WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for Fiscal Year 2022

Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00163

Gallatin Water Collaborative: Stakeholder Coordination, Community Engagement and Project Development

March 31, 2022

Proposal submission from:

Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC)

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ABBREVIATIONS

CRA: Community Readiness Assessment

CWA: Clean Water Act

CWMP: Cooperative Watershed Management Program

DEQ: Department of Environmental Quality (Montana)

DNRC: Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

FWP: Fish Wildlife and Parks (Montana)

GWC: Gallatin Watershed Council

LGW: Lower Gallatin Watershed

LGWRP: Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan

MSU: Montana State University

MT DEQ: Montana Department of Environmental Quality

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Collaborative: Gallatin Water Collaborative

TMDL: Total Maximum Daily Load

WRP: Watershed Restoration Plan

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

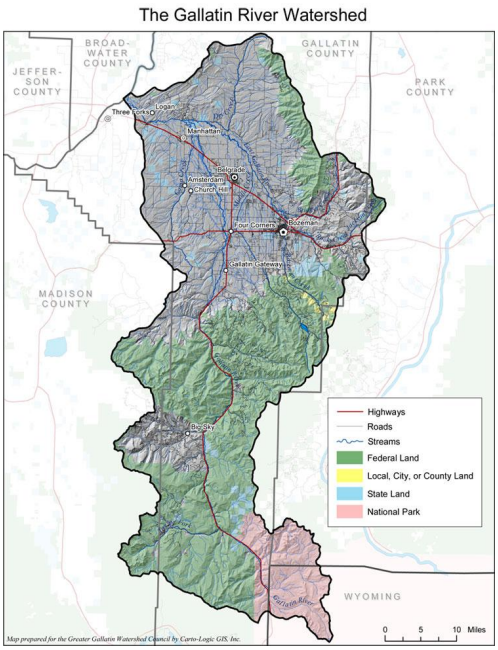
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gallatin Watershed begins in the nation's first National Park, draining 1,800 square miles on its journey north before the Gallatin River confluences with the Madison and Jefferson Rivers to form the headwaters of the Missouri River, the longest river in North America. The Lower Gallatin Watershed (LGW) is the focus of this proposal and comprises the downstream portion of the Gallatin Watershed, draining a total of 997 square miles surrounding the Gallatin Valley, Montana. This Gallatin Watershed is the quintessential western headwaters ecosystem, with mountain snowpack supplying downstream users in more arid environments. While the upper Gallatin primarily runs through federal National Forest lands, the lower Gallatin meanders through a patchwork of private lands in both urban and rural settings. The agricultural background of Gallatin Valley has shaped both the culture and historic water usage. In 2004, the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC) was established to serve as a forum for communication and coordination of activities in the watershed. Over the past 18 years, GWC has successfully facilitated watershed management and planning meetings between the various stakeholders present in our watershed: state and federal agencies, nonprofits, concerned citizens, municipalities, agriculture, and recreationists. This proposal aims to **(1)** Maintain the capacity of the Gallatin Water Collaborative to achieve its mission and goals **(2)** Advance prioritized actions of the Watershed Management Matrix through the development and coordination of task forces **(3)** Increase community awareness of the Gallatin Water Collaborative and its work **(4)** Complete design and engineering for 2-4 on the ground restoration projects. The activities in this proposal related to restoration project planning and design are critically important as the Montana Department of Environmental Quality will be directing federal 319 nonpoint source (NPS) funding toward the LGW beginning in 2023 to complete on-the-ground restoration work. GWC is confident that with the requested funding, we can complete all outlined activities in this proposal from February 2023 to January 2025. None of the proposed activities are located on a federal facility.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Lower Gallatin Watershed (LGW) is located in Southwest Montana, draining 997 square miles in the downstream-most portion of the Gallatin River Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code: 10020008) (DEQ, 2013). The LGW comprises the northern part of Gallatin County, Montana, and is home to three primary tributaries to the Gallatin River – Hyalite Creek, Bridger Creek, and the East Gallatin River. Bozeman, located centrally in the LGW, is one of the fastest-growing cities of its size in the United States and its population is increasing by 2.65% per year, more than three times the growth rate of the state of Montana. In the last decade, Bozeman's population has grown by more than 40%. All proposed project tasks will occur within the Lower

