8E/N	2000	Not Specified	Irr.
31	W3797 Well No 06	12781-R-R	NE/32/40N/8E/N	1000	400	Irr.
32	W0115 Well No 06	5463-F	SW/NE/32/40N/8E/N	2000	Not Specified	Irr.
33	99CW011 Well No 2R	139-R-R	NE/33/40N/8E/N	1000	400	Irr.
34	W0137 Well No 03	2512-F	SW/NE/33/40N/8E/N	1350	400	Irr.
35	W3797 Well No 09R	12780-R-R	NW/34/40N/8E/N	1000	350	Irr.
36	W0115 Well No 05	55-R	SW/NW/34/40N/8E/N	2600	Not Specified	Irr.
37	82CW195 Well No 05A	22713-F	NE/16/39N/8E/N	1000	480	Irr.
38	W0372 Well No 05	4223-F	NW/NE/16/39N/8E/N	1300	Not Specified	Irr.
39	79CW083 Well No. 03R	10625-R-R	NW/NE/8/39N/8E/N	1000	400	Irr.
40	W0136 Well No. 01	10627-R	NE/NE/8/39N/8E/N	1800	Not Specified	Irr.
41	W3669 Well No 03A	21395-F	NE/NE/15/40N/8E/N	1000	350	Irr.
42	W0343 Well No 03	12213-R	SW/NE/15/40N/8E/N	2000	Not Specified	Irr.
43	W3669 Well No 04A	21504-F	SW/SW/10/40N/8E/N	1000	350	Irr.
44	W0343 Well No 04	12214-R,12214-R-R	SW/SW/10/40N/8E/N	2000	Not Specified	Irr.
45	W3669 Well No 01A	21369-F	SE/SE/9/40N/8E/N	1000	350	Irr.
46	W0528 Well No 01	12165-R	SW/SE/9/40N/8E/N	1800	Not Specified	Irr.
47	W3246 Well No 03	16674-F	SW/9/40N/8E	1000	400	Irr.
48	W0222 Well No 01	14108-R	NW/SW/9/40N/8E	1000	Not Specified	Irr.
49	W3459 Well No 01	19336-F	NW/NW/9/40N/8E/N	1000	350	Irr.
50	W0564 Well No 01	11297-R	SW/NW/9/40N/8E/N	1100	480	Irr.
51	W3538 Well No 01R	19149-F	SW/4/40N/8E/N	1000	240	Irr.

52	W0435 Well No 01	1482-R,5737-F	SW/SW/4/40N/8E/N	2000	Not Specified	Irr.
53	W3465 Well No 04R	6008-R-R	NW/SW/31/40N/9E/N	1100	480	Irr.
54	W0424 Well No 06	3030-F	SW/SW/31/40N/9E/N	1275	Not Specified	Irr.
55	07CW10 Well No 2-R	21788-F	SW/NW/31/40N/9E/N	1000	400	Irr.
56	W528 Well No 2	12166-R	SW/SE/9/40N/8E/N	2000	302.7/16.22	Irr., Comm.
57	W3421 Well No 01	20434-F-R	SE/SW/9/39N/8E/N	1000	100	Comm.
58	W1461 Well No. 07	59652-F	SE/SW/9/39N/8E/N	50	7.18	Comm.

B. Additional Wells: Applicant requests the right to include additional wells in the plan decreed herein, upon notice to the Division Engineer and upon such other terms and conditions as the Court may determine. **5. Water Rights to be Used for Augmentation:** A. Applicant owns shares in the following mutual ditch and reservoir companies, and water available to Applicant under the below-listed shares will be used for augmentation in the plan decreed herein: i. Rio Grande Canal Water Users Association: 256.7 shares; ii. Santa Maria Reservoir Company: 230 shares; iii. Prairie Ditch Company: 6 shares; and iv. Billings Ditch Company: 30 shares. B. Description of Water Rights: The mutual ditch and reservoir companies' water rights are described as follows: i. Rio Grande Canal Water Users Association: (a) Structure: Rio Grande Canal (WDID 2000812). (1) Source: Rio Grande. (2) Rio Grande Canal water rights listed in the following table:

Priority No.	Amount (c.f.s.)	Appropriation Date	Adjudication Date
176	2.8	08/31/1879	05/01/1896
178	11.2	11/30/1879	05/01/1896
197	20	12/31/1880	05/01/1896
198	19.6	01/01/1881	05/01/1896
216-A	318.4	09/02/1881	05/01/1896
235	0.6	07/01/1882	05/01/1896
276-A	22.8	06/10/1885	05/01/1896
288-A	22.7	06/10/1886	05/01/1896
312-A	26	06/10/1887	05/01/1896
338-1/2A	33.6	06/10/1888	05/01/1896
344	24.4	03/30/1889	05/01/1896
358-A	16.6	06/10/1889	05/01/1896
363-A	43.4	06/10/1890	05/01/1896
363-B	52	07/24/1890	05/01/1896
365	293.7	11/17/1891	05/01/1896
1903-24-C	45	06/30/1891	04/09/1903
1903-30-C	84.96	06/30/1892	04/09/1903
1903-34-C	48.99	06/30/1893	04/09/1903
1903-37-B	38.74	06/30/1894	04/09/1903
1903-41-B	41.34	06/30/1895	04/09/1903
1903-45-C	88.14	06/30/1896	04/09/1903

