



# Unlocking WaterSMART Funding: Insights and Success Stories from Colorado Communities

*idea*

*funding*

May 29, 1pm MT

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*idea*

May 29, 1pm MT

Q&A

**You ask:** 13:05  
How do I use these awesome tools?

**Joshua Jones answered:** 13:06  
You are already using one of the most awesome tools. We'll discuss the rest right away.

Please input your question

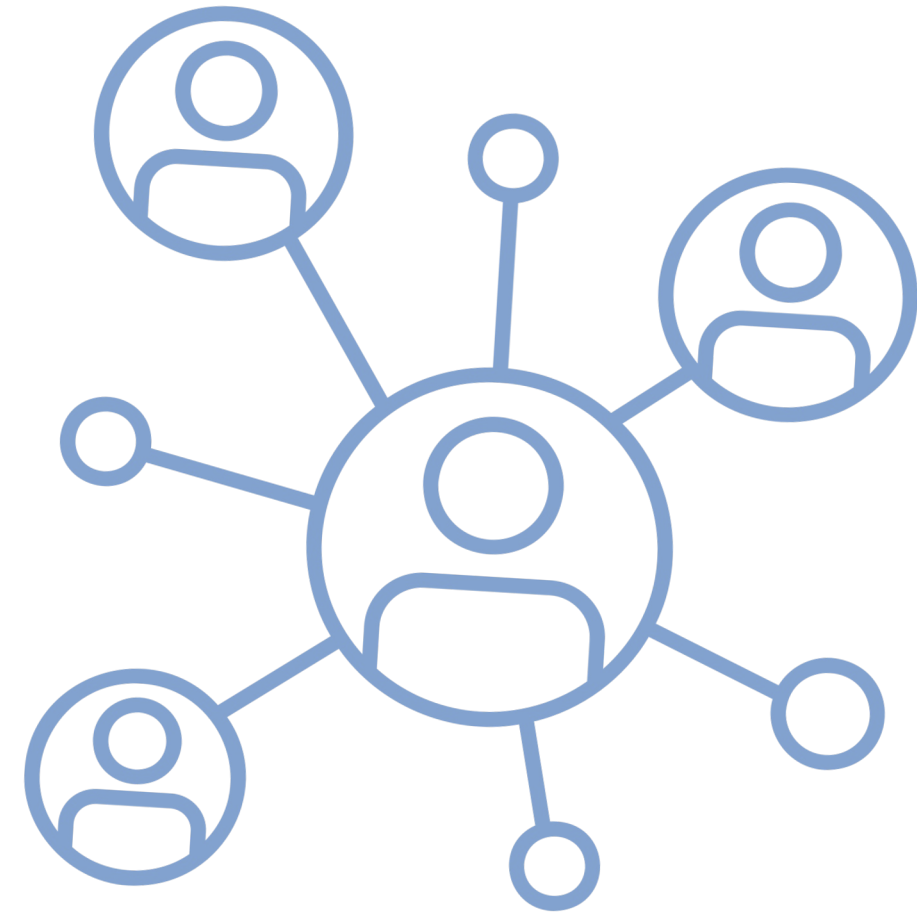
Send Anonymously Send



WaterNow works to advance transformation in the urban water sector to accelerate the widespread adoption of equitable, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable strategies.

We do this as a national network for local water leaders and decision makers, empowering them with the technical assistance, resources, and tools they need to implement innovative One Water drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater solutions in their communities.

[www.waternow.org](http://www.waternow.org)



# AGENDA



Welcome & Introductions



Moderated Panel Discussion



WaterNow's Federal Funding Navigation Support



Audience Q&A




Wrap Up & Thank You

# TODAYS SPEAKERS

**City of Aspen**  
**Irrigation Efficiency**  
**Assessment and Outdoor**  
**Rebate Program**

WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects  
Projects for FY 2022  
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): R21AS00300

Prepared By:  
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Water Department  
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CITY OF ASPEN

Rob Gregor  
Utilities Management Analyst  
City of Aspen

**WaterSMART**  
Environmental Water Resources Projects  
FY2023  
Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00089

**Farmers Union Multi-Benefit**  
**Diversion Infrastructure Improvement**  
**Project**



Del Norte, CO

SUBMITTED BY:  
COLORADO RIO GRANDE  
RESTORATION FOUNDATION


PROJECT MANAGER  
DANIEL BOYES  
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623 FOURTH STREET  
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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:  
SAN LUIS VALLEY  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Cassandra McCuen  
Program Manager  
Rio Grande Headwaters  
Restoration Project

**City of Alamosa Cattails**  
**Golf Course Irrigation**  
**Replacement Project**

Water & Energy Efficiency  
Grant FY 2023



Andy Rice  
Director of Parks,  
Recreation, & Library  
City of Alamosa

# TODAYS SPEAKERS



Becky Anderson  
Program Manager  
WaterNow Alliance



Victoria Arling  
Senior Colorado Basin  
Program Manager  
WaterNow Alliance

# PLEASE COMPLETE OUR WATERSMART SURVEY!



 **waternow** alliance  
water leaders. resilient solutions.

The background of the slide is a dense, overlapping collage of colorful sticky notes. The colors include shades of blue, purple, teal, and green. Each sticky note has a large, dark blue question mark printed on it. The sticky notes are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured and busy visual effect.

