



Agenda | April 15, 2021 4:00 PM

ZOOM MEETING

Please email healthyivers@pitkincounty.com for meeting access information

Time	Administrative Items
4:00 PM	Board Comment Public Comment Additions /Deletions to Agenda Approval of Minutes - March 18, 2021
4:15 PM 4:45 PM 5:15 PM 5:45 PM 6:15 PM	<u>Outreach/Grants/Education</u> Crystal River Wild and Scenic Designation Support - Wilderness Workshop Ruby of the Rockies Documentary – Ryan Wolfe Source Water Education Program – Dr. William Evans Sustaining CO Watersheds Conference – CO Watershed Assembly CO Riparian Association and Water Education Colorado Watershed Education Programs Support - Roaring Fork Conservancy
6:45 PM	Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Aurora and a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Aurora and the Bureau of Reclamation Concerning Busk-Ivanhoe Water Rights and Frying Pan Exchange – John Ely
7:15 PM	• Open Discussion
7:30 PM	• Adjourn

Agenda items are subject to change – Times are approximate and are also subject to change

HEALTHY RIVERS AND STREAMS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
Regular Meeting
March 18, 2021
Via zoom

River Board members present: Bill Jochems, Lisa Tasker, Andre Wille, Chris Wheatley, Chuck Ogilby

River Board members absent: Wendy Huber, Chris Lemons

Others present: Lisa MacDonald, Laura Makar, Heather Sackett, Kate Hudson, April Long, Jayla Poppleton, Heather Lewin, Seth Mason, Connie Baker

Board Comment – None

Public Comment – None

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda - None

Approval of Minutes February 18, 2021

Mr. Wheatley moved to approve the minutes from February 18, 2021. Mr. Wille seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0.

2021 Budget Outlook – Connie Baker Pitkin County Budget Director

Ms. Baker recapped the 2020 budget and provided information on 2020 sales tax and predictions for the 2021 budget year. The budget remains healthy even with the 2020 pandemic.

RICD Statute – Andre Wille

Mr. Wille attended a virtual seminar on an effort to update the RICD Statute to include natural river features that are economically important due to their unique recreational opportunities. Discussions ensued regarding submission of a letter of support. The letter has been vetted by the County Attorney's office and was found to be consistent with county policies and positions pursuant to updated by-laws.

Mr. Obilby moved to recommend executing a letter of support for an updated RICD Statute. Mr. Wheatley seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0.

Policy Statements – Laura Makar

Transbasin Diversion Policy –

Mr. Wheatley moved to adopt the Transbasin Diversion Policy with an edit to item #5 to include the word "water" before conservation. Ms. Tasker seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0.

Riparian Zone Policy – Laura Makar

The board reviewed the draft policy and provided feedback on language and additional areas of consideration. Ms. Makar will incorporate additions into the draft and present an updated policy at the Board's May meeting.

WECO Sponsorship Request – Jayla Poppleton

Ms. Poppleton presented the sponsorship request to the Board. WECO is seeking \$2500 for the Water Educator Network, \$1000, for the Water Leaders Program Day Lunch and \$2500 for the fall 2021 Headwaters Magazine.

Mr. Wille moved to approve the request with an edit to the Water Educator Network request from \$1500 to \$1000. Mr. Wheatley seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0.

Frying Pan EFlow grant reporting – Heather Lewin, RFC and Seth Mason Lotic Hydrologic

Ms. Lewin and Mr. Mason presented a final report on the Frying Plan EFlow project.

Minutes – Healthy Rivers and Streams Citizens Advisory Board

March 18, 2021

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High School Scholarship Updates

Mr., Wille and Mr. Wheatley announced the scholarship awards from Aspen, Basalt and the Roaring Fork Watershed. Aspen and Basalt High Schools had just one application each and seven from the Watershed. The Roaring Fork High recipient will be announced at the awards ceremony. The schools are asking for a letter of award and a member be available to present the scholarship at the upcoming ceremonies.

Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District Decree -Laura Makar

Ms. Makar provided an update to the River Board on the Rio Blanco Conservancy District Decree in northwest Colorado a water right for a new dam-and-reservoir project that top state engineers had opposed

New Staff Position – Lisa MacDonald

Ms. MacDonald updated the Board on the new position. A budget supplemental was submitted in Dec 2020 and approved as pending with a request for further discussion by the BOCC. Draft job description was submitted to HR in January 2021 and HR staff will review. BOCC at its work sessions have asked the County Manager to look into the status of the position.

Mr. Wheatley moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Tasker seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0.

The Board adjourned at approximately 6:30pm.

Approved:

Attest:

Bill Jochemns, Vice-Chairman

Lisa MacDonald



PITKIN COUNTY HEALTHY RIVERS GRANT PROCESS AND CRITERIA

1. Grant requests to the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Board, (the Board) that exceed \$5,000.00* must follow the grant criteria format. The format is available at pitkincounty.com/healthyivers and is also included below. Grant applications must be delivered electronically to county staff (healthyivers@pitkincounty.com) by **March 31, 2021** to be considered at an April board meeting or **August 31, 2021** to be considered at a September board meeting. Grant requests must describe the location and contain an address of the property. Applications that are incomplete or do not follow the format will be returned for re-submission
2. Grant applications for a single project may be made one time during a calendar year. There is no limit on the number of grant requests an individual or organization can make in a calendar year. Total grant awards in a calendar year will be limited by available \$'s budgeted for grants. Grants recommended for approval by the Board are advisory only and are subject to final approval by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).
3. Funds disbursed will apply to the budget year in which they are approved by the BOCC.
4. County staff with participation by a Board finance committee member will complete a preliminary review of all applications to ensure they comply with the grant criteria. Incomplete applications will be returned to Applicant with a request for more information.
5. Applications will be placed on a Board agenda following preliminary review. Applicant must attend the meeting in person or via other means acceptable to the Chair i.e. video conferencing and make a *brief* presentation (10 – 15 minute summary) to the Board. Meetings will follow BOCC meeting procedures.
6. Each Board member will individually score the application (*in advance of the scheduled meeting*) based on the grant criteria (see attached score sheet). Criteria will be equally weighted and scoring will be on a scale of 0 – 100, based on the extent to which the individual criteria have been met. Board members may modify their scoring after applicant's presentation or during Board Q & A discussion. Board members should provide specific comments when scoring any category at less than 70%. Grant requests that receive an aggregate average score of less than 70% will not be presented to the BOCC without additional discussion and majority approval by HRS Board, noting reasoning for requesting approval to the BOCC. Grant approval/denial may be deferred to a future meeting, if deemed necessary by the Board.
7. Grant applications approved by the Board will be forwarded to the BOCC, for final authorization/disbursement, including a master score sheet which summarizes the Board's individual assessments of each request. Only Board members who are in attendance at the meeting where an application has been considered will have their scores included. Applicants must also attend the BOCC meeting at which their application is being considered for final approval. County Staff will summarize the



grant requests for the BOCC and applicants should be prepared to respond to BOCC questions. At least one member of the HRS Board will attend the BOCC meeting where Grant requests are being considered.

8. Key factors for Board consideration of grant requests:
 - a. Evaluations should be based on merits of the project/request;
 - b. Requests must be measurable and include accountability and reporting back to the Board;
 - c. Requests must have specific measureable deliverables;
 - d. Requests must identify other funding partners when applicable
 - e. Requests exceeding \$30,000.00 may be disbursed in specific segmented amounts based on performance reporting and milestone/progress achievement.

9. Approved grants will require applicants to sign a contract with Pitkin County specifying the terms, conditions and requirements associated with each grant.

*= Grant requests of less than \$5000.00 must be submitted in a written request and generally follow the grant criteria, with an emphasis on the goals of the Board and the benefits of such requests to the community. The Board will consider such requests at the first available meeting based on its individual merits and presentation. Grant requests do not include sponsorships or subscriptions.



GRANT CRITERIA 2020

A. Goals of the Healthy Rivers Board

The extent to which the proposed grant request/project meets the stated goals, objectives and on-going projects/priorities of the River Board.

1. Must be complete, clear and concise, with specific dollar amounts in total and for each element of the project;
2. Must fulfill the intent of the ballot language.

B. Viability of the Project

The extent to which the proposed grant request/project is practical, will be completed as proposed and/or may require other resources to be fully completed, and the extent to which the project can be repeated in other locations such that it will not be limited to a single event.

1. Must address an essential need;
2. Demonstrates collaboration and/or partners with other agencies.

C. Public Need, Accessibility and Appreciation

The extent to which the proposed grant request/project will be seen, appreciated and/or used by the public.

1. Does not duplicate existing services or programs;
2. Must serve and be appreciated by people who live and/or work in Pitkin County and the Roaring Fork watershed;
3. Includes a specific Public Relations strategy;
4. Demonstrates an appropriate need for public funding.

D. History of the Requesting Party

The extent that the requesting individual/entity has been successful in other projects or efforts and is known in the community.

E. Budget, Measurements and Accountability

The extent to which the proposed grant amount is appropriate to the project scope and includes other appropriate sources of funding. The extent that the project includes specific measures for success and reporting of progress and results to the River Board.

1. Demonstrates financial stability and presents accurate budgets and financial reports, measurements and accountability;
2. Specific measures of progress and success;
3. Reporting plan to the River Board/others.



BALLOT LANGUAGE – GOALS OF RIVER FUND

- (1) Maintaining and improving water quality and quantity within the Roaring Fork watershed;
- (2) Purchasing, adjudicating changes of, leasing, using, banking, selling, and protecting water rights for the benefit of the Roaring Fork watershed;
- (3) Working to secure, create and augment minimum stream flows in conjunction with non-profits, grant agencies, and appropriate State and Federal agencies to ensure ecological health, recreational opportunities, and wildlife and riparian habitat; promoting water conservation; and
- (4) Improving and constructing capital facilities that contribute to the objectives listed above.



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www.wildernessworkshop.org
info@wildernessworkshop.org

March 31, 2021

Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Board
530 E. Main St Ste 301
Aspen, CO 81611

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**Deceased*

Dear Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Board grant review committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our grant proposal to the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Board. Wilderness Workshop Respectfully requests a grant of \$35,000 to support our campaign for the protection of the Crystal River with a Wild and Scenic River designation.

Wilderness Workshop is dedicated to educating, advocating, and connecting with our community on important issues affecting our wild places. We are deeply grateful for your time and consideration of our grant application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions at 970-963-3977 or emily@wildernessworkshop.org.