1903-46-C	81.71	06/30/1897	04/09/1903
1903-49-D	183.6	06/30/1898	04/09/1903
1903-52-C	82.68	06/30/1899	04/09/1903
1903-57-A	44.92	06/30/1900	04/09/1903
1903-61-A	43.62	06/30/1901	04/09/1903

ii. Santa Maria Reservoir Company. (a) Structure: Maria Reservoir (WDID 2003558). (1) Source: North Clear Creek, Bennett Creek, Boulder Creek. (2) Maria Reservoir water rights include: 15,871.21 ac-ft with an 08/11/1896 appropriation date and 09/13/1916 adjudication date; and 21,652.79 ac-ft with an 09/22/1902 appropriation date and 09/13/1916 adjudication date. (b) Structure: Continental Reservoir (WDID 2003536). (1) Source: North Clear Creek. (2) Continental Reservoir water rights include: 8,832.0 ac-ft with an 06/01/1901 appropriation date and 12/15/1934 adjudication date; and 17,884.00 ac-ft with an 05/04/1907 appropriation date and 19/15/1934 adjudication date. iii. Prairie Ditch Company. (a) Structure: Prairie Ditch (WDID 2000798). (1) Source: Rio Grande. (2) Prairie Ditch water rights listed in the following table:

Priority No.	Amount (c.f.s.)	Appropriation Date	Adjudication Date
11	3.00	05/01/1872	05/01/1896
297	105.10	02/09/1887	05/01/1896
308	0.75	04/01/1887	05/01/1896
328	0.75	04/01/1888	05/01/1896
353	2.85	04/01/1889	05/01/1896
1903-17-A	11.07	06/30/1889	04/09/1903
1903-22-C	36.84	06/30/1890	04/09/1903
1903-24-E	59.90	06/30/1891	04/09/1903
1903-30-D	20.18	06/30/1892	04/09/1903
1903-34-E	22.79	06/30/1893	04/09/1903
1903-37-D	20.84	06/30/1894	04/09/1903
1903-41-D	24.74	06/30/1895	04/09/1903
1903-45-E	16.20	06/30/1896	04/09/1903
1903-46-E	15.63	06/30/1897	04/09/1903
1903-49-F	10.42	06/30/1898	04/09/1903
1903-52-E	6.51	06/30/1899	04/09/1903
1903-57-D	6.84	06/30/1900	04/09/1903
1903-61-B	2.61	06/30/1901	04/09/1903

iv. Billings Ditch Company. (a) Structure: Billings Ditch (WDID 2000546). (1) Source: Rio Grande. (2) Billings Ditch water rights are listed in the following table:

Priority No.	Amount (c.f.s.)	Appropriation Date	Adjudication Date
34	1.5	04/30/1874	05/01/1896
209	7.8	04/30/1881	05/01/1896
305	16.7	04/01/1887	05/01/1896
324	4.44	04/01/1888	05/01/1896
349	4.5	04/01/1889	05/01/1896

6. Recharge: Applicant has a number of existing recharge basins and drain stretches which can currently be used for surface water recharge. Applicant may also add recharge facilities to the plan decreed herein, subject to the provisions of any decree entered herein. **A. Existing Recharge Facilities:** The location of the existing recharge basins and drain ditch stretches is shown on Figure 3, attached to the Application. The legal description and surface area specifications of each of the existing facilities listed in the following table.