# MODERATED DISCUSSION

WATERNOW ALLIANCE

# WaterSMART Grant Application Support & Help Desk

- Water & Energy Efficiency Grant (WEEG)
- Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects (SWEPE)
- Environmental Water Resources Projects (EWRP)
- Drought Resiliency Projects (DRP)
- Planning and Project Design Grant (PPDG)
- Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP)
- Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects (AERP)
- Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP)



## No-Cost, Hands-On Assistance to Apply for WaterSMART Funding Opportunities From WaterNow Alliance

WaterNow supports **Colorado** communities navigate WaterSMART grants and get their applications across the finish line through our **WaterSMART Grant Application Support & Help Desk!** As part of our mission, we strive to help serve under-resourced and mid-sized communities identify avenues of additional financial support to advance their sustainable water priorities and projects.

We currently provide **free** application support for the 8 WaterSMART funding opportunities that align with our work (listed below). These WaterSMART grants can fund planning or implementation projects for local water providers focused on sustainable and resilient water management.

**WaterNow provides pro-bono support for:**

- Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
- Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
- Environmental Water Resource Projects
- Drought Resiliency Planning
- Planning and Project Design Grants
- Water Conservation Field Services Program
- Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects
- Cooperative Watershed Management Program

**WaterNow's Support Services Include:**

- 1-on-1 call to discuss grant opportunities and to strategize next steps
- Targeted research tasks related to your application
- Guidance on USBR grant submission processes
- Fillable application templates
- Detailed review of your application
- And more! We'll work with you to determine what kind of support would be most useful to your utility or organization

WaterNow has helped CO communities access over **\$8 million** in USBR funding, totaling over **\$24 million** towards sustainable water projects.

*\*Please note that WaterNow is not able to write WaterSMART applications.*

Visit our website to learn more about our [WaterSMART Grant Application Support & Help Desk!](#)

Ready for assistance with your application? Complete this [Google Form](#) and we'll be in touch!

WaterNow Alliance is an independent, non-profit that receives philanthropic funding to support Colorado water providers to apply for WaterSMART funding. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation implements the WaterSMART program, and makes all final grant decisions. We are not affiliated with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in any way.





# WaterSMART Grant Application Support & Help Desk

- 30 minute 1-on-1 calls to discuss available grant opportunities and strategize next steps
- Guidance on the USBR grant submission process
- Targeted research tasks related to your application
- Application templates that follow the Notice of Funding Opportunity
- Detailed review of your application (*Please note that WaterNow is not able to write WaterSMART application on behalf of a community at this time*)
- And more! We'll work with you to determine what kind of support would be most useful to your organization

If you are interested in applying to a WaterSMART funding opportunity and would like WaterNow's assistance, fill out [this short form](#) and we'll be in touch.



# WaterSMART Grant Application Support & Help Desk

## Quick Facts

- Program has supported Colorado communities for **4 years**
- Supported dozens of communities navigating the WaterSMART grant application process resulting in **16 successful applications**, to date
- Over **\$8M in USBR funding** and totaling to over **\$25M in total project cost** for sustainable water projects



# WaterSMART Grant Application Support & Help Desk

## Case Studies

✓ The **City of Alamosa** received \$500,000 in WEEG funding in FY23 to upgrade the irrigation system for the Cattails Golf Course. These upgrades included installation of a sprinkler system with adjustable nozzles, individual head controls, and weather-related sensors. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 1.5 million gallons. The City of Alamosa is also upgrading the Rio Grande system and further

✓ The **City of Aspen** received \$75,000 in SWEP funding in FY21 to add an irrigation efficiency rebate to its existing water efficiency programming. The city will offer rebates to customers who

have completed  
irrigation and high  
This rebate program  
overall water savings