Sincerely,

Emily Kay
Philanthropy Director
emily@wildernessworkshop.org

Wilderness Workshop Campaign for a Wild and Scenic Crystal River

Grant Request to the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Board

March 31, 2021

Organization: Wilderness Workshop

Mailing Address: PO Box 1442, Carbondale, CO 81623

Phone Number: 970-963-3977

Contact information: Emily Kay, Philanthropy Director

Email: emily@wildernessworkshop.org

www.wildernessworkshop.org

A. Goals of the Healthy Rivers Board

The extent to which the proposed grant request/project meets the stated goals, objectives and on-going projects/priorities of the River Board.

- 1. Must be complete, clear and concise, with specific dollar amounts in total and for each element of the project;*
- 2. Must fulfill the intent of the ballot language.*

Wilderness Workshop respectfully requests a grant in the amount of \$35,000 from the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Board to support our campaign for the protection of the Crystal River with a Wild and Scenic River designation. A Wild and Scenic River Designation would provide durable protections for the Crystal River by ensuring that no dams or out of basin diversions could be built, and that the river is managed to preserve the amazing recreational, ecological and scenic values of the river corridor. Wilderness Workshop will be working to protect 39 miles of the Crystal River from its headwaters in the Maroon Bells Snowmass Wilderness to a point just above the first major agricultural diversion—the Sweet Jessup irrigation canal below the confluence of Avalanche Creek.

The Crystal is one of the few remaining undammed rivers in Colorado. The Colorado Water Plan indicates a need for development of 400,000 acre-feet of additional water storage to meet increasing demand, or roughly a 45% increase from current water storage in the state, making the Crystal river a major target for water developers. This threat means that we may see proposals for dams and/or out-of-basin diversions to siphon off the Crystal's flows. And the possibility remains for existing irrigation water rights to be bought up by water developers, agricultural lands dried up, and existing river flows to be further diminished if transferred to storage rights in reservoirs.

A 2016 Crystal River Management Plan shows the Crystal River has extensive existing adjudicated water rights. These legal water rights allow for diversions that occur during the irrigation season between the months of May and October. While the existing rights to water diversions are large, during spring runoff the Crystal's flows exceed these diversion rights. Historically from May to mid-July (as gauged by the USGS above Avalanche Creek near Redstone), peak flows extensively exceed the existing rights to water diversions. These un-

adjudicated flows are what new water development proposals are likely to target and of greatest concern to any entity attentive to the ecological health of the Crystal River. This threat to these ecologically critical high flows is what is of greatest importance to the overall health of the Crystal River. Any new outflows of water from the basin or dam proposals would likely target these flows and impact the health of the river, the myriad of species that depend on it, and the lifestyles of the surrounding communities.

B. Viability of the Project

The extent to which the proposed grant request/project is practical, will be completed as proposed and/or may require other resources to be fully completed, and the extent to which the project can be repeated in other locations such that it will not be limited to a single event.

1. *Must address an essential need;*
2. *Demonstrates collaboration and/or partners with other agencies.*

A Wild and Scenic designation for the Crystal River would permanently protect the main stem of the Crystal from dams and out-of-basin diversions, ensuring current and future generations are able to benefit from the clean water, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities and scenic beauty of the Crystal Valley. It also ensures the Crystal Valley won't be flooded by future dams and seasonal flows won't decrease to a trickle by out-of-basin diversions.

We have a long history of working collaboratively with the Forest Service, state agencies, local governments, ranchers, recreation interests, communities and other stakeholders in the region. For example, our decade of work to protect the Thompson Divide from oil and gas development has earned us strong relationships and credibility with the local ranching community as well as our members of Congress who will be instrumental in securing protections for the Crystal River. We also collaborate regularly with national and local conservation partners and have already begun coalition-building around a Crystal River campaign.

Additionally, we are currently participating in a stakeholder process working to achieve Wild and Scenic designation for Deep Creek, near Dotsero. Our experience in this process gives us expertise, innovative ideas and lessons learned that we will apply to our work on the Crystal River.

C. Public Need, Accessibility, and Appreciation

The extent to which the proposed grant request/project will be seen, appreciated and/or used by the public.

1. *Does not duplicate existing services or programs;*
2. *Must serve and be appreciated by people who live and/or work in Pitkin County and the Roaring Fork watershed;*
3. *Includes a specific Public Relations strategy;*
4. *Demonstrates an appropriate need for public funding.*

The threat of dams and out-of-basin diversions on the Crystal River would impact private land owners, wildlife and recreation enthusiasts throughout the communities in the Crystal River

Valley. We will leverage community organizing activities, including focused communications, sharing photos and hosting field trips to affected areas, to educate community members on the benefits of a Wild and Scenic designation for the Crystal River. Permanent protection for the Crystal River will serve people who live and work in Pitkin County by ensuring current and future generations are able to benefit from the clean and abundant water, recreation opportunities, wildlife and scenic beauty of the Crystal Valley. Our local communities value protecting public lands in our backyard for these reasons, and we will focus our messaging on that shared values and on the diverse set of stakeholders that have come together to protect the Crystal River.

Our outreach to community members, including local ranchers and farmers, and recreationists would include:

- Educating the media and public, including by developing online and printed materials;
- Providing the public with opportunities to engage in the campaign, such as public meetings and action alerts;
- Outreach to conservation, recreation, private land owner, and other community partners to participate in advocacy efforts;
- Activating diverse allies to write letters to the editor and op eds, meet with decision-makers and otherwise speak up on behalf of the proposal;
- Implement robust grassroots and grasstops organizing campaigns;
- Earn local and state-wide media attention on our efforts;
- And build and extensive list of supporters for a Wild and Scenic designation for the Crystal River.

We will also focus messaging throughout this campaign on climate change and what must be done to protect our climate by protecting watersheds in the Roaring Fork Valley. Protecting public lands and water has emerged as an important strategy that can help reverse the impacts of the ever-intensifying climate crisis. Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, along with President Biden, are prioritizing land and water protections in their support of the 30x30 initiative which seeks to protect 30% of our nation's lands and waters by 2030. The momentum behind the 30x30 initiative is catalyzing Wilderness Workshop's protection campaigns, and a Wild and Scenic designation for the Crystal River would be an important contribution toward the 30x30 goal. Therefore, we have a great opportunity to integrate this campaign into our broader designations and communications work.

D. History of the Requesting Party

The extent that the requesting individual/entity has been successful in other projects or efforts and is known in the community.

Founded in 1967, Wilderness Workshop's mission is to protect and conserve the wilderness and natural landscapes of over 4 million acres of public lands in western Colorado. We work directly with the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and a number of local and national groups to protect public lands from industrialization like fossil fuel development and logging,

reduce carbon emissions from public lands, create equity in public land management and access, and advocate for responsible recreation and land stewardship throughout our region.

Many of our local residents are familiar with Wilderness Workshop's work to protect the Thompson Divide. It provides hundreds of thousands of acres of mid-elevation habitat, federal grazing allotments for local ranching operations, and amazing and undeveloped recreation opportunities. Over a decade ago, Wilderness Workshop catalyzed efforts to protect this landscape. Today WW continues to lead the campaign to protect the Thompson Divide from oil and gas development. The campaign has achieved several important successes. Most notably, after years of administrative and legal advocacy by WW, BLM canceled 25 illegally issued leases in the area—the first time BLM had ever canceled so many leases over the objections of leaseholders. Based on broad-based public support for protecting the area, the U.S. Forest Service also administratively protected about half the area in a recent land use plan.

Due in large part to our efforts and those of our partners, the CORE Act recently passed in the House and is awaiting a vote in the Senate for the third time. With the new Biden administration, and a political climate that is focused on climate change as a threat to national security, we remain hopeful that the CORE Act will be passed once and for all this year. We expect a similar community-based effort to achieve permanent protection for the Crystal River.

The work for these two projects will be led by Conservation Director Juli Slivka and overseen by Executive Director Will Roush. Our campaign manager, communications director, field coordinator and director of community organizing will contribute significantly to our work on this campaign. This team has decades of experience in protecting public lands, including through proactive designation efforts and defensive legal and policy work.

E. Budget, Measurements and Accountability

- 1. Demonstrates financial stability and presents accurate budgets and financial reports, measurements and accountability;*
- 2. Specific measures of progress and success;*
- 3. Reporting plan to the River Board/others.*

Wilderness Workshop is seeking to create a lasting, permanent impact on the Crystal River Valley, its citizens, land owners, wildlife, and the entire community in the Roaring Fork Valley. We receive financial support from numerous organizations throughout western Colorado, national nonprofit funders, individual donors, and private family foundations. But, in order to do the work that must be done to designate the Crystal River as Wild and Scenic, we must obtain enough funding to ensure we can carry out our plan thoroughly and effectively.

To date, we have received one commitment of \$25,000 and another \$15,000 gift to support our work on the Crystal River. We have also requested an additional \$20,000 in funding from a private family foundation, and we are in talks with the Pew Charitable Trusts to help fulfill the budget requirements for this work. While this is not the entire funding required to complete

the campaign (see attached budget), it will play a huge part in enabling our work for a Wild and Scenic Crystal River.

The short answer to how we evaluate success is the extent to which our efforts result in legislation which in turn will protect the Crystal River from dams and out-of-basin diversions. Here are some metrics we use along the path to achieving that permanent protection: number of community contacts made through newsletters, email alerts, social media contacts, public presentations, etc.; number of public comments and letters we generate on important issues; earned media amplifying our messages and/or in favor of our issues; and support and collaboration from elected officials including resolutions, introduction of bills, public statements and official letters to decision-makers.

Progress to the Board can be submitted on an annual or semi-annual basis, and we are flexible based on the desires of the Board and requirements of its grant recipients.

Wilderness Workshop
2021 Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Grant Proposal

**Wilderness Workshop – 2021 Project Budget
Wild and Scenic Designation on the Crystal River**

Description	<u>Expenses</u>	Amount
Staff time (salary & benefits)		
Campaign Manager		\$22,435
Conservation Director		\$11,431
Community Organizer		\$15,444
Communications Director		\$18,176
Field Coordinator		\$14,898
Executive Director		\$11,990
Total Salary		\$86,926
Hard costs		
Travel		\$2,500
Overflights for media, members of Congress		\$2,000
Mapping and graphics		\$7,500
Advertising		\$5,000
Branding and marketing		\$5,000
Events and Organizing		\$5,000
Total Hard Costs		\$27,000
Total Expenses		\$113,926

Source	<u>Revenue</u>	Status	Amount
Anonymous		Committed	\$25,000
Anonymous – Private Foundation		Requested	\$20,000
Private Foundation		Committed	\$15,000
Pew Charitable Trusts		in discussion*	\$15,000
<i>Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Fund</i>		<i>Requested</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>
General Support (unrestricted gifts to WW)		Received	\$3,927
Total Revenue			\$113,926

*Wilderness Workshop has shared the details of the project for a Wild and Scenic Crystal River with our contacts at the Pew Charitable Trusts. While we don't yet have confirmation of funding, we expect to hear from them regarding a funding commitment in early April 2021.