Field	Legal Address	Area (acres)	Description
1	NW 1/4 SE 1/4 T40N R8E NMPM	0.63	NW Pond
2	NE 1/4 SW 1/4 S33 T40N R8E NMPM	1.66	NE Pond
4	S of NW 1/4 S16 T39N R8E NMPM	0.69	S Drain
5	NE 1/4 SW 1/4 S3 T39N R8E NMPM	1.38	NE Pond
6	N of NE 1/4 S35 T40N R8E NMPM	0.61	N Drain
7	NW 1/4 NW 1/4 S12 T39N R8E NMPM	3.37	NW Pond
7	SW 1/4 NW 1/4 S12 T39N R8E NMPM	3.75	SW Pond
8	NW 1/4 NW 1/4 S30 T39N R9E NMPM	4.08	NW Pond
9	N of NE 1/4 S23 T40N R8E NMPM	0.64	N Drain
10	SW 1/4 NE 1/4 S4 T39N R8E NMPM	2.69	SW Pond
11	NW 1/4 SE 1/4 S29 T40N R8E NMPM	2.37	NW Pond
12	N of NW 1/4 S21 T40N R8E NMPM	0.72	N Drain
13	NW 1/4 SW 1/4 S14 T40N R8E NMPM	4.94	NW Pond
14	Middle of SW 1/4 S9 T39N R9E NMPM	0.61	Mid Drain
15	NW 1/4 SE 1/4 S34 T40N R8E NMPM	7.02	NW Pond
16	SW 1/4 NE 1/4 S32 T40N R8E NMPM	2.5	SW Pond
18	N of NW 1/4 S34 T40N R8E NMPM	0.71	N Drain
19	SW 1/4 NE 1/4 S16 T39N R8E NMPM	3.09	SW Pond
20	NW 1/4 NE 1/4 S8 T39N R8E NMPM	1.34	NW Pond
27	SE 1/4 SW 1/4 S31 T40N R9N NMPM	1.02	SE Pond
	Total	43.82	

B. Additional Recharge Facilities: Applicant requests the right to include additional recharge facilities in the plan decreed herein, upon notice to the Division Engineer and upon such other terms and conditions as the Court may determine. **7. Complete Statement of Plan for Augmentation:** A. Applicant is requesting a one-for-one augmentation plan that will meet the substantive requirements of the Groundwater Rules. Upon approval and implementation of the augmentation plan claimed herein, Applicant will dedicate its surface water rights, described in Paragraph 5, to be annually recharged to the unconfined aquifer of the Closed Basin. The lands

that were historically irrigated with Applicant's surface water will be permanently removed from irrigation with surface water pursuant to Division of Water Resources protocol. B. During each irrigation season, Applicant will measure the deliveries associated with its surface water supplies and deliver this water into the infiltration basins described in Paragraph 6. Applicant will calculate and account for the total amount of fully consumable water recharged to the aquifer. Pursuant to the recharge decrees for the Rio Grande Canal and the Prairie Ditch, Applicant will also claim its pro rata share of canal seepage loss occurring during the delivery of this water to farm headgates. C. The amount of water which may be pumped from Applicant's wells in any year ("Total Pumping Credit Available") will be dependent on annual calculated consumptive use credit. Consumptive use credit will be calculated as the amount of surface water delivered to recharge facilities, minus surface water evaporation from the basin, and accounting for any recharge accretion dedicated to meeting sustainability goals. Applicant will have accounting procedures to prevent over-pumping. In the event that pumping in any year exceeds the Total Pumping Credit Available, Applicant will account for and repay any shortage the following year before any pumping occurs under the plan. D. Sustainability: Applicant's recharge operations will include the historical return flow component of Applicant's water rights, which will be left in the aquifer. In this manner, Applicant's augmentation plan will contribute to the sustainability of the aquifer and satisfy Applicant's pro rata responsibility to recover the aquifer to a sustainable water level. Applicant has also made a significant individual contribution to attainment of sustainability over the last approximately ten years, through participation in the Subdistrict No. 1 ARPs, water conservation efforts, and fallowing and rotational crop selection, that may be considered in the determination of sustainability herein. Applicant may also satisfy the sustainability requirements through other means, including but not limited to dedication of rim inflows. 8. Owners of land upon which any new or modified diversion or storage structure or modification to any existing diversion or storage structure will be located or upon which water is or will be stored, including modification to the existing storage pool: Applicant or its affiliates. (17 incl. exhibits).³²

THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE OR BE FOREVER BARRED.

You are notified that you have until the last day of November 2021, to file with the Water Clerk a verified statement of opposition setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions or a protest to the requested correction. A copy of such a statement of opposition or protest must also be served upon the Applicant or the Applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service must be filed with the Water Clerk. The filing fee for the Statement of Opposition is \$192.00. Forms may be obtained from the Water Clerk's Office or our website at www.courts.state.co.us. Jennifer Pacheco, Water Clerk, Water Division 3, 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101.



Rio Grande Water Conservation

10900 Highway 160

8805 Independence Way • Alamosa,

Phone: (719) 589-6301 • Fax: (719) 992-2026

Protecting & Conserving San Luis Valley Water

REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

This form is provided to allow a request for funding and a detailed explanation of a proposed project request for funding which conserves and protects the water resources of the Rio Grande Basin exclusive of Costilla County and structures associated with water courses within.

1. Name of Project: Sponsorship of the 2022 Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium
2. Responsible party or entity:
Rio de la Vista, Director, Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center, Adams State University
3. Contact information: riodelavista@adams.edu, 719-850-2255
4. Date of request: October 15, 2021
5. Location of Project (Legal Description): Adams State University (covid conditions permitting); Hosted by the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center
6. Detailed Description of Proposed Project: Photos attached Yes No

As the Board knows, the Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium has now been held three times, with strong attendance and providing a wide-ranging local audience with up-to-date information about the status of Rio Grande water issues and solutions being worked on by SLV organizations and water entities.

The Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center pivoted and held the 2020 and 2021 Symposiums virtually. We are in the early stages of planning for 2022, aiming for a March date (to be finalized—pre-irrigation season) and if Covid conditions permit, will hold it as an in-person event on campus. In any case, we aim to once again provide the community with timely information.

As before, the target audience is the general public of the San Luis Valley, i.e., people who care about the Valley's water but are not necessarily deeply immersed in the complex details of water issues. For this audience, we are aiming for a Saturday symposium in mid to late March.

Our request to the District is for Sponsorship for the 2022 Symposium as a “Co-Host” of the event, specifically to help cover the staff time to plan, organize, promote, and then follow up to make the content accessible afterwards. The Colorado Water Plan Grant continues to support our water education work and hard costs, but given the extended time due to Covid and other challenges mean that the same outcomes require more time to achieve. We are seeking Sponsors to help offset the staff costs and allow us to

continue to build on the successes of past Symposiums. The CWCB Colorado Water Plan Grant will cover a portion of the hard costs, which are much higher for an in-person event where food is provided for attendees.

We will also use the Symposium to continue to build momentum for our other Water Education Initiative programs, such as:

- the now underway Water Studies Minor Degree at Adams State
- the planned “Growing Water Smart” workshop in June 2022 for all SLV counties and municipalities to better plan for an integrate water into land use policies, plans and codes, presented by the Sonoran Institute and co-hosted by the Salazar Center.
- the Rio Grande Library- a project in early stages of development to compile and curate publications, data, spatial data, and other resources for research, education and communications regarding the Rio Grande.

The District’s sponsorship would be highlighted in all of the press, radio interviews, on-line promotions and during the event itself. (Please note that while the Salazar Center is part of Adams State, it is 100% funded by grants, donations and sponsorships.) *Thank you for your consideration!*

7. Amount of funding requested for proposed project from the RGWCD: \$5,000

8. Total estimated cost of proposed project: Staff time, including Director and work study student, estimated at \$15,000. Note that an in-person program would include food costs of approximately \$6,000 (based on projected 300 participants.)

9. Cost share partners (if applicable) and amounts of funds to be contributed by each:

- SLV WCD – Sponsorship request pending
- Conejos WCD- Sponsorship request pending
- SLV Irrigation District- Sponsorship request pending
- SLV Chapter of Trout Unlimited- Sponsorship request pending
- Other businesses and individuals- Sponsorship requests pending

10. Need for 404 permit required (attached authority) Yes _____ No X. Covered by Nationwide _____

11. Approval by District: Amount _____ Date _____

12. RGWCD General Manager: Approved _____ Disapproved _____

13. Date Project Completed:

14. Documentation Completed Date:



Rio Grande Water Conservation District

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Protecting & Conserving San Luis Valley Water

REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

This form is provided to allow a request for funding and a detailed explanation of a proposed project request for funding which conserves and protects the water resources of the Rio Grande Basin exclusive of Costilla County and structures associated with water courses within.

1. Name of Project: _____ **Colorado Dust-on-Snow Program (CODOS)** _____
2. Responsible party or entity: _____ **Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies (CSAS)** _____
3. Contact information: _ **Jeff Derry, PO Box 190, Silverton, CO 81433. Office: (970) 387-5080** _ Cell: **(970) 231-6595** _____
4. Date of request: __ **August 11, 2021. I intend to attend the RGWCD quarterly meeting on October 19, 2021 to present and formally request continued funding from RGWCD** _____
5. Location of Project (Legal Description)
_____ 1/4 _____ 1/4 Section _____ Township _____ Range _____ NMPM _____
GPS Coordinates Easting _____ Northing _____
6. Detailed Description of Proposed Project: Photos attached Yes _____ No _____

CODOS is an applied science monitoring and research program designed to assist the Colorado water management community in coping with the impacts of dust-on-snow on snowmelt behaviors. CODOS monitors and samples dust-on-snow events in the San Juan Mountains and in most major Colorado headwaters. CODOS publishes a series of Update and Alert products describing current and evolving conditions throughout the winter and spring of each season. Using a "Dust Enhanced Runoff Classification" (DERC) methodology, CODOS associates those evolving snowpack, dust, and spring precipitation conditions with past-year hydrographs, by watershed, to identify plausible patterns in the current year's snowmelt runoff hydrographs.