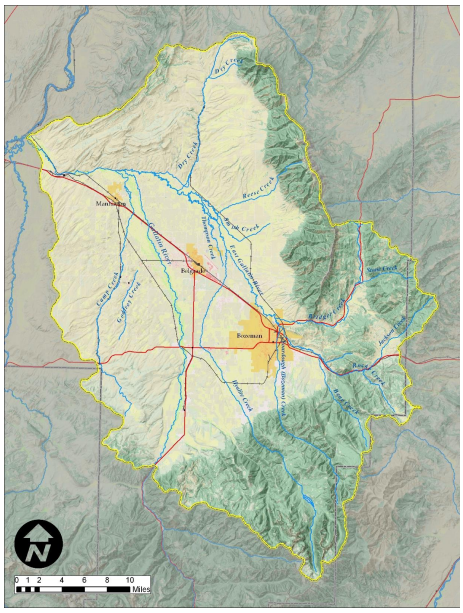
Gallatin Watershed and will be led by Gallatin Watershed Council, the watershed group serving the LGW.



Map 1 Gallatin Watershed Map

The greater Gallatin Watershed originates high on the Yellowstone Plateau in the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park. The Gallatin River flows north out of Wyoming, trenching a canyon between the Gallatin and Madison Mountain Ranges before braiding its way through the Gallatin Valley of Southwest Montana. The Gallatin then joins the Madison and Jefferson Rivers near Three Forks, MT, forming the headwaters of the Missouri, the longest river in North America. From mountain peaks, to lush valley bottoms, and the arid sagebrush grasslands in between, the Gallatin Watershed spans 1.2 million acres and is home to 23 major water bodies.

The Lower Gallatin Watershed (LGW) extends from the confluence of Spanish Creek with the Gallatin River and downstream to the Missouri's headwaters. Draining from the Gallatin Mountains, Bridger Range, Horseshoe Hills, and Madison Plateau, the LGW encompasses nearly 1000 square miles within the Gallatin Valley, fondly known as "The Garden Spot of Montana" since the late 1800s. Dominated by mountain snowpack, the Gallatin Watershed relies on spring snowmelt to supply its rivers, aquifers, and wetlands. The Upper Gallatin, the watershed's headwaters, receives an average of 400 inches of snow annually (equivalent to 67 inches of rain) compared to the lower watershed, near Logan, MT, receiving less than 12 inches of rain annually (Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook, 2017). This climatic diversity between the upper and lower sections of the watershed leads to variation in the issues faced by the watershed communities and their respective water resource management.



Map 2 Lower Gallatin Watershed Map

In addition to the Gallatin River's 22 tributaries, nearly 2,000 miles of irrigation canals redistribute water across the landscape, aiding in the growth of thousands of acres of cropland across the Lower Gallatin Watershed. The Gallatin Valley holds its roots in agriculture, however, it is facing rapid development and growth. These land use changes from agriculture to urban

development can have major impacts on the water resources of the Lower Gallatin, which has critical importance to the health of the entire Missouri River Basin.

TECHNICAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Applicant Category

Established in 2004, the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC) is an existing watershed group that guides collaborative watershed stewardship in the Gallatin Valley for a healthy and productive landscape. We support the sustainability and health of the Lower Gallatin Watershed through collaborative partnerships, community education, restoration efforts, and individual empowerment. Our vision is unified stewardship of the Lower Gallatin Watershed to support rich ecosystems, bountiful fields, and vibrant communities.