Ruby of the Rockies

Created by Ryan J Wolfe

ryanjwolfe@icloud.com

970-618-0330

Redstone, Colorado, 1902

Coal is fueling the world and industry is the new future. With reckless abandon mankind hurls towards a new beginning. Redstone of 1902 was a shining gem hinting at the fabric of the future. Adjacent to the industry of Redstone, the Crystal River has withstood the test of time to become one of today's last untamed and natural wonders. And through it all, industry - coal mines, marble quarries, railways - never stopped the current of the Crystal River.

Back then the Crystal River was *Wild and Free*. And in spite of it all, today it still is.

Today the Crystal River flows free to its confluence with the Roaring Fork River in Carbondale, Colorado. This confluence binds one the grand tributaries of the great Colorado River, the Roaring Fork and the Crystal. The Roaring Fork River has its headwaters above Aspen, at the Continental Divide. The Crystal River finds its headwaters above the ghost town of Crystal City, below Schofield Pass, and to the south of Lead King Basin. Their headwaters are a mere 20 miles apart, but they join with a cumulative total distance of over 100 miles.

The Crystal River is one of the last free flowing rivers in Colorado that is currently at risk. Today the Crystal River flows free without a dam. We intend to create a film that will celebrate the vibrant and free Crystal River and highlight the natural beauty of the valley which the Crystal River has carved over the eons.

Today the Crystal Mill is one of the most recognizable places in the world; one will find the images of it familiar. To visit the Crystal Mill elicits De Ja Vu. For sure you have seen it, like the Maroon Bells of Aspen. The Crystal Mill will be the inciting image of this film!

The story of the Crystal will be told through the eyes and ears of our protagonist Ruby who, after seeing a photo of the Crystal Mill in Moab Utah, embarks on a journey to explore the River and its history. She finds herself broken down at the confluence of the Crystal and Roaring Fork River in Carbondale. Nearly drawn to stay because of Carbondale's welcoming charm, she musters the will to leave. On foot. She finds herself hiking through ranches, meadows, and mountain river narrows, through ghost towns and historic districts, and marble riverside dumps over 100 years old as she ventures to her goal, the Crystal Mill at the headwaters of the Crystal River.

Along her journey she will meet the people of the Crystal River. Miners, Kayakers, and fisherman, ranchers, biologists, and townsfolk. And they all have felt the magical draw of the Crystal River that has kept them here. The Crystal River has drawn thousands of people over

many generations, and today the Crystal River is much the same as it ever was. A treasure that calls out for protection.

Throughout her journey she will come across numerous characters, ranchers, anglers, biologists, historians, hikers, kayakers, and conservationists. As she meets each of these individuals the film will pivot into mini documentary vignettes. These vignettes will be the educational portion of the film and will provide the viewer with a wide breadth of perspectives from the stewards of this watershed.

These vignettes will also be able to stand alone and be used as pieces for different organizations, in film festivals where they meet the festival's focus, and on the internet to draw viewers to the larger project. The vignettes will also be collaborative efforts from artists, students, and organizations to ensure that the film gives voice to the many stewards of the Crystal River.

Goals of the Healthy Rivers Board

The goal of this project is to identify and work with local organizations in a manner that will benefit the Roaring Fork and Crystal River watersheds through a media project – the creation of a vivid film - that will promote action, advocacy, and foster education focused on bringing the Crystal River watershed the Wild and Scenic designation it deserves. Most films strive for awareness. We understand that today there is a great deal of awareness. We need action.

We will create a media campaign that reflects the fragile nature of the Crystal River watershed. We will build a coalition of non-profits to protect this natural wonder that is still wild and free.

The focus and goals of this project underscore and advance key objectives and priorities of the Healthy Rivers Board, including ensuring the ecological health, recreational opportunities, and wildlife and riparian habitat within the Roaring Fork Watershed by actively supporting Wild and scenic designation for the Crystal River.

We ask the Healthy Rivers board for a total of \$60,000 to fund the financial portion of this project. Our budget will implement four stages to produce this project: Pre-Production, Production, Post-Production, and Distribution. Our budget details below illustrate how the funds will be used in each. While we ask for a large commitment from the Healthy Rivers and Streams Board, our fundraising efforts will continue throughout the film to complete our fundraising needs, from organizational, corporate and grassroots fundraising efforts.

Through social media, volunteer efforts, and taking the fight directly to the powers that are threatening many of our country's natural wonders, we will use our project to create measurable action to achieve on-going protection of the Crystal River into the future.

Viability of the Project

While we ask the HSRB board for a large donation, with or without it the project will push forward. We ask the HSRB board because it is directly aligned with our goals and vision. Without the funds the project will continue, but it certainly will move slower. Our goal is to achieve our fundraising goals early on in the project so that we can focus our time on production as early as possible. We already have most of the equipment needed for production, but with the funds we are asking for we can spend more time and bring in more people to make this project now.

We also intend to seek in-kind and organizational support from Patagonia Clothing, The Nature Conservancy, and Simms. We are uniquely positioned to attract their support. Ryan Wolfe, the Producer, has created documentaries with Patagonia Clothing and the University of California, protecting some of Southern California's last coastal open spaces. The Nature Conservancy has worked with our Director of Photography, Dan Sohner, on Colorado environmentally focused projects. The Owner of Simms lives part time in Redstone, and the CEO of Simms was one of the great voices that helped protect the Thompson Divide from fracking while he was the CEO of Patagonia. We believe that we will be able to find support beyond the HSRB board, but it will be a continuing effort throughout

Public Relations Strategy

Through our partners in production and our grassroots fundraising efforts beyond what the board may provide in funding, we will create a large coalition of partners and advocates that will be voices in the community. These voices have proven to be the largest outreach tools that we have used in the past to make the public aware of the project and its goals.

Beyond those involved in the project we will also be submitting to every local film festival and also holding action events with screenings at local theaters once the film is completed. These events will not only showcase the film but will provide a venue for building support for protection and the efforts to achieve Wild and Scenic status for the Crystal River. Beyond these methods the Crystal River Archive will be a vehicle for public relations efforts for a years to come!

Crystal River Media Archive

This project will live well beyond its multiple stages of production. **Our** distribution model will be unique to many documentary distribution models since our goal is to create action. We will use the film to engage the local youth in the school system throughout the Roaring Fork Valley. Not only do we want the children and young adults to see the film, but we want them to feel the need to engage in the process of becoming stewards of their backyard.

We will take all of the footage and media from this project and create a media archive that we will let schools, institutions, organizations, and companies use to protect the Crystal and Roaring Fork rivers. This is what will be called the Crystal River Media Archive. Through traditional and social marketing, we will make these organizations aware of the archive and vet them for usage. If this project is successful, we are successful. But if more projects are created that help protect the Crystal River Watershed then the money spent to make this project has multiplied effect. That is our Goal!

There are educational programs in the Roaring Fork Valley that promote film production. But these programs are limited on time and funding. With the environmental film archive that we will create, these local educational programs can pull from this media archive to support their educational efforts, enabling the children to achieve a greater understanding of media production without the arduous amounts of time required to gather the media.

Public Need, Accessibility, and Appreciation

Engaging our local youth on the issue of protecting our local waterways through education and accessibility is a public need. We are doing a good job in this area now, but we can do much better. With the impending national environmental threats that have rapidly accelerated, we need our youth to be prepared for the future more than ever. This film will showcase the majesty of the Crystal River Watershed, but better yet, we will prepare the next local generation with tools to continue the conservation and preservation efforts of stewardship to protect our unique local waterway.

Further, we can show the upper Roaring Fork Valley residents the beauty of the Crystal River. Many who live in the upper Roaring Fork Valley are unfamiliar with the majesty and history of the Crystal River Watershed. The film can encourage those with resources in that part of the Valley to contribute to the money needed to protect this fragile place, including funding litigation if necessary.

In addition to using traditional and social marketing to make organizations, schools and residents of the valley aware of the film and the Crystal River Media Archive, we intend to do multiple film festivals that are positioned to promote environmentalism and the outdoors. But every nature film has this goal. We will use support from organizations such as the Wilderness Workshop or the Sierra Club to rally the communities in the Roaring Fork and Crystal River Valleys to take action. We will also engage the youth to take action. We will use this piece as a point of leverage to engage our local political systems. And again, this film will be used to create an archive of media that can grow and be effective for a very long time.

History of the Requesting Party

Ryan Wolfe has produced and edited, multiple full-length documentaries that have won numerous awards including *Gavitoa*, *The End of Southern California* (50+ sold out screenings in Southern California and in use in Santa Barbara educational institutions) *The Road to Falluja* (spent 5 years on Netflix) and *A Womb with a View* (was featured on TCM), to name a few. Further, the projects he has produced have finished on time and on budget. The world of film production can be tough, but an organized producer with a background in editing is essential. An editor knows what gets cut and left on the cutting room floor. A producer makes fiscal decisions. Having one person that does both ensures that the project can be efficient, on time, and on budget.

One of Ryan Wolfe's Keystone projects was producing a documentary in partnership with the Gaviota Coast Conservancy in Santa Barbara California that helped spur the action needed to protect the last undeveloped coastline in Southern California. With the help of Patagonia Clothing, UCSB, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, League of Woman Voters, and many other organizations and countless grassroots donors, today that coastline has been saved from a very large development. The film created a coalition of people that worked with organizations that worked to influence the Santa Barbara BOCC to stop a development and send it back into its EIR process that essentially crippled the developer financially. Today the Naples portion of the coastline is still wild and free!

The community that came together to make the film possible were an organized force that helped to give a voice to the coastline, and today it is still pristine. We hope to have a similar effect with the Crystal River.

Budget, Measurements, and Accountability

The budget represents the financial needs to make this film, build organizational support, and ensure that the community is involved and ready to take action. We intend to report our progress quarterly to the HSRB Board and give visual examples of our progress. Our goal is to produce the film in 18 months from the onset of production. With more upfront funding this goal becomes more manageable as we hope to be able to work full time on the project. Our budget proposal is below.

