

**POLICY FOR CONSIDERATION OF GRANT REQUESTS FROM THE UPPER
GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

Revised: December 18, 2019

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (“District”) will consider requests for financial assistance for water resource projects pursuant to established programs (e.g., Grant Program) within District boundaries which are in accordance with the District's statutory purposes, subject to annual appropriation. Generally, these purposes are: the promotion or enhancement of beneficial use of water for agricultural, recreational, domestic, municipal, industrial, and other purposes; watershed management activities; water quality and riparian zone enhancement projects; and water use efficiency projects.

Such requests must be submitted to the District in writing in compliance with the following criteria:

1. Requests for financial assistance will be considered for only those projects which are consistent with the District's mission.
2. The District will determine annually, through its budgeting process, the funding available for assistance. For 2020, the District Board appropriated \$200,000 for its Grant Program.
3. The District Board will consider assistance requests at its March meeting each year. All requests for assistance must be submitted in writing to the District by the last day of February of the given year, unless otherwise specified.
4. The District will periodically promulgate guidelines to be utilized to evaluate and prioritize assistance requests. Through these criteria and guidelines, the District may target projects that address specific objectives, needs, areas or activities.
5. The Applicant making a request for assistance must demonstrate the ability to undertake and complete the project.
6. The Applicant and all other interest holders, such as facility owners, must accept all responsibility and liability associated with the proposed project, including but not limited to property interests, water rights, environmental and permit compliance, on-site and off-site project impacts, project construction, project operations, project maintenance and other obligations.
7. Proposed projects must be supported by a detailed budget which shows the capital and operational funding requirements and all available funding sources.
8. A single grant recipient may not receive financial assistance from the UGRWCD that exceeds a total of \$150,000 in any consecutive five-year period, except under extraordinary circumstances.
9. Financial assistance will be limited to 50% of the project cost, up to a maximum financial assistance of \$50,000.

10. Upon Completion of the Project, Grantee shall submit a Request for Payment together with an itemized statement for expenditures on the Project. Such statement shall include invoices for materials received and labor performed on the Funded Work and paid for by Grantee, or to be paid upon receipt of funds from the District.
11. The final grant amount may be less than the total grant amount originally approved by the District Board if the documented final cost of the Project is less than the original cost estimate.
12. Applications for assistance from the District will be reviewed and prioritized solely at the District's discretion. Acceptance for review by the District of an application for financial assistance shall not constitute an obligation on the part of the District to provide such financial assistance. Requests will be evaluated and ranked in competition for available funding. Incomplete applications will be rejected.
13. In providing financial assistance, the District may evaluate or assess the technical adequacy of the proposal in order to prioritize project assistance requests. However, such an assessment shall not constitute a warranty or an engineering opinion on the project upon which the Applicant or any third party may rely.
14. Financial assistance will be implemented by a contract prepared by the District's Legal Counsel. This contract will include appropriate special conditions, including but not limited to: 1) Limitations on the use of financial assistance; 2) indemnification of the District by the Applicant; 3) insurance requirements of the Applicant; and 4) repayment requirements of the Applicant required by the District Board for limiting the use of grant funds. Grantees shall have sixty (60) days after the District's mailing of the final grant contract or any amendment to a grant contract to them in which to execute the final grant contract or amendment and deliver the executed original to the District offices. If such execution and delivery are not accomplished in that time, the Grantee shall be deemed to have rejected the District's offer to contract and that offer shall terminate. If a Grantee fails to execute and deliver an amendment within that time, the District may terminate the original grant contract and demand full repayment if grant funds already have been distributed. The District's Legal Counsel may modify the grant contract on a case-by-case basis to accommodate special circumstances, including completed projects, commenced projects, and projects sponsored by public entities subject to the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act. The insurance requirements may be modified with the approval of Legal Counsel. Once a contract has been signed, the estimated commencement and completion dates may be extended upon written request by the Grantee and written approval by Legal Counsel. All other substantive changes to the grant contract must be approved by the Board.
15. Disbursements of financial assistance must be completed within three (3) years of the contract date unless there is a high likelihood that the project will be completed within an agreed upon reasonable time frame and an extension is authorized by staff and/or board action.

16. If the Board of Directors determines, in its sole discretion, that an event has occurred that constitutes an emergency such that time is of the essence in completing a project that otherwise qualifies for financial assistance, and the Board is willing to appropriate additional funds for a grant, the Board may consider an application for assistance for such a project at any time.

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT MISSION AND VALUES

Mission Statement.

To be an active leader in issues affecting the water resources of the Upper Gunnison River Basin.