GWC began as an informal group of agency professionals, Montana State University professors and scientists, environmental consultants, landowners, and agricultural producers. From its outset, GWC has served as a forum for communication and coordination of activities in the watershed. GWC's work is based on consensus-building rather than division around natural resource issues. GWC brings opposing interests together to find livable solutions for all.

In its early years of operation, GWC's programmatic successes included developing and coordinating Gallatin Stream Teams, a community volunteer stream monitoring program, installing rain gardens at local schools and City of Bozeman offices, and planning watershed tours and Annual Meetings.

Between 2009 and 2012, GWC provided assistance to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for impaired stream segments in the Lower Gallatin TMDL Planning Area. In 2014, GWC worked with community stakeholders to develop the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP), which provides a framework for implementing water-quality improvements so that the addressed streams are no longer considered impaired by the Montana DEQ.

GWC and community partners began implementing stream restoration projects identified in the Lower Gallatin WRP in 2015. Projects have ranged from restoring wetlands and floodplains to reconnecting entrenched stream channels to their floodplains to improving riparian vegetative cover on impaired streams. It became clear that although forward progress towards goals in the WRP was being made, the rapid development and growth in our watershed created increased need for 1) a coordinated, holistic approach to implementing restoration on the ground 2) a sense of urgency communicated to the larger community to gain public support 3) a watershed group (GWC) with adequate capacity to undertake the previous two needs.

Because of the serious challenges the Lower Gallatin Watershed faces, in early 2020, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MTDEQ) announced that the LGW had been selected as their next focus watershed. This means that MTDEQ will commit up to $500,000 per year for three years for projects in the Lower Gallatin beginning in 2023. Additionally, in summer of 2020, the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC) was awarded our first Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant to simultaneously update the 2014 Watershed Restoration Plan, coordinate stakeholders and plan for the incoming DEQ focus watershed designation.

The CWMP grant has been pivotal to GWC's ability to hire staff and increase our long-term capacity to conduct watershed management activities in an effective, lasting way. Over the last three years, GWC has grown from one part-time contracted watershed coordinator to four full-time staff and a Big Sky Watershed Corps AmeriCorps member - increasing our presence and programming in the community. There is a growing need to maintain momentum of the Gallatin Water Collaborative and increase public awareness so that funding anticipated to come into our watershed for on-the-ground projects is utilized most effectively.

Eligibility of Applicant

The Gallatin Watershed Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Bozeman, Montana with a Board of Directors representing the variety of stakeholders in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. This grassroots organization formed in an effort to facilitate collaborative natural resource management between local landowners, volunteers, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the community at-large. Current Board members include:

Name of Board Member	Board Position	Occupation
John Nehring	Board Chair	Operations Manager, Oboz Footwear
Tom Michalek	Board Vice Chair	Hydrologist, RESPEC, Inc.
Tom Langmo	Treasurer	Certified Public Accountant, Wipfli, LLP
Jack Landers	Director	Hydrologist, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Alzada Roche	Director (beginning April 2022)	Restoration Field Technician, Watershed Restoration Group *and* MS Student in Fish and Wildlife Management at Montana State University
Sale Rhodes	Director (beginning April 2022)	The Nature Conservancy, Ocean Sewage Pollution Consultant *and*

		PhD Student in Land Resources and Environmental Science at Montana State University

As the Watershed Group that developed the Montana Department of Environmental Quality-accepted Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan, GWC serves as the convenor of the diversity of stakeholders that affect and are affected by the quality and quantity of water in the Gallatin Valley. As the coordinating entity of the Gallatin Water Collaborative and with long-standing education and outreach programs, GWC serves as the voice for sustainable use of water resources in the Lower Gallatin Watershed.