Budget Proposal

We are seeking primary funding from the HRSB, because we want to produce a film that will protect the Crystal River and feel empowered from the start. The budget spreadsheet is detailed based on the following sections:

Pre-Production: This is where we will do the body of our research. Documentary film pre-production can, and usually does, bleed into the production stage. This is where we will organize our ideas around strong data, exploration, and storyboarding. We will also be actively seeking the support of the other institutions and organizations during pre-production to ensure that when the project is finished, we have as many people as possible view our documentary and join in our fight for the ultimate protection of the Crystal River.

Production: The production phase of the project will include the principal filming of the journey that our main character Ruby takes from the confluence of the Crystal River and the Roaring Fork to its headwaters, along with interviews from geological, biological and historical experts, ranchers and outdoor enthusiasts along with selected still photography. Production will last the summer and fall of 2021 and into the winter of 2022, so that we can show the variety of seasons. We will trek the length of the river with a compact camera crew, from the confluence up to the headwaters, exploring the farmlands, rugged narrows and the high mountainous ghost towns. We will show where industry was unable to dam the river, and the sensitive areas that have resisted development despite the ongoing threat.

Postproduction: During post-production we will be assembling the film. Editing the film will take nearly as long as photography and production. Production will carry on into post-production until we are confident that we have captured all of the media that we will need to complete our efforts.

Once we have edited the film and have “locked” the picture, we will address the titles, graphics, graphic animations, score, audio mix, and the color correction. Postproduction has many parts that ultimately make a film broadcast quality and ready for distribution.

Distribution: We intend to distribute the film through film festivals throughout the region, and nationally when the festival is appropriate. We also will make the film available to local and regional educational institutions.

Further, we will work to have our film distributed on a national platform such as Netflix so that we can create a national awareness if possible, which may help build momentum in congress for Wild and Scenic status.

Please review the overall budget below:

	Ruby of the Rockies	Qty	Unit	Cost/Rate	Qty indv	Subtotal	TOTAL
00	GENERAL						
00-A	Production Staff						
00-A1	Director - Ryan Wolfe		Allow	15000		15000	
00-A2	Cinematographer/2nd Unit - Dan Sohner		Allow	10000		10000	
						0	
	Subtotal before payroll					25000	
00-B	Production Office/Administration						
00-B1	Office Rent	0	mo	600		0	
00-B2	Telephone, fax	0	mo	200		0	
00-B3	Supplies and Office Equipment	0	mo	50		0	
00-B5	Photocopying (+prod, post)	0	mo	50		0	
	Subtotal 00-B					0	
00-C	Legal						
00-B1	Legal - Contracts and Permits		allow	4000		4000	
	Subtotal 00-C					4000	
00-D	Insurance						
00-D2	Production	1	yrs	3000		3000	
	Subtotal 00-D					3000	
	Total 00						\$32,000
10	PREPRODUCTION						
10-A	Research						
10-A1	Researcher	0	mo	1000		0	
10-A7	Resource People/Scholars	0	da	250		0	
10-A8	consulting fees	0	Flat	500		0	
	Subtotal 10-A					0	
10-B	Treatment						
10-B1	Ryan Wolfe	1	Flat	0			
	Subtotal 10-B					0	

10-C	Production Planning						
10-C1	Director of Photography - Dan Sohner	0	da	0		0	
	TOTAL 10						0
	Production						
20-A	Crew (individuals as needed)						
20-a1	Director of Photography - Dan Sohner		allow	0		0	
20-a2	Sound Recordist	8	da	200		1600	
20-a3	Production Assistant (local)	10	da	125		1250	
20-a4	Transcriber	40	hr	25		1000	
20-a5	Aerial Photography	12	da	300		3600	
20-a5	Interns	0	4 qtrs	0		0	
	Subtotal 20-B					7450	
20-C	Equipment						
20-a1	Camera Package (HD DSLR)	1	allow	10500		10500	
20-a2	Go Pro Kit	0	allow	0		0	
20-a3	Motorized Pan Tilt Head	0	allow	0		0	
20-a4	Time Lapse Spikes	5	per	200		1000	
	Subtotal 20-C1					11500	
20-B2	Sound						
20-b2a	Sound Package	1	allow	1000		1000	
20-b2b	Additional mics, etc	1	allow	400		400	
	Subtotal 20-C2					1400	
20-B3	Lighting and Grip Equipment						
20-b3a	Lighting Package	1	allow	1500		1500	
	Subtotal 20-C3					1500	
20-D	Transportation						
20-d1	Production Vehicle (N/A)	0	miles	0.5		0	
20-d4	Miscellaneous (maint.)	0	mo	200		0	

	Subtotal 20-D					0	
20-E	Location and Studio costs as acquired						
20-e1	Location Fees		allow	0		0	
20-e2	Licenses as needed		allow	0		0	
	Subtotal 20-G					0	
20-F	Supplies						
20-f1	Hard Drives for Cameras		allow	1000		1000	
20-f2	Hard Drive Postproduction		allow	1200		1200	
	Subtotal 20-H					2200	
	TOTAL 20						24050
30	POSTPRODUCTION						
30-A	Crew						
30-D1	Editor	12	wks	350		4200	
30-D2	Assistant Editor	6	wks	125		750	
	Subtotal 30-A					4950	
30-C	Offline/Online Facility						
30-C1	Mac Pro/non-linear editing software		Allow	0		0	
	Subtotal 30-C					0	
30-D	Graphics and Special Effects						
30-D1	Graphics and Titles	1	allow	5000		5000	
30-D2	Animation	1	allow	2000		2000	
30-D3	Special photographic Effects	0	hr	45		0	
	Subtotal 30-E					7000	
30-F	Music						
30-F1	Composer	1	allow	5000		5000	
30-F2	Rights	8	per piece	100		800	
	Subtotal 30-F					5800	

30-G	Audio Postproduction						
30-G1	Record narration	15	hr	100		1500	
30-G2	Voice Talent	2	da	500		1000	
30-H2	Audio mix		allow	5000		5000	
	Subtotal 30-G					7500	
30-H	Online Editing						
30-H1	Facility with editor for color correction	20	hr	30		600	
	Subtotal 30-H					600	
	Total 30						25850
40	DISTRIBUTION*						
40-A	Promotion						
40-A1	DVD		ea			0	
40-A2	Shipping/Postage		ea			0	
40-A3	Print Materials		allow	800		800	
40-A5	Still Photographer/Image Printing		allow	1000		1000	
	Subtotal 40-A					1800	
40-B	Festivals						
40-B1	Festival Fees	15	ea	90		1350	
40-B2	Shipping		ea			0	
40-B4	Attending Festivals	5	ea	2000		10000	
	Subtotal 40-B					11350	
40-B	Trailer and Key Art						
40-B1	Movie trailer		allow	1500		1500	
40-B2	Poster Art		allow	1000		1000	
40-B4	Traditional Advertising		allow			0	
40-B5	Publicist		allow	0		0	
	Subtotal 40-B					2500	
	TOTAL 40						15650

50-C	Interns						
50-a1			allow			0	
50-a2			allow			0	
	Subtotal 50-A					0	
	TOTAL 50						0
	TOTAL 00 - 50						97550
	Contingency (5% of TOTAL)						4877.5
	Production TOTAL						102428

March 30, 2021

To: Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams
healthyrivers@pitkincounty.com

From: William T. Evans, MD and Sustaining Tomorrow Today
Box 242
Carbondale, Colorado 81623

Dear Members of the Healthy Rivers Board,

Sustaining Tomorrow Today (STT) requests funding for a grant of \$10,000 to support our Source Water Education Program focused on human relationships with source water. The Source Water Educational Program, a series of talking circle events and lectures, is based on *Circulating Source Water*, a monograph on human relationship with Source Water.

Although much attention is given to water quantity, past educational events hosted by STT prove students are receptive to information about quality of health issues. STT has unique abilities and training in making life sustaining decisions and overcoming tunnel vision. Past experience has found a cooperative fit with such organizations as Colorado Rural Water Association, KDNK Community Radio, The Sopris Sun, Sustainable Settings, and White River National Forest Hanging Lake Management Plan.

For over 75 years William Evans has enjoyed an intimate connection with the rivers of the Roaring Fork drainage. STT is a Colorado Nonprofit Corporation operating since 2006 under the umbrella of Sustainable Settings with a record of successful educational contributions with special attentiveness to water education over the past 10 years.

Estimated budget for this educational project is \$16,500 of which \$100 has been received by STT from supporters. The budget costs include training for the students and elders in balance, experience at the river and in talking circles, zoom circle assistance, advertising and outreach, and administration. Assessment with pre and post educational screening measurements will quantify progress and success. Optimally, measurements will include heart rate variability (HRV) assessment and analysis to be obtained at the beginning and end of the project. Separate funding will be obtained for these HRV measurements.

Goals of the Source Water Education Project are to affirm for people (students and elders) their ability to be in a healthy relationship with source water, experience the value of autonomic nervous system balance in the physiology of life sustaining decision making and cooperative responses to challenges, as well as, when necessary explaining the consequences of adverse source water events. Source water is a paradox and failure to hold this paradox places the health of children, adults, and all life at risk. Many young people know they are getting a dying world story – they need help in turning their lives into a living world story. I have mailed a copy of *Circulating Source Water* to Pitkin County Healthy Rivers.

Sincerely,

William Evans, MD drwevans@sopris.net | 970 704-0124

Source Water Education Budget

2 Talking Circle Facilitators each @ \$500 per circle – 10 sessions	10,000
1 River Facilitator – Katrina Blair – 1 session	500
Zoom Services Assistant or location @ \$300/circle - 10 sessions	3,000
Administrative Overhead	1,500
Advertising / Outreach	1,500
Outcome Assessment – questionnaire and HRV assessment Bob Whitehouse, PhD	Not this budget
Write up and submission to appropriate publication	Not this budget
Total Source Water Education without HRV measurements	16,500

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Total Source Water Education without HRV measurements	16,500



Pitkin County Healthy Rivers & Streams Board

2021 Grant Request

Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference October 5-7, 2021

Partnership request benefitting:

Colorado Watershed Assembly

Water Education Colorado

Colorado Riparian Association

Program Funding Request Description

Together, the Colorado Watershed Assembly, Water Education Colorado, and the Colorado Riparian Association are submitting a joint grant funding request for 2021 in the total amount of \$7,500 to Pitkin County Healthy Rivers & Streams Board. This support will be used in helping to fund the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference, which will be held October 5-7, 2021 in Avon, Colorado.

Last year, we hosted our “Business as (Un)Usual conference” and had a robust turnout and an informative, engaging event despite not being able to gather in person. We received very helpful responses from participants, speakers and sponsors. All expressed hopefulness around re-convening in-person in 2021.