7. Amount of funding requested for proposed project from the RGWCD: _____ **\$5,000** _____

8. Total estimated cost of proposed project: _____ **\$116,000** _____

9. Cost share partners (if applicable) and amounts of funds to be contributed by each:

_____ Please see CODOS Funding Request _____

Cost share partners include: CRWCD, DWCD, SWWCD, TCWCD, Denver Water, Bureau of Reclamation, CWCB, GMUG National Forest, and City of Grand Junction _____

10. Need for 404 permit required (attached authority) Yes _____ No **X** Covered by Nationwide _____

11. Approval by District: Amount _____ Date _____

12. RGWCD General Manager: Approved _____ Disapproved _____

13. Date Project Completed: _____

14. Documentation Completed Date: _____



Rio Grande Water Conservation District

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REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

This form is provided to allow a request for funding and a detailed explanation of a proposed project request for funding which conserves and protects the water resources of the Rio Grande Basin exclusive of Costilla County and structures associated with water courses within.

1. Name of Project: Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP)
2. Responsible party or entity: Emma Reesor, Executive Director
3. Contact information: 623 Fourth Street, Alamosa CO 81101
(719) 589-2230
emma@riograndehadwaters.org
4. Date of request: 10//2021
5. Location of Project (Legal Description): Rio Grande Basin
 1/4 1/4 Section Township Range NMPM
GPS Coordinates Easting Northing

6. Detailed Description of Proposed Project: Photos attached Yes No
Formed in 2001, the RGHRP works with private entities, other nonprofit organizations, and local, state, and federal government partners to implement recommendations of The 2001 Study, a restoration master plan for 91 miles of the Rio Grande in Colorado. The mission of the RGHRP is to restore and conserve the historical functions and vitality of the Rio Grande in Colorado for improved water quality, agricultural water use, riparian health, wildlife and aquatic species habitat, recreation, and community safety. RGHRP programs include Riparian Restoration and Streambank Stabilization, In-stream Infrastructure Improvement, Watershed Stewardship, and Outreach and Education.

This is a request for \$12,500 for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP) to continue work with landowners and local, state, and federal entities to improve the condition and function of the Rio Grande. These funds will support the RGHRP's annual operating budget, allowing us to obtain match from other funds, expand the reach and depth of our programs, and maintain our staff capacity and grow our efforts throughout the Basin. In 2022, the RGHRP plans to work basin-wide to implement the recommendations of the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plans completed in 2020. Projects include irrigation infrastructure improvements, streambank stabilization and riparian restoration, and watershed health efforts.

7. Amount of funding requested for proposed project from the RGWCD: \$12,500

8. Total estimated cost of proposed project: January 2022 – December 2022

9. Cost share partners (if applicable) and amounts of funds to be contributed by each:

The requested funds will support the operating budget of the RGHRP. Additional operating support comes from the SLV Water Conservancy District, Conejos Water Conservancy District, individual donors, and a mix of grant funding.

10. Need for 404 permit required (attached authority) Yes _____ No Covered by Nationwide _____

11. Approval by District: Amount _____ Date _____

12. RGWCD General Manager: Approved _____ Disapproved _____

13. Date Project Completed: _____

14. Documentation Completed Date: _____

with more schools and students than our previous format. We anticipate continuing a similar structure in the future.

In the fall, we began presentations for the annual conservation poster contest with seven schools participating. For this year's theme- *Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities*, we took students outside to analyze the benefits of trees surrounding the school and connected observations to forests' role in water quality, flood mitigation, and fire intensity. In addition to our poster contest program, we held our School Pumpkin Patch with 14 schools attending and added a visit to a local carrot farm for smaller groups.

Our strategy for the upcoming year is to develop new field trip opportunities tailored to individual schools and create more educational content for classrooms. We look forward to continuing class engagement, regaining participation lost during the pandemic, and extending our programs to new schools.

7. Amount of funding requested for proposed project from the RGWCD: \$12,500

8. Total estimated cost of proposed project: \$126,000

9. Cost share partners (if applicable) and amounts of funds to be contributed by each:

Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Plan Grant - \$10,000
EPA Environmental Education Grant - \$22,500
Rio Grande Watershed Association of Conservation Districts - \$12,500
Trinchera Blanca Foundation - \$15,000

10. Need for 404 permits required (attached authority) Yes ___ No X Covered by Nationwide ___

11. Approval by District: Amount _____ Date _____

12. RGWCD General Manager: Approved _____ Disapproved _____

13. Date Project Completed: _____

14. Documentation Completed Date: _____



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Rio Grande Water Conservation District

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Protecting & Conserving San Luis Valley Water

REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

This form is provided to allow a request for funding and a detailed explanation of a proposed project request for funding which conserves and protects the water resources of the Rio Grande Basin exclusive of Costilla County and structures associated with water courses within.

1. Name of Project: Promoting and Implementing Voluntary Water Conservation

2. Responsible party or entity: Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT)

3. Contact information:

Allen Law, Executive Director
Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust
PO Box 444
Del Norte, CO 81132
Office: 719-657-0800 allenl@riograndelandtrust.org

4. Date of request: October 13, 2021

5. Location of Project (Legal Description):

RGWCD funds would be used for recruitment and implementation of conservation projects within the Rio Grande Basin, excluding Costilla County.