Goals

The mission of the Gallatin Watershed Council is to guide collaborative watershed stewardship in the Gallatin Valley for a healthy and productive landscape. The immediate goals of our CWMP proposed tasks are to:

- Maintain the capacity of the Gallatin Water Collaborative to achieve its mission and goals
- Advance prioritized actions of the Watershed Management Matrix, established by the Collaborative, through the development and coordination of task forces
- Increase community awareness of the Gallatin Water Collaborative and its work
- Complete design and engineering for 2-4 on the ground restoration projects

Approach

The Gallatin Watershed Council received funding in 2020 through a WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) Phase I grant to establish a framework for stakeholder engagement and collaboration, re-prioritize locations for future watershed restoration work, and complete an update of the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan. The stakeholder group that was formed became the Gallatin Water Collaborative, and over the last year has developed goals and actions in support of a shared mission: to unify local efforts to protect, restore and enhance water resources in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. These goals and actions are outlined in a Watershed Management Matrix, and the group is currently working to prioritize actions that are identified as the most impactful and important. The proposed Tasks B1, B2, and C1, are the natural next steps to maintain the momentum of a coordinated and strategic approach to protecting the future of water in the Gallatin Watershed, and the implementation of priority projects identified during the initial planning phase.

Task A: Watershed Group Development

GWC is not proposing any activities related to Task A.

Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning

Under Task B, a successful second CWMP Phase I grant would enable GWC to 1) continue to provide a structure for the full group of stakeholders to come together regularly and coordinate their work, 2) form and support task forces to implement priority actions identified by The Collaborative, and 3) increase community awareness of The Collaborative and its work.

Throughout every aspect of The Collaborative, GWC proposes to develop and apply a "collaborative adaptive management process" to help sustain The Collaborative as a relevant and useful entity. The intent is to position The Collaborative to continue to reflect the complex and ever-changing nature of natural resource management as our community, climate, and science evolves.

B1 Maintain the Gallatin Water Collaborative

GWC has identified several services The Collaborative can provide to continue to effectively engage stakeholders and support the coordination of each other's work. Activities include hosting full stakeholder meetings, developing several tools to help track and coordinate our work, providing joint technical review of proposed developments, serving as a shared event clearinghouse, and developing task forces to implement priority actions.

GWC proposes to continue to host full stakeholder meetings. Currently, The Collaborative is meeting every other month. As the current CWMP Phase I grant concludes, and the group moves from planning to implementation, we propose that The Collaborative shift to biannual meetings. GWC's role will be to outline the overall arc of meetings and their objectives for the next two years, develop meeting materials, set dates, send invitations and reminders, facilitate meetings, and provide any follow up materials. GWC proposes to maintain internal communications, through regular newsletters with consistent branding and formatting. These full stakeholder meetings will be a time for stakeholders to share updates in their work as it relates to the Watershed Management Matrix. It will also be a time to meet new faces and incorporate emerging information, including new data, ideas, perspectives, concerns, and needs.

GWC proposes to develop and maintain a website, the Watershed Management Matrix, and a Conservation Directory and Map to track and reflect the ongoing work of The Collaborative. The Watershed Management Matrix currently exists as a shared Google spreadsheet that stakeholders are able to view, but not edit. It will be included as an attachment to the updated WRP, and remain a dynamic, living document. As progress is made towards actions, and new actions are identified, GWC can track and record these changes in real time. To help facilitate The Collaborative during the current CWMP Phase I grant, GWC developed a website to provide a centralized place for stakeholders to access information about the effort, links to meeting resources, and a calendar of meeting dates and times. In this application, GWC proposes to incorporate The Collaborative's branding into the website, and make sure the website's framework and content reflect the ongoing updates and needs of the group. Lastly, GWC proposes to create a Conservation Directory and Map of who is doing what where. This effort

includes developing and maintaining a shared database of conservation partners, and the resources, programs, and assistance they each offer. It would also include a shared, web-based map of stakeholder's geographic priority areas.