Due to ongoing COVID-related restrictions and public health concerns, our conference committee plans to host this year’s event using a hybrid model, allowing for a smaller in-person gathering that meets the deep desires in our community to physically reconvene for learning and networking, while also providing opportunities for additional remote, virtual participation that will build from our successes hosting our first-ever all-virtual conference in 2020.

Conference History and Purpose

The Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference is a highly popular event that has been held annually for the last 16 years, with the purpose of bringing together knowledgeable and engaged community members, scientists, ecologists, water managers, educators, policy makers and regulators from across the state to discuss and collaborate on best practices in watershed management. After the success of the first few conferences, the strategic decision was made to establish a partnership collaboration to help share resources across nonprofits, bring even more voices together from across Colorado and from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, and further increase the deep reach of this annual event. For the past 10 years, the partnership collaboration has included the Colorado Watershed Assembly, Water Education Colorado, and the Colorado Riparian Association.

The Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference (SCW) expands cooperation and collaboration throughout our state for natural resource conservation, protection, and enhancement by informing community members, agencies, nonprofit organizations, consultants, and legislators about current issues. There is also a focus on networking

opportunities during the event that helps to foster prospective partnerships, strengthen relationships, and encourage much-needed conversation about water issues across Colorado and beyond.

Conference organizers are engaged year-round to plan an effective and enjoyable conference for Colorado's existing and emerging river health, water management, and riparian restoration professionals. We find it incredibly rewarding to work together to support conference attendees through this affordable, highly relevant and engaging professional development opportunity.

2021 Conference Theme and Sub-Themes

In 2021, the conference will focus on coming "Together Like Never Before." This conference theme combines a few important sub-themes:

- (1) First, that we have a connected community working collaboratively to address watershed-related challenges, and we aim to be back together this year, enjoying each other's company and learning from one another, in an in-person environment if possible.
- (2) Second, across the Colorado water community, and the whole of our nation, there is broad recognition that we need to find ways to address racial and socioeconomic divides to bring new voices to the table and pursue increased access and equitable involvement. This is relevant to our fields of water policy, water management, and water protection. How can we, as a state watershed community, effectively address equity, diversity and inclusion issues to be "Together Like Never Before?"
- (3) Finally, in considering identified gaps between science and policy, how are practitioners, academics, educators and decision makers finding success in making our policies a better reflection of science than ever before? And where is there still room for improvement?

As always, within these sub-themes, the conference will cover a cross-section of topics ranging from forest health to flood risk management, stakeholder outreach to climate change, streamflow protection to land use planning, river restoration to storm water management, project permitting to water quality protection, and more.

Ideas so far for this year's plenary presentations include a focus on fire recovery and improved wildfire resilience as well as a conversation with members of the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force set up by the Department of Natural Resources to inform the Colorado Water Plan update. Additional presentations will be solicited from the community through an open "Call for Papers" beginning in mid-to-late April.

Need for Support

There is no other conference like this in Colorado! Over the last few years, interest in the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds conference has continued to grow. Even for last year's purely virtual event, we had more than 250 individuals in attendance. In 2019, our last in-person year, we had more than 300 individuals participate and we maintained a wait list after filling all available registrations. It's important to the three conference partners that we can continue to serve this incredible demand for our popular conference.

We continue to attract attendees from across the state and beyond, and based on feedback from attendees and other partners, demand shows no sign of slowing. We believe the hybrid model we pursue in 2021 could eventually allow us



to expand our audience beyond the capacity of the venue, by including participants who opt to join in remotely from near or far.

Support from community partners such as the Pitkin Healthy Rivers and Streams Board allows us to provide this compelling and valuable experience at an affordable registration fee.

Specifically, your support for the 2021 conference will help us attain the following measureable goals:

- **Employ new technology and hybrid approaches to take what we learned in 2020 and continue growing Colorado's premiere watershed conference, educating attendees about the issues and best practices that pertain to specific river basins in Colorado, including the Colorado River.** We reached capacity for conference attendance in 2018 and 2019 much earlier than in previous years. Prior to 2020's virtual conference, we had been exploring new venues that would allow us to grow to accommodate more people. The hybrid model could allow us to expand to serve more participants, and to meet the demand from participants who might not have otherwise been able to attend, even while remaining in our traditional conference venue at the Westin.
- **Target and grow attendance by younger participants to ensure learning and participation by upcoming generations through scholarships.** Grant and sponsorship support helps us to provide scholarships and volunteer opportunities to students and young professionals and to bring individuals with various backgrounds together to learn from each other. In 2019, the percentage of attendees under the age of 35 was 20%. In 2020, it increased to 33%. We continue to work to bring a diversity of interests, perspectives and backgrounds to the conference. Community support makes it possible to provide a number of scholarships to first-time attendees, with priority given to students and nonprofits; for the past two years we were able to provide 25 full scholarships each year, and we are committed to providing at least 25 in 2021!
- **Increase the budget for speaker expenses to bring in the strongest and most relevant speakers from around the state and the West.** In 2019 we were able to provide accommodations and support travel expense for plenary speakers coming from Washington state, to provide accommodations for one of our state leaders and plenary speakers who needed assistance, and to host our keynote speaker from Seattle, Washington. This was not relevant in 2020 when we did not pay any speakers and there was no reason for travel. However, in 2021 and beyond, we aim to continue sourcing excellent speakers who can bring expertise and perspective to inform and inspire conference attendees. In 2021, we will focus on in-state speakers.

Program Budget

The conference relies on revenue from three primary sources: registration fees, organizational contributions, and community grants and sponsorships. The revenue collected must cover expenses incurred to plan and implement the conference, including direct expenses such as food and beverage, audio/visual support, speaker fees, and printing and marketing, as well as indirect expenses of staff time supplied by each of the partner organizations who spend hundreds of hours putting the conference together. Expenses for 2021 will likely include higher A/V fees than usual in order to provide a hybrid experience that blends a smaller in-person gathering with virtual experiences.

Despite initial concerns around interest from sponsors for a virtual event, in 2020, the Conference Planning Committee successfully raised \$40,500 in community grant and sponsorship support. We have increased our goal to \$50,000 for 2021, which is still less than pre-COVID levels which were at \$65,000 at the 2019 conference. We are approaching all grant supporters and sponsors from the 2019 and 2020 conferences as well as pursuing a number of additional opportunities.

The following community partners were generous to provide grant and sponsorship support in 2020:



2021 Conference Budget

	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
Income		
Sponsorships	40,500	50,000
Registrations	14,930	43,750
Vendors	585	2,000
Contributions - other	0	0
Total Income	56,515	95,750
Expense		
Hotel Food & Beverage	0	18,000
Tips & Gratuities	0	4,500
Audio Visual	3,986	20,000
Speaker Expenses	0	500
Partner staff time	45,000	46,500
Administration	6,000	1,200
Supplies	0	500

Printing/Registration	0	500
Merchant cc charges	1,221	1,300
Hospitality	0	1,000
Giveaways (conference cups)	0	1,625
Total Expense	56,207	95,625
NET REVENUE	308	125

Measurable Goals and Results

Each year, the Conference Planning Committee distributes a survey to conference attendees. The committee gathers and analyzes the results of these surveys to determine such things as: the types of knowledge that have been gained by participants from the conference, satisfaction levels for topics covered and for all additional aspects of the conference, recommendations and suggestions for future conferences, and any additional open-ended feedback.

What we learn from participants helps to inform future conference planning. We are encouraged by the positive feedback we receive and we welcome all comments from attendees who take the time to identify areas for improvement as well as suggestions for future topics. This helps us continue to identify varied and timely topics that challenge our attendees to explore a variety of perspectives and to make new connections.

A collection of survey results, conference data, and participant feedback was delivered in a report in follow-up to the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams Board as reportable outcome deliverables from our grant funding for 2020, transmitted by email on March 29, 2021. A similar report will be delivered in early 2022, reporting on the 2021 conference results.

A brief summary of the survey results from the 2020 conference and a number of participant quotes is included below. The 2020 SCW Conference agenda is also attached for your reference.

Summary

- **Overall Value:**
 - 74% of respondents rated the overall conference value “Very High” or “High”
 - 83% are “Very Likely” or “Likely” to recommend the conference to others
 - 100% of respondents said the conference increased their understanding of the tradeoffs inherent in water resources decisions to at least some extent.” 45% said to a “Great” or “Very Great” extent.
 - 100% of respondents said the conference increased their understanding of opportunities for collaboration with other disciplines on watershed issues to at least some extent. 57% said to a “Great” or “Very Great” extent
- **Sessions:**
 - 79% rated Tuesday’s plenary session on “The River Ethic,” “Very Satisfactory” or “Satisfactory”
 - 82% rated Wednesday’s plenary session on “Colorado Water Plan, Past, Present and Future Visions,” “Very Satisfactory” or “Satisfactory”

- 94% on average of those who attended the other panels and presentations rated them “Very Satisfactory” or “Satisfactory”
- **Post Conference Field Trips**
 - 100% of those who attended the optional field trips rated them “Very Satisfactory” or “Satisfactory”
- **Networking:**
 - 65% of those who attended the conference’s networking opportunities rated them “Very Satisfactory” or “Satisfactory”
- **Audience Demographics for 266 attendees:**
 - *Profession:* The majority of respondents (35%) identify themselves “Water Professionals.” The next two largest categories were “Non-Governmental Organizations (27%) and Government Staff (25%), followed by “Water Educators” (14%), “Interested Citizens/Ratepayers/Taxpayers” (11%) Project Proponents (10%), “Student” (8%) and “Elected/Appointed Officials,” “Project Funders” and “Water Rights Owners,” (each 3%). Note participants were able to select all that applied and there was some overlap.
 - *Geography:* Our registrations showed that attendees and speakers tuned into the conference from throughout Colorado and from other states.
 - *Age:* 44% of respondents were between the ages of 35 and 54; 33% were under 35; 22% were 55 and older.
 - *Race/Ethnicity:* 84% of respondents indicated they were of White/Caucasian ethnicity; 3% of respondents were of Asian or Pacific Islander ethnicity; 1% were of Hispanic or Latinx ethnicity; 0% were of Black or African American ethnicity; 11% preferred not to answer or preferred to self-describe.
- **Virtual Platform:**
 - 82% rated the virtual platform’s overall accessibility as “Very Satisfactory” or “Satisfactory”
 - 72% rated the virtual platform’s ease of navigation “Very Satisfactory” or “Satisfactory”
 - 42% rated the virtual platform’s virtual exhibits “Very Satisfactory” or “Satisfactory”

Below is a sample of Feedback from 2020 Conference Attendees, which distinctly illustrates the need for and the value in the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference!