6. Detailed Description of Proposed Project: Photos attached Yes _____ No _____

RGWCD funding will assist RiGHT implement both our traditional water and groundwater conservation work. Currently demand for conservation easements is at an all-time high in both the San Luis Valley and across the state. During 2022 we hope to conserve approximately 4,000 acres, including approximately 1,500 regularly irrigated acres and associated water right, across 7 properties throughout the San Luis Valley. Alongside our partner Colorado Open Lands (COL), RiGHT invests significant staff time into maintaining a flexible and informed approach around the water rights on our projects so that we can accomplish conservation goals – especially preventing water export – without opposing the community need for some change to water management.

During 2020 RiGHT and COL finished developing the legal framework for a variety of groundwater conservation tools. Over this past year, we have started working with landowners, appraisers, and partners to understand the financials of these new projects. Currently RiGHT has one 'groundwater conservation easement' project with a landowner moving forward and expected to close around mid-2022. Next year the partners expect to be fully contracted and able to use approximately \$7 million in funds to promote and implement groundwater conservation easement projects. While implementation

has been slower than expected, especially related to the difficulty of valuing the groundwater, we remain committed to this program and project type.

Also over the last year, RiGHT has expanded its efforts to restore and enhance the Valley's streams and wetlands. During 2022 we will be partnering with local ranchers, Ducks Unlimited, and Wetland Dynamics to assess water control infrastructure on the Rock Creek corridor and begin developing a comprehensive plan and ultimately engineering to update much of flood irrigation infrastructure in the area in a way that benefits both water rights users and wildlife.

Finally, RiGHT will also be partnering with RGWCD on the Rio Grande Basin Water Cooperative Project in 2022 and beyond. RiGHT assisted landowners and a municipality in developing a water leasing project over the past several years. We are excited to be a member of the project advisory committee and assist in the effort to promote and support innovative water solutions.

7. Amount of funding requested for proposed project from the RGWCD: \$10,000

8. Total estimated cost of proposed project:

RiGHT's 2022 operational budget for land and groundwater conservation programs is expected to be approximately \$250,000. RGWCD's contribution to this effort is matched over 20 to 1. Direct costs for conservation projects completed in 2022 is expected to be approximately \$3 million, including landowner donations of value. We use RGWCD funds primarily to pay for staff time associated with significant water conservation projects or meetings, and we leverage RGWCD's investment to the maximum degree possible.

9. Cost share partners (if applicable) and amounts of funds to be contributed by each:

Landowner donation: \$1,750,000

North American Wetland Conservation Act: \$250,000

Natural Resources Conservation Service (Agricultural Land Easement program): \$600,000

Gates Family Foundation \$300,000

Other funders: \$100,000

Total 2021 projects: \$2,500,000

10. Need for 404 permit required (attached authority): No

11. Approval by District: Amount _____ Date _____

12. RGWCD General Manager: Approved _____ Disapproved _____

13. Date Project Completed: _____

14. Documentation Completed Date: _____



Rio Grande Water Conservation District

Highway 160 8805 Independence Way • Alamosa, Colorado
81101

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Protecting & Conserving San Luis Valley Water

REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

This form is provided to allow a request for funding and a detailed explanation of a proposed project request for funding which conserves and protects the water resources of the Rio Grande Basin exclusive of Costilla County and structures associated with water courses within.

1. Name of Project: **Expanding Water Stewardship In Mineral County**
2. Responsible party or entity: **Headwaters Alliance**
3. Contact information: **Heather Greenwolf, Executive Director**

PO Box 518, Creede, CO

719-588-2417

executivedirector@headwatersalliance.org

4. Date of request: 10/13/2021

5. Location of Project. **Willow Creek Watershed, Mineral County, Data for Creede, CO**

1/4 Section **NESE Grid G8** Township 42N Range **1W** NMPM _____ GPS Coordinates **13N Easting 330539 Northing 419059**

6. Detailed Description of Proposed Project: Photos attached **NoXXX**

Headwaters Alliance (HWA) respectfully asks for vital ongoing support from RGWCD to enable the continued work in the Willow Creek Watershed and the Upper Rio Grande Watershed. Our proposal this year is notably different from past years, in that while we have a long-term commitment to continue work in the Willow Creek Watershed, we are seeking support to expand our efforts to address the very real water quantity issues of our shared Rio Grande Basin. We are asking for funding to support work in three areas:

1. *Water Efficiency Assessment and Planning for Creede and Mineral County.* In an effort to be optimally prepared for San Luis Valley Growing Water Smart program, led by the Sonoran Institute and hosted by the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University, HWA is coordinating with CWCB's Senior Water Efficiency Expert and the Sonoran Institute contact to develop and implement a County-wide water efficiency assessment prior to the larger effort. Conversations with both the Creede City Manager and DWR Water Commissioner for our region have suggested that there is a tremendous need to more accurately quantify water use and loss. This project will directly increase Creede and Mineral County's ability to be more responsible with every drop of water, resulting in less system losses and increased community awareness of larger water issues afflicting the entire Rio Grande community. It will empower improved participation and outcomes from the Growing Water Smart process. Additionally, this project is represented within the new Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan, as the Mineral County Water Use Project.