This mission statement reflects the following values held by the District's Board of Directors.

Values Statements.

The Board opposes any new transfers of water from the Gunnison River and its tributaries upstream of Blue Mesa Dam to other basins because such transfers would interfere with existing beneficial uses of water, damage economic stability, and reduce environmental quality within the District.

The Board supports wise land use policies by local governments to protect the water resources of the basin.

The Board regards irrigation, flood control, municipal and industrial uses, ecological needs, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic values to be important matters for the District and the public it serves and advocates achieving a balance among competing uses of water within the District to minimize conflict among them.

The Board is committed to managing and funding effective monitoring, protection and restoration programs in order to maintain high water quality standards as a necessary part of a healthy economy and environment in the District.

The Board accepts the preponderance of scientific evidence indicating that warmer temperatures are already having effects in the District on quantity and timing of precipitation, evaporative losses, forest health and timing of spring peak runoff, and other effects that will increase in the future; it is therefore necessary to adapt the Board's planning assumptions to such changed conditions.

The Board strongly supports irrigated agriculture in the District for its economic and environmental contributions to the community and for the cultural and social values of farming and ranching.

The Board believes that the District must participate in statewide processes to address challenges like climate change, drought, population pressure, water shortages, and projects and programs to address those challenges; and in those statewide processes, the District must be a strong and consistent voice guarding against inequitable and unmitigated damage to Western Slope interests.

The Board recognizes the need for collaborative efforts with partners to develop positions regarding legislation that has a nexus with water.

The Board recognizes that effective water management requires attention to the health and viability of the entire watershed and the groundwater moving through the land and interacting with the surface waters.

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF UGRWCD GRANT FUNDS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Revised: December 18, 2019

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (District) Grant Program is to provide financial assistance for water resource projects through a competitive process. This financial assistance is generally intended to assist successful applicants to implement water resource projects and related activities that promote the responsible and efficient use of water in the Upper Gunnison basin.

The amount of funds available will be determined by the District Board during its annual budget process. A set of ranking and selection criteria will be used to choose the water resource project(s) for financial assistance.

ELIGIBILITY:

Projects eligible for funding must be located within the boundaries of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and should generally address one or more of the following*:

1. Development of a new water supply
2. Improvement of an existing water supply
3. Measures to improve instream water quality
4. Measures which promote water use efficiency
5. Implementation of watershed management actions, including restoration or protection of riparian habitat

* Priority will be given to those projects that utilize pre-Colorado River Compact water rights (those rights that were perfected before November 24, 1922).

The application for financial assistance should clearly document the manner in which the proposed project addresses the above criteria.

It is expected that funding requests will be made for projects which have completed planning and design, have a well-documented time line for completion and have a 50% cost match. Projects are expected to be completed in the year the application is submitted for District consideration. A completed project with a total project cost of less than \$50,000 is eligible for funding if it was completed within one year preceding the application due date.

APPLICATION:

All requests for funding for a given year must be submitted by the last day in February of that year. Each request must include at least the following elements:

1. A completed application form with a clear description of the project, including the technical and financial aspects of the project
2. A detailed project schedule with milestones
3. A list of project participants and beneficiaries*
4. A clear and comprehensive budget.

The technical information provided should fully detail the project and should reference all relevant studies, documents, planning reports, and construction documents. All materials submitted as part of the application shall be considered public documents and as such, are available for public inspection and distribution and will become the property of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.

*** preference will be given to projects that that have multiple applicants and provide multiple benefits.**

EVALUATION:

Eligible projects must be located within the District boundaries and be consistent with a mission of the District which is to encourage the in-basin beneficial use and maintenance of high-quality standards for the water resources of the basin.

The merits of eligible projects will be assessed and scored in the evaluation process using the following criteria:

Appropriateness:

Is the project consistent with the District's mission and does it fully meet the goals of grant program (water resource development and protection - see eligibility section above)?

Project Description:

Is the project clearly defined and described?

Budget:

Is the description and documentation of project costs clear, accurate and comprehensive?

Funding:

Is there a high likelihood of full funding from all proposed sources? Has other funding been acquired and assured? Are funding sources secure?

Milestones & Timelines:

Is project timeline described and documented in a clear, appropriate and well-organized fashion?
Is there a clear path for completion within a year, or within the proposed timeframe, as appropriate?

Technical Adequacy:

Is there a high objective probability of technical success? Is there a high likelihood that the project will perform as designed?

Project Effectiveness:

Is there a high likelihood that project objectives will be met? Will the project be effective and efficient?

Applicant's Capability:

Does the applicant have the ability to perform this type of project?