- “The conference was incredible! Thank you for putting on such a well-rounded, informative, and engaging conference. I thoroughly enjoyed it.”
- “As usual, top-tier content, and hosts/ session leaders did a great job!”
- “There were so many organizations and resources within the organizations that I was unaware of prior to the conference.”
- “Overall, excellent job creating an engaging environment in a virtual setting. The use of mentee for audience polls and for sharing questions after sessions was very engaging. I’ve been to many virtual conferences this year, and this was the first one that left me feeling invigorated and engaged, rather than exhausted.”
- “My main priority was to get to know more people involved in water management in Colorado. I was able to put faces to names and meet new people.”
- “My main priority was learning about restoration in Colorado, particularly in the private sector. This was 100% fulfilled.”
- “From a very high-level view, I’m reminded again how important the education component is in regards to floodplains, hazard areas, and innovative design practices. This is not only true with project staff and stakeholders, but especially true with citizens and those outside the engineering/water conservation/ecological realm.”

- “Loved the water education ideas! Also learning more about mitigation banking and tying in businesses with restoration.”
- “I learned more details about the long-history of watershed planning that has brought us to "modern-day" stream management planning, and how our state leaders envision making even more improvements on how to measure that process.”
- “I was really glad to see the emphasis on Ecosystem Services and glad to see it is being embraced.”
- “I felt the turn out for the Bittersweet tour was great. Everyone involved was very interested in what we were doing. I feel we made an impact.”
- “The Westervelt Big Thompson site visit was very eye opening to the lengthy process of getting a mitigation bank approved, and was well organized by the presenters.”
- “Overall, I benefitted from the virtual expo hall. I met a lot of people in the industry and in jobs that sound really interesting to me as a student interested in stream restoration. I was able to talk with them about their companies, projects, and I generally learned a lot.”
- “My absolute favorite thing was the speed networking at the end. This was the closest I've seen, by far, to feeling like real networking you get at in-person conferences.”
- “I enjoyed the conference very much and will utilize many of the resources acquired. I would agree with many of the comments about meeting in person. Virtual is definitely not as personable. I could tell that the members of this community are a very connected and caring group of people. This was a theme I picked up on during several presentations.”
- “Thanks for persevering to organize and manage this conference under the unusual circumstances of 2020. I really missed gathering in Avon, the virtual conference could not begin to replace that, but it was the best option to keep the conference going and did provide continued learning experiences. I look forward already to next year in Avon!”

Public Relations

Between the three nonprofit partners, we will reach tens of thousands of people across Colorado with information about the 2021 conference. News and information about this conference will continue to have a deep reach across a wide variety of audiences throughout Colorado and beyond. We will continue Marketing and Public Relations for the 2021 SCW Conference primarily including, but not limited to:

- Ongoing email communications, including e-blasts and newsletters, to all supporters and members of the three nonprofit partners, reaching thousands
- Posts on Social Media from all three nonprofit partners (Facebook, Twitter, Blog Postings, Etc.), reaching thousands
- Information displayed prominently on all three partner websites
- Print information in partner materials and publications, reaching thousands
- Other supporting partners around the state will be promoting the conference within their own channels and networks, reaching thousands more
- We will also take advantage of additional promotional opportunities as they develop between now and the launch of the conference.

Impact of Support

The annual Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference is a trusted source of timely and useful information for watershed groups, restoration professionals, environmental scientists, interested citizens, land use planners,



educators and more. The lineup of presenters, workshops and field trips are designed to provide opportunities for partnership development and practical collaboration for the benefit of Colorado's water resources. Community support is vital for this conference and helps to keep registration costs significantly lower than they would otherwise be, making this exciting event accessible. Your support is fundamental to the conference's growth and continued success.

We always have a strong presence of attendees from the Roaring Fork Watershed and Pitkin County, and we receive great feedback year after year on the multiple sessions that teach attendees about conservation, restoration, and other relevant topics within the Roaring Fork Watershed. You can see from last year's agenda, how relevant the workshops and sessions at this conference are to the great work the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams Board already invests in!

Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams Board has been a dedicated supporter of this conference in years past, and we look forward to a continued partnership! We will work with the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams Board to discuss what additional recognition for your grant support would be appropriate in addition to the following benefits, which will be subject to adaptation depending on the final format the conference takes this year:

- Opportunity to welcome conference attendees
- Organization name or logo on conference lanyards
- Full conference registration for up to 5 attendees
- Guaranteed exhibitor space in a prominent location
- Opportunity to provide "Sponsor video spotlight" to be played before first plenary session
- Sponsorship highlighted with a special verbal call out throughout conference, including during conference kick off, happy hour and conference closing
- Your organization's logo on dedicated signage displayed prominently at registration/welcome table, plus during evening social events
- Your organization's logo displayed prominently on conference media screen during all conference sessions
- Sponsorship recognized in all partner promotional emails for conference distributed to 6,500+ members and highlighted in partner e-newsletters during the month following the conference
- Your organization's logo with "top billing" on conference registration web page

Thank you for the opportunity to request program support for the 2021 conference!

Thank you for your support of expanding awareness, knowledge and understanding of water in Colorado!

Grant Proposal Contact:

Jayla Poppleton

Executive Director

Water Education Colorado

jayla@wateredco.org, 720-325-1448

2020 SUSTAINING COLORADO WATERSHEDS CONFERENCE "Business As (Un)Usual" October 6 - 8, 2020 A Virtual Experience! → 2 days of livestreamed plenaries, sessions, prizes, and (un)usual fun → online library of pre-recorded presentations → virtual sponsor booths to peruse any time → field trips	
Monday, October 5	
	Check your registration details, update your browser, update & restart your computer.
Tuesday, October 6	
	Use your "Magic Link" to tune-in online! Solve technical problems.
9:00 - 10:00am	Visit the Virtual Expo Hall! Network and show your support to conference sponsors by visiting the Virtual Expo Hall in ExpoPass (click on "Exhibitors" next to the Schedule)
10:00 - 10:10am	Photo Submissions Gallery + Video Shorts #SustainingCOWatersheds2020
10:10 - 10:20am	Conference Welcome with Chris Sturm, President - Colorado Riparian Association & Colorado Water Conservation Board
10:20 - 10:40am	River Music Hydrographs play a symphony by David Merritt, U.S. Forest Service National Stream and Aquatic Ecology Center
10:40 - 11:50am	Day One Plenary: The River Ethic Shaping a river ethic to improve societal understanding of stream corridors Moderator: Julie Ash, Colorado Riparian Association & Stillwater Sciences Dr. Ellen Wohl, Colorado State University Dr. LeRoy Poff, Colorado State University Dr. David Merritt, U.S. Forest Service Matt Kondratieff, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Kevin Houck, P.E., CFM, Colorado Water Conservation Board
11:50 - 12:00pm	Announcements - then break for lunch
12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch and Exhibitor Open House
1:00 - 2:00pm	Session 1 Mitigating Impacts on Streams—Technical and Policy Perspectives Moderator: Julie Ash, Colorado Riparian Association & Stillwater Sciences
	A Fork in the Road: Stream Mitigation in Western States Peter Skidmore, Walton Family Foundation
	Mitigation Banking: The Confluence of Policy, Business, and Restoration Lucy Harrington, Westervelt Ecological Services Tom Smrdel, Headwaters Corporation

2:00 - 3:30pm	Session 2 Financial/Legal/Social Tools to Keep Water Flowing in Rivers Moderator: Jayla Poppleton, Water Education Colorado
	Conversations on Creatively Funding Watershed Projects Corporate Water Stewardship: Private Investments and Leadership for River Health Molly Mugglestone and Todd Reeve, Business for Water Stewardship Public Funding for (Un)usual Times Jeff Shoemaker, The Greenway Foundation
	Poudre Flows: Improving Flows While Respecting Water Rights and Operations Kate Ryan, Colorado Water Trust Eric Potyondy, City of Fort Collins Linda Bassi, Colorado Water Conservation Board Dan Brown, Cache La Poudre Water Users Association
	River Sisters/ Hermanos del Rio: Connecting Across Boundaries, Languages and Cultures Zuza Bohley, Americas for Conservation + the Arts
3:30 - 3:45pm	<i>Quick Break</i>
3:45 - 4:30pm	Video Social Hour <i>Network with others while discussing featured videos from the SCW Conference library</i>
Wednesday, October 7	
9:00 - 10:00am	"Before the Water Gets Too High" Dance Class with Mallory Hiss, Colorado Watershed Assembly
9:00 - 10:00am	Visit the Virtual Expo Hall! <i>Network and show your support to conference sponsors by visiting the Virtual Expo Hall in ExpoPass (click on "Exhibitors" next to the Schedule)</i>
10:00 - 10:10am	Use your "Magic Link" to tune-in online! <i>Solve technical problems.</i> <i>Photo contest winners announced + Video shorts</i>
10:10 - 10:20am	Day Two Welcome & Announcements with Casey Davenhill, Colorado Watershed Assembly
10:20 - 10:40am	INFLUENCE // CONFLUENCE <i>A graphic composition of unbalanced Colorado River inflows and outflows with piano interpretation — engaged listening for new awareness around the collective human relationship with the Colorado River</i> by Brittney Hofer
10:40 - 11:50am	Day Two Plenary: Colorado Water Plan: Past, Present, and Future Visions <i>Prioritizing projects that protect watershed health and benefit our water supplies</i> Moderator: Chris Sturm, Colorado Riparian Association Heather Dutton, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District and Colorado Water Conservation Board Nicole Seltzer, River Network Heather Lewin, Roaring Fork Conservancy Alex Funk, Colorado Water Conservation Board
11:50 - 12:00pm	Chime In! (Un)Usual Participant Interaction
12:00 - 12:30pm	Lunch and Exhibitor Open House