October 15, 2021

Board of Commissioners
Rio Grande Water Conservation District
8805 Independence Way
Alamosa, CO 81101

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I am excited to see all of you next week, to share our substantial progress and speak to you about our 2022 funding request, as it is a very different request than past years.

Simply put, we all know that the work related to water quality in Willow Creek will require endurance, for it is long-term endeavor. And yes – we have asked for a bit of ongoing support for that. We are proud of the ongoing projects within the Willow Creek Watershed, including active stewardship and water educational programming for both students and adults in Mineral County, we are also looking further afield.

We are looking at the magnificent headwater mountains of the Rio Grande in both Mineral and Hinsdale County. We are thinking deeply about how we use water in Creede and Mineral County. Do we have adequate data on water use and water loss? Are the water systems built for 3–6-month occupancy adequate for increasing year-round population? The 2020 *Rio Grande Hydrologic Evaluation* prepared for CWCB by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. suggests that the surface – groundwater interaction in the mountain headwaters is still normal, what responsibility do we have to maintain this vital relationship? And how do we do it?

We are looking to answer these questions and more through thoughtfully developed projects with excellent (and brilliant) partners to benefit our entire Rio Grande watershed. Yes, we are moving our attention to the water quantity challenge in specific and measurable ways.

Looking so forward to meeting with all you and discussing our humble request for support.

Respectfully,

Heather Greenwolf

Heather Greenwolf, Executive Director

2. *Upper Rio Grande Tributary Project.* HWA will be working with key water experts to both better frame this project and implement it in 2022. The goal of this project is to increase the understanding of the water contribution of key tributaries in Mineral County into the Rio Grande by collecting stream flow data from the many tributaries, especially during snow melt and other high-water events, in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed - to include both the main-stem and South Fork of Rio Grande. We are currently in discussion with several partners to further develop the scale and scope of this project for funding and implementation in 2022, including TailWater Limited and the Masters of Environmental Management Program at Western Colorado University. We will be reaching out to other potential partners with similar interest, expertise and passion regarding maximizing forest health, snow quantity, and water contribution to the Rio Grande. Again, this project is represented within the new Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan.
3. *Comprehensive Willow Creek Watershed Planning Project.* We are coming into the third year of this multi-partner project, initiated in 2020 with generous fiscal support from Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund, City of Creede, Mineral County, Trout Unlimited and Rio Grande Water Conservation Board (thank you for that!) and others. At the broadest level the objective of the Comprehensive Willow Creek Watershed Planning Project (Watershed Plan) is to effectively collaborate with partners and stakeholders to establish a *Willow Creek Watershed Plan* that meets established criteria, as well as to facilitate the implementation of cohesive and integrated projects that lead to improved water quality, stable riparian zone, ecologically functioning floodplain, healthy fisheries, flood mitigation and thoughtful recreational design in the face of climate uncertainty and the very real and pressing need to improve water quality and maintain water supply. We are thrilled with progress to date, including:
 - a. Completed the *Willow Creek Inventory*, which established an accessible library of resources, reports and data related to Willow Creek these long 25 years, (Thank you Willow Creek Reclamation Committee for all their diligence, wisdom and action). This may sound boring, but has proven to be enormously helpful to sharing information between entities, facilitating collaboration where it might not otherwise have occurred and identifying the central risks to the Watershed, which are very much in alignment with CWCB's 2019 Technical Advisory.
 - b. Completed the Willow Creek Water and Soil Quality Databank. This databank collates all water and soil quality data from the past 25 plus years, and from the many entities (WCRC, EPA, USGS, CDPHE, CDRMS, etc.) into a single data bank. While currently only available as an ENORMOUS excel file, we will launch a query based system on our website by the end of the year, resulting in real time charts, graphs and maps. We have been fortunate to partner with Dr. Kathy James from CU Anschutz on this project.
 - c. We are currently working with WaterVation on a 30% Conceptual Design for Stream Stability and Flood Mitigation on the North Creede Reach, including the installation of an operable stream gage. Given the very real possibility of the return of active mining to Creede, this stream gage will be an important part of community oversight related to water quality and quantity in a changing system.
 - d. The community review process for the Draft 60% Design of Lower Willow Creek Floodplain has been phenomenal - which is to say, not easy, and yet embracing radical transparency and collaboration among unlikely partners with the intent of making significant stream restoration improvements to this reach, within a reasonable expenditure framework and humility to the wisdom of naturally functioning and healing systems. While RGWCD does not underwrite this project in any manner, this project does benefit the riparian environment, water quality and our downstream neighbors on the Rio Grande.