Cost Effectiveness:

Does the cost/benefit ratio represent a good investment - (for example, low cost per acre-foot)?

Participation:

Are there multiple participants or beneficiaries? Priority is given to projects that involve or benefit a number of individuals, entities and District constituents.

Other:

Are there intangible benefits to the project? Does the project employ new methods which may serve as an example or potential solution for similar problems? Does the project provide a water education benefit? Does the project increase public safety? etc. This evaluation criterion can have a negative value if the project has adverse impacts or undesirable elements.

All proposals will be reviewed and ranked by District staff by assigning values to the aforementioned factors. Ranked results and project summaries will be presented to the Grant Committee of the Board of Directors during March of each year as staff recommendations. The Grant Committee will make final recommendations to the UGRWCD Board for formal action and potential funding at the board meeting in March of each year.

Watershed Management Planning Group
Criteria for Demonstration Projects
Approved December 16, 2019

The mission of the Watershed Management Planning Group (WMPG) is to help protect existing water uses and watershed health in the Upper Gunnison Basin in the face of pressure from increased water demands and permanent reductions in water supply.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Watershed Management Planning Group (WMPG) is to improve water security for all water uses in the Upper Gunnison Basin, by protecting existing uses, meeting user shortages, and maintaining healthy riverine ecosystems in the face of future demand increases and permanent supply reductions. To achieve this, the WMPG seeks to develop projects that demonstrate water use efficiencies, watershed best management practices, and voluntary, temporary, and/or alternative operations to enhance flows. The amount of funds available will be determined based on available District funds.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be eligible for funding, projects must be located within the boundaries of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District. Proposed projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The WMPG will acknowledge broad stakeholder support in its consideration of projects.
- Projects should reflect the goals of the WMPG and the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
- Projects must address an assessed need from the watershed management planning process
- Projects must have landowner approval and cooperation, or agency approval and cooperation on public lands
- Projects should benefit multiple users or basin wide water supply as a whole
- Projects should not diminish the existing ecological function of the area where it is proposed, and will preferably enhance it
- Recognizing that project designs are site specific, the demonstration projects should be relevant for other sub-basins in terms of design approach and scientific rigor
- The projects should be supported by good scientific and technical analysis and the best available knowledge of basin hydrology.
- The projects should have a strong likelihood of implementation

The application for financial assistance should clearly document the manner in which the proposed project addresses the above measures.

The technical information provided should fully detail the project and should reference all relevant studies, documents, planning reports, and construction documents, which shall be made available, as appropriate. All materials submitted as part of the application shall be considered public documents and as such, are available for public inspection and distribution and will become the property of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and the WMPG.

**2020 Grant Program Application Form Instructions
(Applications are due February 28, 2020)**

Project Title: Indicate the name of the project.

Applicant: Indicate the name of the individual and/or organization applying for the grant. In the event that funding assistance is provided, the Applicant is responsible for entering into a funding agreement with the District and for submitting all necessary information including requests for payment. The Applicant will be the entity that receives the funding distributions and any required end-of-year tax reporting forms (e.g. 1099 forms when receiving assistance greater than \$600).

Contact Information: Indicate the name of the contact individual responsible for answering questions regarding the application, project, and funding agreement.

Completion Date Information: Proposed projects are expected to be initiated in 2020 and completed within one year.

Amount of Funding Request: Indicate the amount of money being requested. The current limit on funding requests from the District's Grant Program is \$50,000 per project with a 50% cost match; however, available funds are limited by the District's budget appropriation and will be awarded on a competitive basis.

Funding Source: Please specify if the request is for funds from the 2020 District Grant Program or the Watershed Management Planning (WMP) Demonstration Projects funds.

Match Amount Provided: Indicate all sources of matching contributions to the project including other funding awards, in-kind services, and sponsor contributions.

Project Description: Briefly summarize the type of project proposed and the anticipated water resource benefits. In addition to the project summary description, it is recommended that applicants provide a detailed description of the project that addresses the District's Guidelines for use of Grant Funds for Financial Assistance.

Questions related to the Grant Program Guidelines and / or grant application process should be directed to Beverly Richards. Email beverly@ugrwcd.org or call (970) 641-6065.

**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
2020 GRANT APPLICATION**

Date Received (for UGRWCD use only): _____

Project Title: _____

Applicant _____

Contact Information:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Estimated Start Date _____ Estimated Completion Date _____

Amount of Funding Request: _____

Grant Program Funding: _____ or WMP Demonstration Project Funding: _____

Match Amount provided (all sources): _____

Total Project Cost: _____

Project Description: _____