The Collaborative has identified the impacts of growth as one of, if not the top concern for the future of our water resources. Participating Stakeholders from Gallatin County and City of Bozeman have voiced the need for more technical comments during the review of proposed subdivisions and zoning so that decisions are made in the context of water quality and availability issues. There is significant interest from stakeholders to use The Collaborative as a platform to stay abreast of new development, and utilize its collective voice in technical comments. GWC proposes to explore opportunities and develop a process and guidelines for Gallatin Water Collaborative to serve this role.

The Collaborative has identified education and outreach as a "cross-cutting issue" critical to the success of almost all actions identified in the Watershed Management Matrix. Many great educational programs and events already exist, the crux being how to drive more participation to these opportunities and reach a broader audience. GWC proposes to use The Collaborative as a platform to gather events from participating stakeholders and develop a centralized clearinghouse, including a shared events calendar hosted on The Collaborative's website, and announcing events through regular internal newsletter communications and publically on social media outlets.

To implement priority actions identified by The Collaborative, GWC proposes to form and support up to four task forces. Task forces will be action oriented, identifying and taking the initial steps needed to advance priority projects. Based on The Collaborative's initial ranking, priority task forces are beginning to take shape, but a final determination of how best to define these groups has yet to be made by the group. These initial steps should be within the capacity of participating members of the task force, without assistance from hired consultants. Example steps may include completing a literature review, compiling existing data and reports, and developing shared educational materials. In the event that the group identifies a task beyond its inherent capacity, the group may develop a Scope of Work and/or Request for Proposals, and a coordinated effort to seek and apply for funding.

B2 Implement a Communications Plan

Community awareness of The Collaborative is integral to the success of the group's mission. GWC proposes to develop and implement a communications plan to help create a sense of legitimacy, energy and momentum around the efforts of The Collaborative. Recognition of The Collaborative will encourage broader participation and adoption of its priority actions. Using The Collaborative to gather and publicize shared events and provide joint public comment, as were described above, play a part in elevating awareness of The Collaborative's work. In addition, GWC proposes to attend and provide in-person updates to commission and board meetings,

provide branded “blurbs” for groups to share in their newsletters and outreach materials, and promote the work of the Gallatin Water Collaborative through various news and media outlets. The proposed budget includes $5,000 to aid with media promotion of stories, updates, and announcements. Promotion may look like a paid post through Facebook, an ad in the local newspaper, or an announcement over a local radio station.

Task C: Watershed Management Project Design

GWC proposes to develop designs for 2-4 stream restoration projects in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. The DEQ Nonpoint Source Management program has chosen the Lower Gallatin Watershed as its next focus watershed. Starting in 2023, up to $500,000 in Clean Water Act 319 Grant funding will be available annually for restoration projects in the Lower Gallatin Watershed, for up to three years. Through this grant, GWC hopes to develop “shovel ready” projects to feed into the CWA 319 Grant program, starting with building relationships with willing landowners, through the completion of engineered plans. Under Task C, a successful second CWMP Phase I grant would enable GWC to 1) intentionally cultivate projects that will have the greatest impact and address the top needs of our watershed, and 2) complete the design and engineering for 2-4 projects so they are ready to apply for funding to cover construction.

In year 1, GWC proposes to work with the stream restoration task force to identify, rank, and choose the 2-4 restoration projects that will be funded for project design. The first step will be to clearly define the program, with the intent that the process outlined can be used as a model, and replicated year after year. GWC proposes to use the outcomes of the current CWMP Phase I planning process and the updated LGWRP (anticipated September 2022) to develop desired project criteria that target priority locations and restoration techniques in the watershed. The program timeline, application process, and expectations for future construction phases will also be outlined. We will then share the opportunity through our partners, such as NRCS, GVLT, and TU, as well as conduct targeted outreach to specific landowners, and announce the program more publicly through various media outlets. During the application process we propose to leverage the technical capacity of the restoration task force to conduct initial project scoping and feasibility, including site visits and conceptual design recommendations. At the end of the year, the task force will come together to review and rank applications and choose the 2-4 restoration projects that will be funded for project design.