- e. We will complete the final report: *Comprehensive Willow Creek Watershed Plan* by March 2022. This report will satisfy the EPA Nine Elements for Watershed Planning, incorporate findings from the *Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment* and the *Rio Grande Stream Management Plan*. It will serve as a planning and guiding document for solving the challenging water quality issues and legacy mining impacts within Willow Creek.

Funding from RGWCD is a cornerstone to facilitating locally-driven water work in Mineral County, including:

- *Operationalizing project implementation.* Indeed, what HWA needs most, what we suspect many of the small-yet-mighty non-profits doing important work in the SLV need most, are funds to support administrative efforts and general operations. While we anticipate 80 -90% of project costs will be funded by partners such as CWCB, City of Creede, Mineral County, American Forests, Trout Unlimited and others, HWA remains vulnerable to maintaining our basic operational expenses. As an organization – both as HWA and as our legacy predecessor Willow Creek Reclamation Committee - we have always worked hard to keep organizational expenses as low as possible. Funds from RGWCD ensures that our local staff can achieve this long list of measurable goals. Sincerely and simply, funds from RGWCD make it work.
- *The community value of the RGWCD funds.* Annual support from RGWCD continues to be seed money for all the work we do, and it will be no different this year. Your support affirms the importance of continued and expanding work in Mineral County to be a part of the overall solution for our beloved home. Additionally, RGWCD’s support enlivens ongoing and increasing financial support from City of Creede and Mineral County in supporting a comprehensive approach to addressing the many tangled complexities of Willow Creek.
- *The leverage value of RGWCD funds.* HWA sincerely thanks RGWCD for funds received in 2021. As noted above, these funds leveraged a dollar to dollar to match from CWCB, so RGWCD’s contribution of \$20K realized \$40K worth of funding for vital work within Mineral County. 100% of funds contributed by RGWCD in 2022 will be used to generate match dollars for all three project areas and to demonstrate regional partner support.

Expanding Water Stewardship in Mineral County - Investment in Mineral County as a vitally critical ecological region and civic community in the long-term health of the Rio Grande. While Mineral County may not be the biggest water-user within the Rio Grande system, our beloved San Juan Mountains attract, collect and hold the snow that feeds the Upper Rio Grande. HWA, as the legacy organization of the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee, is the sole organization within Mineral County attending to this work or way of thinking within the county. We are committed to expanding our attention, efforts and partnerships to better address the very real and pressing needs of the Rio Grande. We sincerely seek to partner with RGWCD, to attend to water quantity and quality issues within the county, to conserve wherever possible, to improve water quality, to create a sustainable future for our grandchildren.

7. Amount of funding requested for proposed project from the RGWCD: **\$20,000**

8. Total estimated cost of proposed project = \$295,000 with the following breakdown:

- *Water Efficiency Assessment and Planning for Creede and Mineral County*
 - Total 2022 Estimated Budget = \$65,000
- *Upper Rio Grande Tributary Project*
 - Total 2022 Guesstimated Budget = \$145,000
- *Comprehensive Willow Creek Watershed Planning Project*, represents closing out project.
 - Total 2022 Estimated Budget = \$85,000

9. Cost share partners (if applicable) and amounts of funds to be contributed by each:

Project	Funder	Match	Status
Water Efficiency Planning			
	City of Creede	\$5,000	Verbal approval. Pending Bd vote
	Mineral County	\$1,500 - \$5,000	\$1,500 confident, total pending BOCC vote
	CWCB	\$45,000	Positive council from CWCB. Will need to move through their approval process.
Upper Rio Grande Tributary			
	CWCB	TBD	Positive council from CWCB. Will need to move through their approval process.
	Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund	\$15,000	To be awarded March 2022
	Western Colorado University	\$5,000	In discussion.
Comprehensive Willow Creek Watershed Planning Project. Please Note: All told this has been a \$507K project funded by 11 funders. The following represents match amounts for 2022 only.			
	City of Creede	\$10,000	Verbal approval. Pending Bd vote
	Lower Willow Creek Restoration Company	\$20,000	Verbal approval. Pending Bd Vote
	Trout Unlimited	\$20,000	Verbal approval, Pending approval.
	American Forests	\$15, 575	Confirmed
	Plus lesser amounts by others.	\$10,000	Confident

10. Need for 404 permits required (attached authority) Yes _____ No XXX
 Covered by Nationwide _____

11. Approval by District: Amount _____ Date _____

12. RGWCD General Manager: Approved _____ Disapproved _____

13. Date Project Completed: _____

14. Documentation Completed Date: _____