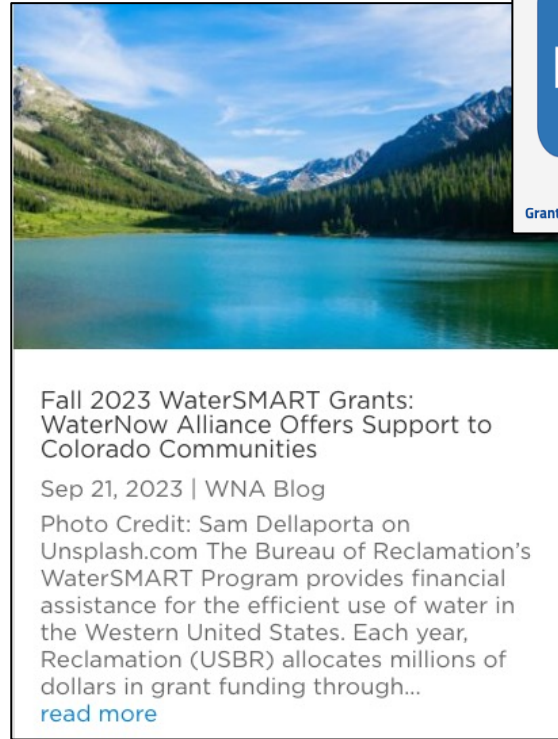
✓ The **Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation**, in partnership with the San Luis Valley Irrigation District, received \$1,274,625 in EWRP funding in FY23 to upgrade the diversion infrastructure for the Farmers Union Canal and Rio Grande #1 Ditch in southwestern Colorado to meet agricultural, ecological, and community needs. The project will allow fish to access an additional 1.42 river miles of habitat, restoration of 646 linear feet of stream bank, 524 linear feet of streambed and aquatic habitat, and provide a safe boat passage and more efficiently deliver water to the Farmers Union Canal and Rio Grande #1 Ditch.



# WaterSMART Grant Application Support & Help Desk

## Resources

- Fact sheets
- Application tips
- Webinars
- Blogs

**How To...**  
Grant Writing Basics

**Fall 2023 WaterSMART Grants: WaterNow Alliance Offers Support to Colorado Communities**  
Sep 21, 2023 | WNA Blog  
Photo Credit: Sam Dellaporta on Unsplash.com The Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Program provides financial assistance for the efficient use of water in the Western United States. Each year, Reclamation (USBR) allocates millions of dollars in grant funding through... [read more](#)

**Where to Start: Tapping Into Federal...**

May '23



**No-Cost, Hands-On Assistance to Apply for WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects**

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects (EWRP) supports projects focused on benefits to ecological values or watershed health and that have been developed as part of a collaborative process to help carry out an established strategy to increase the reliability of water resources.

**Eligible Projects Include:**

- Water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values or watershed health
- Water management or infrastructure improvements to benefit ecological values or watershed health
- Restoration projects benefitting ecological values or watershed health that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management

**Who's Eligible to Apply?**  
WaterSMART grants are open to states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations (including state, regional, or local authorities) with water or power delivery authority in the Western US, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations (including watershed groups) that are acting in partnership with any of these entities.

**Federal Funding Amount:**

- Up to \$3 million for projects that can be completed within 3 years
- Applicants must be able to commit to a minimum of 25% cost-share of total project cost

WaterNow provides **free support** to Colorado entities applying for WaterSMART grants, including:

- 1-on-1 call to discuss grant opportunities and to strategize next steps
- Targeted research tasks related to your application
- Guidance on USBR grant submission processes
- Application and budget templates
- Detailed review of your application

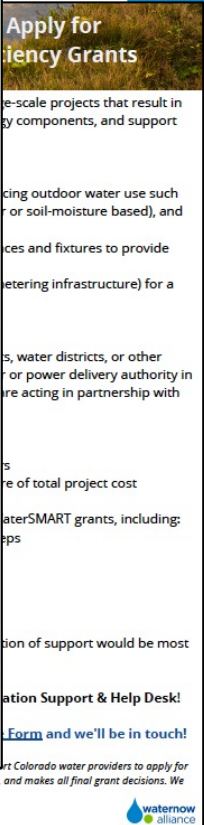
*\*Please note that WaterNow is not able to write/draft WaterSMART applications*

- And more! We'll work with you to determine what types of application of support would be most useful for your organization

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our WaterSMART Grant Application Support & Help Desk!

Ready for assistance with your application? Complete [this Google Form](#) and we'll be in touch!

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**Apply for Agency Grants**

Large-scale projects that result in... components, and support

...ing outdoor water use such... or soil-moisture based), and

...ces and fixtures to provide

...etering infrastructure) for a

...s, water districts, or other... or power delivery authority in... re acting in partnership with

...s of total project cost

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...Form and we'll be in touch!

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# Coming Up....

## NEW Support for the Colorado State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program

- **Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF)**
- **Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (WPCRF)**
  - Resources (i.e., fact sheets, “How-to-Guide”, website, etc.)
  - Outreach (email blasts, blogs, webinars and presentations)
  - One-on-one consulting hours
  - In-depth application support

Getting Started

Planning  
Your Project

Designing  
Your Project

Receiving  
Your Loan

Building  
Your Project

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# Q&A

WATERNOW ALLIANCE

# JOIN THE ALLIANCE

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP

[www.waternow.org/join-the-leaders](http://www.waternow.org/join-the-leaders)



WATERNOW ALLIANCE

# PLEASE COMPLETE OUR WATERSMART SURVEY!



 **waternow** alliance  
water leaders. resilient solutions.

# THANK YOU

**FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:**

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