12:30 - 2:00pm	Session 3 (Un)Usual Best Mgmt Practices - Rural and Urban Moderator: Casey Davenhill, Colorado Watershed Assembly		
	Rural Innovations in Watershed Management		
	Modeling Results: How Effective are Agricultural Conservation Practices in Protecting Water Quality? Phil Brink, Brink, Inc. Brianna Trotter and Tyler Wible, Colorado State University	Integrating Low-tech and Process-based Restoration (PBR) Techniques to Enhance Riparian Function: A Community Research Model Blake Osborn, Colorado State University Luke Javernick, River Science	Keep It Colorado—The Role Land Trusts are Playing in Water Conservation Melissa Daruna, Keep it Colorado
	Urban Innovations in Watershed Management Moderator: Mary Powell, Mile High Flood District		
	Chasing Unicorns: A Business as (Un)Usual Model for Urban Stream Management Mary Powell and Laura Kroeger, Mile High Flood District	Laying out the Land to Preserve the Stream Network, Reduce Runoff, and Enhance a Community Sara Johnson and Jim Wulliman, Muller Engineering	Transforming the High Line Canal in a Most Useful (Un)Usual Way Cathy McCague and Joshua Phillips, High Line Canal Conservancy
2:00 - 2:10pm	Quick Break		
2:10 - 3:45pm	Session 4 Going to (Un)Usual Scales for Future Impact Moderator: Julie Ash, Colorado Riparian Association & Stillwater Sciences		
	Planning the Fluvial Future: Making the Most of Fluvial Hazard Zone Maps Michael Blazewicz, Round River Design Chris Sturm, Colorado Water Conservation Board & Colorado Riparian Association		
	How to Scale up Watershed Restoration in Colorado Ecosystem Services of Healthy Watersheds Provide More Partner and Funding Opportunities Jackie Corday, Corday Natural Resources Consulting Fay Hartman, American Rivers Abby Burk, Audubon Rockies		
	A Common Vision for Water Education in Colorado: Equipping Coloradans to be Water Stewards Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado Christina Medved, Roaring Fork Conservancy		
3:45 - 4:30pm	Day Two (Un)Usual Happy Hour and Conference Share-Out Interactive one-on-one networking and share-out among conference attendees Thank you and goodbye from your hosts!		
Thursday, October 8			
	Field Trips Field trips will have limited group sizes (first-come, first-served) and safety protocols. Field trip logistics are coordinated directly with the field trip hosts.		
	10:00am - 3:00pm Prairie Canyon Ranch Cherry Creek Innovative Ag (lunch provided) with Casey Davenhill, Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners Limited space remaining casey@cherry-creek.org	10:30am - 12:00pm The Big Thompson Confluence Mitigation Bank with Lucy Harrington and Chloe Lewis, Westervelt Ecological Services FULL	3:00 - 5:30pm Bittersweet Park Turf Conversion Tour with Don Hjar, Pawnee Buttes Seed, Inc. Limited space remaining bryan@pawneebuttesseed.com
	Travel Home: Thank you & goodbye again!		



Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams Board
123 Emma Rd, Suite 204
Basalt, CO 81621

March 30, 2021

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RE: Request for Support of Watershed Education
Programs

Dear Board Members,

Please accept the attached documents as Roaring Fork Conservancy's (RFC) request to fund and elevate our watershed education programs. We are poised to unroll several new education projects, all aimed at broadening our reach. Revitalizing our education curriculum, increase teaching sites, and expanding our programs will pump new life into environmental education, inspire educators to develop meaningful student projects, and increase general water fluency and interest across the Roaring Fork watershed.

PROGRAM STAFF

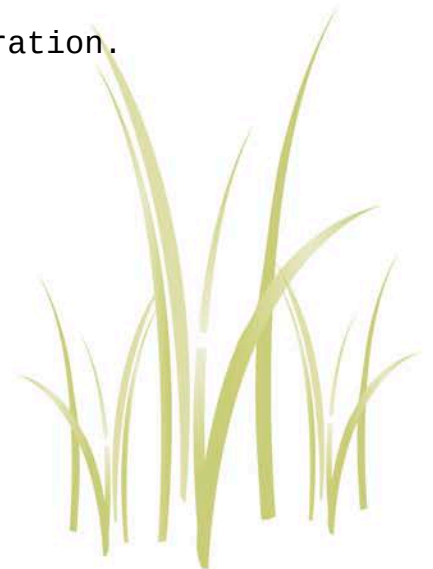
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Chad Rudow
*Water Quality
Programs Manager*
Sheryl Sabandal
*Director of
Development*
Elliott Audette
Office Manager

RFC is requesting \$35,000 in funds from Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams for curriculum enhancement, teacher training, and program delivery at the River Center and throughout the Roaring Fork Watershed.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan Dean
Director of Education





Roaring Fork Conservancy: Watershed Education Programs at the River Center

Grant Request to Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Board

March 30, 2021

A. Goals of the Healthy Rivers Board

PROJECT SUMMARY

Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) requests \$35,000 from the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Board (HRB) to update and enhance education programs. As our rivers encounter more pressure from expanding populations our goal is to expand educational opportunities to the general public and K-12 school students that promote water fluency, issues, and science. ***Our goal is to create new and revised programming that incorporates researched -best practices, connects students in the Roaring Fork Valley to their watershed, create current and future river stewards, and expand teaching field sites.*** Our request is broken into five elements described below.

1. Update and revitalize existing school curriculum, by incorporating skills highlighted in Best-Instruction practices. This is vital to maintaining meaningful programs. Our current programming accomplishes the goal of getting students outside and connecting them to our rivers, but as student needs change, and the demographics of our valley change, we need to adapt and update existing programs. Some of the changes that we want to make are creating activities that are built around students having the ability to use visual aids and field tools to make discoveries on their own. Practices that allow students to discuss, observe, and reflect on their experiences through small group sharing and carefully crafted questions and visual aids, will create deeper understanding, ownership, and connection to the watershed. Students struggle to stay engaged if there is a lot of teacher talk. Specific techniques and field resources can reduce the time students are listening and increase the time they spend actively doing. Programs will also include developmentally appropriate actions that students can use to create best practices in their communities. Updating 6 current and popular programs will allow RFC to continue the goal of creating current and future river stewards.

Requesting \$9,000. See details on pg. 6 (\$3,330 Staff Training, \$1980 Program development, \$3,690 Creating Visual Aids and Field Journals)

2) On-site instruction at the River Center and field sites in the Roaring Fork Valley.

Teach education programs at the River Center and field sites throughout the valley focusing on water quality, water quantity, riparian habitat, and water use. Increasing field sites gives students experiences at multiple riparian sites and allows them to connect the complexity and diversity of our watershed. Offering multi-class series at different locations helps students gain a deeper understanding of the need for water conservation and protection. RFC also wants to offer scholarship funds to reduce cost barriers for classes facing tight classroom budgets. Increased coordination with schools to incorporate COVID-19 guidelines, program preparation, and instruction, is also essential for successful watershed programs. RFC's education staff will engage in site surveys throughout the Roaring Fork Valley to allow for increased field instruction at sites close to schools so busing is not always required. Modifying existing programs and increasing equipment kits allows for smaller group instruction and safer environments. Our general school and adult education program offerings focus on watershed science, water rights, and usage, all of which help the HRB accomplish its goals of advancing these issues. *Requesting \$9,040 see details on pg. 6. \$4,560 Program delivery at scholarship rate, \$4,480 administrative support such as coordinating, scheduling, tracking, program development, training, etc.*

3) Partner with Water Education Colorado to host the annual Water Education Colorado Conference for teachers and Project Wet® Training at the River Center. RFC is excited to host the WEC (Water Education Colorado) Conference this June. We would like to offer our site at minimal cost to WEC to support teacher training on watershed education. Supplemental funds from Healthy Rivers Board grant would help offset staff time, building use, and resources while we provide assistance with conference and event planning., RFC would also like to help WEC promote and facilitate the conference, teacher workshop, and provide follow-up support. *(Requesting \$4,000. See budget details on pg.6 -\$1,300 Administration, event coordination, \$2,700 site use, site prep and cleanup, and materials for conference)*

4.) Expand educational opportunities that promote water fluency, issues, and science for underserved high school students at field sites throughout the valley that promote water fluency, issues, and science.

Develop a watershed science high school program for Bridges High School. This will be an 8-class series diving deep into issues surrounding water quality and quantity, riparian ecology, and watershed science. This program will be taught over the course of two semesters. Classes will take place at locations throughout the valley. The focus of this experience will be to increase the understanding of current water issues by guiding students through experiences that create viable solutions and actions to make positive impacts on our rivers. Most of the students in this program are from populations that historically have had little exposure to watershed science and outdoor learning opportunities. By connecting students to the natural spaces in this valley, and teaching the components of stewardship, students can pass on their knowledge and positive actions to others in the community. This program will also be offered to all the high schools in the Roaring Fork Valley. *Requesting \$7,000. See budget details on pg. 6 (\$5,000 Program research, development, and delivery, \$2,000 creating program materials)*

5.) Create snow science programs for elementary grades, increasing opportunities for outdoor watershed education in the winter. RFC has a strong and respected snow science program that we have offered to middle and high school students throughout the Roaring Fork Valley for over 10 years. We are an official Snow School Site for the Winter Wildlands Alliance based in Boise, Idaho. Expanding our snow science programs to elementary level classes is a natural progression to creating a solid foundation and understanding of where our water comes from and why it is important to protect it. Students will experience building a human, class- size snowflake, learning about how winter animals depend on snow, and learn how snow moves through our valley. *Requesting \$6,000. See Budget details on pg. 6 (\$1,000 promotion and coordination, \$2,500 program delivery, \$2,500 development, materials, and training.)*

B. Viability of the Project

A critical step in protecting water quality and water quantity in the Roaring Fork Watershed, is that of educating the youth and the public. Knowledge is power and a populace that is aware of the demands on our water and river systems is essential to achieving the goals identified by the HRB. RFC is a stable, proven organization capable of completing the objectives laid out in this grant. We seek support from HRB to fulfill our new potential and meet ever-increasing demands for relevant water education taught by highly qualified staff. Viability of each element is provided below:

1.) Update and revitalize existing curriculum by incorporating skills highlighted in Best-Instruction practices. RFC needs to create lessons that allow for students be actively engaged by making discoveries and feeling ownership of their connections and ideas. An example of this is creating field kits that students use during group work to assess the physical, chemical, and biological health of the river. Students then share

their findings and ideas with their classmates. Educators act as guides and experts for specific questions, but do not lecture students or direct all of their actions. Creating separate and unique field kits for elementary, middle, and high school allows students to go deeper into their learning as they move through grades. Problem solving activities that leave students with a sense of empowerment will create positive actions in our communities. Support from HRS would ensure that funds are available to support this work and supplement part of the cost of the development, materials, and training.

2) On-site instruction at the River Center and field sites in the Roaring Fork Valley. As programming costs rise, RFC works hard to keep our programming costs low for schools. Scholarships through grant funding and private donations allows us to keep our rates the same each year in spite of inflation. Schools face funding challenges, RFC does not want lack of funding to prohibit students from experiencing watershed education.

We seek financial support to lower barriers for school groups, increase inclusion, and encourage the public to visit the River Center, conservation easements, and protected public spaces. Students often do not have safe and supervised access to our rivers and riparian areas. Promoting water education and conservation in an environment that showcases the ability to create healthy riparian areas within urban settings is key to creating positive public use and support. With support from HRB we can keep program fees affordable and offer programs that guide participants through the beautiful riparian sites in our valley, creating connection, value, and protection of the Roaring Fork Watershed.

3) Partner with Water Education Colorado to host the annual Water Education Colorado Conference for Teachers and Project Wet® Training at the River Center. Hosting the WEC Teacher Conference in the Roaring Fork Valley for the first time provides a wonderful opportunity for local teachers to receive training on watershed education. It will provide an environment that showcases how smart urban planning can rejuvenate riparian lands to create spaces for community learning and ways that work with the rivers instead of against them. HRS funding can help offset the cost, support, and strengthen watershed education training for teachers in the valley and beyond.

4) Expand educational opportunities that promote water fluency, issues, and science for underserved high school students at the field sites throughout the valley. Watershed science and education at the high school level is an invaluable opportunity to shape and create river stewards. High school students are at the developmental stage, in which they form many of the habits and perspectives that will drive what they do as adults. Students and communities that have not had the opportunities to connect to our rivers and watershed do not develop the desire to protect it. In creating an 8 series program, students will gain a deep understanding and appreciation for rivers and streams and pass this knowledge on to their peers and family.

5) Create snow science programs for elementary grades, increasing opportunities for outdoor watershed education in the winter.

Creating programs that spiral through grade levels allows students to be exposed to similar concepts multiple times. This creates deeper and more impactful learning. Expanding the snow science program to elementary schools allows us to teach important watershed science concepts to students multiple times during their K-12 experience. During RFC programs, students often share with educators what they have learned from previous RFC programs and then, often connect that to their present learning. This creates understanding that does not fade away from lack of exposure. Outdoor learning has been pivotal over the last year. Increasing outdoor learning experiences in the winter helps students recognize that our watershed is a year-round system that is driven by snow and climate. These classes will also be reinforced through a video, created by RFC, using our new augmented reality sand table.

C. Public Need, Accessibility and Appreciation

The River Center is the only building of its kind in Colorado, and RFC is the premier provider of watershed education on the Western Slope. The programs included in this grant will be highly accessible to all sectors of the public and expand our reach to a variety of populations as outlined above. Programs will also be highly visible to the public, not only through media exposure and direct public communications, but also to commuters through Basalt and users of the Basalt River Park trails, Old Pond Park, and the Roaring Fork River.

All five elements in this grant promise to fill specific gaps identified in our education programming and all benefit the youth, directly and indirectly through education, development, outreach, and accessibility. We believe this is an appropriate and necessary use of public funds as education and connection are at the heart of action. These efforts also coincide with goals of the Colorado Water Plan to increase water education for the public, highlighting the importance of public funding for these projects. To that point, RFC has already received funding and support for watershed education from private donors, Pitkin County Open Space and Trails, Eagle County, and public schools. We will include information and recognition of HRB in programs and publications supported by this grant. RFC has a strong base of supporters and established public relations including but not limited to press releases, social media, traditional media, e-mail, listservs, community calendars, and printed newsletters.

D. History of the Requesting Party

RFC is well-known locally and statewide as a watershed organization with proven success not only in water planning, policy, research, and restoration projects, but also in providing high quality educational classes to Roaring Fork Valley residents and visitors. In its 25th year, RFC is the only local organization focused solely on water and watershed related issues, and prides itself on incorporating current water issues into its education programs. **In the year 2020, despite all of the challenges related to the pandemic, RFC taught 197 education programs making over 5,170 contacts.**

RFC has eight full-time staff members and a strong network of contractors, associates, partners, interns, and volunteers that collectively fulfill its mission *to inspire people to explore, value and protect the Roaring Fork Watershed*. Megan Dean, the Director of Education, comes from a background in water resources and science education. She has been an educator in the valley for 21 years. She worked as a classroom teacher with RFC in the early years of its educational programs, consistently bringing RFC programs into her classroom. As the Director of Education, she has been able to bridge the gap, enveloping the needs of students and schools into RFC programming and education. Through long term relationships and contact with students, staff, and administration, she incorporates a love for learning and rivers into positive programming and activities that empower students of all ages. RFC is supported by individual contributions, program and consulting fees, grants, special events, and in-kind support. RFC is a Colorado nonprofit corporation in good standing with §501(c)(3) status.

Partnerships

RFC's partners include local, regional, state and federal governments, private interests, nonprofits, school districts, utilities, universities, and individuals. (Full list: www.roaringfork.org/about-us/rfc-partners)

RFC is an active member of Water Education Colorado (WEC) and the Water Educator Network. As collaborators, RFC and WEC co-hosted workshops on the Western Slope and communicate regularly to educate others across the state on notable issues in the Roaring Fork Watershed. RFC stays up to date on national and state education issues through the Colorado Science Educator Network and regularly

participates and presents at the annual Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education conference. RFC received funding for its River Center Education Programs from the CWCB (2017-2019), Advises Colorado Basin Roundtable Public Education Participation and Outreach (CBRT PEPO) for its efforts implementing the Colorado Water Plan's education goals.

Above all this, strong relationships already exist between RFC and area schools, teachers, camps, towns, and agencies. These relationships indicate both the caliber of our instruction and existing support and confidence in our future successes. Locally, RFC mentors, informs, and partners with education groups including:

- Roaring Fork School District
- Aspen School District
- Independent Schools
- Pitkin County and Garfield County Libraries
- Aspen Center for Environmental Studies
- Roaring Fork Environmental Educators listserv
- Middle Colorado Watershed Council
- Eagle River Watershed Council
- City of Aspen, Town of Basalt, Town of Carbondale, City of Glenwood Springs
- Pitkin County (Open Space and Trails, Engineering Dept., Water Dept., and Healthy Rivers)
- Youth Entity
- Basalt Library
- Rafting companies and fly-fishing guides throughout the valley
- ArtBase
- Roaring Fork Young Professionals
- CORE
- Access Afterschool & Afterschool Enrichment
- Roaring Fork Audubon
- Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers
- Colorado River Watch
- Colorado River District
- Aspen Global Change Institute
- Colorado Mountain College

E. Budget, Measurements and Accountability

RFC requests \$35,000 from HRB to support our watershed education programs (See Attachment 1: HRB Watershed Education Program - Project Budget). RFC receives financial support from many partners for our water education programs but foresees additional funds needed to balance the budget in 2021 (please see Attachment 2: RFC Education Program Budget). We hope you choose to help elevate our watershed education programs and to expand our reach to new, critical audiences in the coming year.

RFC will provide a progress report to the HRB at or around the six-month mark and present a final report and presentation at the one-year mark. This may include progress reports, statistics, financials, teacher feedback, and the deliverables listed below.

Attachment 1: HRB Watershed Education Program - Project Budget

River Center Education Programming	Details	Total Cost	Breakdown of Cost	Deliverables/Measures of Success
1. Update and revitalize existing curriculum (incorporate skills highlighted in best instruction practices ex: teachers talk less, students talk and discover more, create visual aids for new language learners.	Staff time, collaboration with state-wide groups and educators, site visits, training educators on new program components and methods.	\$9,000	▪ \$3,330 Staff Training (37 HR) ▪ \$1,980 Program development (22 HR) ▪ \$3,690 Creating Visual Aids and Field Journals (41 HR)	Updated list of at least 6 RFC water education programs, printable field journals, list of researched discovery, inquiry, and collaborative teaching techniques, 6 finished visual aids for instruction.
2. Instruct education programs at the River Center and field sites throughout the valley, focusing on water quality, water quantity, riparian habitat, and water use. Includes scholarship funds to reduce cost barriers for classes facing tight classroom budgets.	Increased coordination with schools to incorporate COVID-19 guidelines, program preparation, and instruction. Site surveys for increased field instruction sites close to schools so busing is not required. Program delivery.	\$9,000	▪ \$4,560 Program delivery at scholarship rate (57 HR) ▪ \$4,440 administrative support (scheduling, tracking, site visits, development, training, etc.) (73 HR)	Documentation of scholarship rates received and at least 57 hours of instruction with documentation of program details: Student numbers, topics, hours. HRS logo on scholarship program rates.
3. Partner with Water Education Colorado to host the annual Water Education Colorado Conference for teachers and Project Wet® Training at the River Center.	Staff time to provide assistance with conference and event planning feedback on local resources needed. Promote and help facilitate the conference and teacher workshop, use of River Center, and follow-up support.	\$4,000	▪ \$2,700 site use rental ▪ \$1,300 administration, event coordination, materials, and set up and clean up (would supplement 10 hours, 40 hours of work expected)	Documentation of number of participants and pictures of event. HRS logo on event signage.

4. Expand educational opportunities for underserved high school students at the field sites throughout the valley that promote water fluency, issues, and science.	This class will be an 8-class series incorporating snow science, riparian ecology, and watershed science.	\$7,000	▪ \$5,000 Program research, development, and delivery (55 HR) ▪ \$2,000 Creating program materials (24 HR)	Documentation of classes taught with program details: numbers, topics, hours, pictures.
5. Create snow science programs for elementary grades to increase opportunities for outdoor watershed education in the winter.	Research, develop, and deliver multi-part educational classes to elementary schools that teach about the importance of snow, snow crystals and avalanches, and winter ecology.	\$6,000	▪ \$1,000 promotion, coordination ▪ \$2,500 Program delivery (30Hr) ▪ \$2,500 Development, materials, and training (28 HR)	Summary of 8 programs developed for and delivered to this audience. Documentation of classes taught with program details: numbers, topics, hours, pictures.
TOTAL		\$35,000		

Attachment 2: Projected RFC Education Budget, 2021

REVENUE		
Funding Sources:		AMOUNT
Bessie Minor Swift (pending)		\$3,000
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails		\$28,145.00
Education Programs (from groups that pay \$50/hr)		\$22,050.00
Eagle County		\$15,000
Individual donors (pending)		\$30,000.00
Healthy Rivers Board (pending)		\$35,060.00
Total:		\$133,255.00

EXPENSES		
TYPE	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Human Resources (2.3 education staff)	Staff time and administrative overhead for programs: curriculum development, class preparation, instruction, marketing, public relations, transportation time to/from program sites, professional development, adult and family programs, events, website management, mileage reimbursement for off-site and field programs.	\$121,645.00
Equipment & Supplies	Replacing, replenishing, and translating education materials, copies of handouts, printing, art and science products, etc.	\$3,500.00
Publication and Educational Outreach	Biannual newsletter and website hosting and management (hard costs), weekly snowpack and river reports, general RFC public relations, monthly e-newsletter.	\$15,000.00
Total:		\$140,145.00