In year 2, GWC proposes to procure contractor(s) to complete final engineered project designs, and work to manage each project as they develop though the design phase. A contractor scope of work will be developed, and GWC will follow adopted procurement procedures to select contractor(s) and finalize contract(s). To ensure the design is in alignment with the program criteria, GWC will advise the design process and oversee contracted work. Contractors will be responsible for initiating any necessary permits and site-specific environmental compliance to implement the project. Final permit applications will be submitted as part of the construction phase - permit acquisition is not included as part of this proposal. GWC will also develop

landowner agreements and coordinate partnerships on the project. The outcome of this task will be 2-4 "shovel-ready" designs that GWC and our partners can use to pursue funding for implementation.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A—Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope

E.1.1.1. Sub-criterion No. A1. Watershed Group Diversity

Stakeholders in the Lower Gallatin Watershed that affect or are affected by the quantity or quality of water include residents, landowners, industry and land managers, as well as those who recreate, use, and value water resources in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. Key stakeholders in our watershed include:

- **Agriculture:** The Gallatin Valley is home to some of the most prime agricultural lands in the state with its fertile soils and bountiful water resources. The primary agricultural activities within the watershed are wheat, barley, hay, and cattle production. The Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators works to preserve water rights, maintain water conveyance across the valley to aid in crop production, and protect the agricultural industry. The Gallatin Conservation District offers a variety of technical, financial assistance, and community programs for landowners across Gallatin County.
- **Municipalities:** Multiple cities and towns are located in the LGW, including: Bozeman, Belgrade, Manhattan, Gallatin Gateway, Amsterdam-Churchill, amongst other smaller communities. These municipal influences play a large role in natural resource planning and management in the watershed.
- **Recreation:** The Gallatin River is a world-class fly fishing destination, making recreational tourism a critical aspect of the region's economy.
- **Private residents and landowners:** The Lower Gallatin River meanders primarily through private property, making private residents a pivotal player for maintaining riparian health on a local scale.
- **Montana State University:** Montana State University is a public land-grant research university located in Bozeman, MT. MSU provides outreach services to citizens and communities both locally and statewide through its agricultural experiment station and 60 county and reservation extension offices.

The Gallatin Water Collaborative includes representatives from each of the key groups mentioned above and is guided by an Advisory Committee that consists of advisors from Montana DNRC, Montana DEQ, Montana Water Center, Gallatin County Planning Department and a local engineering firm, WGM Group. Over 25 different stakeholders have committed to participating in The Collaborative. These groups include:

Government Agencies: NRCS, Gallatin Conservation District, City of Bozeman, Gallatin Local Water Quality District, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Montana Fish, Wildlife, Parks, Montana DEQ, DNRC, Gallatin County Planning Department, Gallatin Health Department **Nonprofit Organizations:** Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Trout Unlimited, Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators, Gallatin River Task Force, Four Corners Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Upper Missouri Waterkeeper, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Sacajawea Audubon Society, Montana Freshwater Partners **Private Sector:** WGM Group, Confluence Consulting, RESPEC **Montana State University:** Water Center, MSU Extension Water Quality **Recreation/Tourism:** Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana **Developers:** Gallatin Association of Realtors **Water and Sewer Districts:** Four Corners Water and Sewer District **Well Driller:** Kevin Haggerty Drilling Inc.

A letter of support from the Gallatin Water Collaborative is included in the Attachment section of this proposal. Additionally, a letter of support from Montana DEQ is included to indicate their financial and technical commitment to the LGW through Focus Watershed designation.

While GWC has strong partnerships from diverse interests, we are targeting additional key stakeholders through the tasks proposed in this application, as these entities hold important decision-making roles or can or should be at the table to help influence decisions. Targeted stakeholders include:

- City and county commissioners
- Communities of Belgrade and Manhattan
- Landowners / small acreage property owners
- Indigenous communities
- General public - increased public engagement

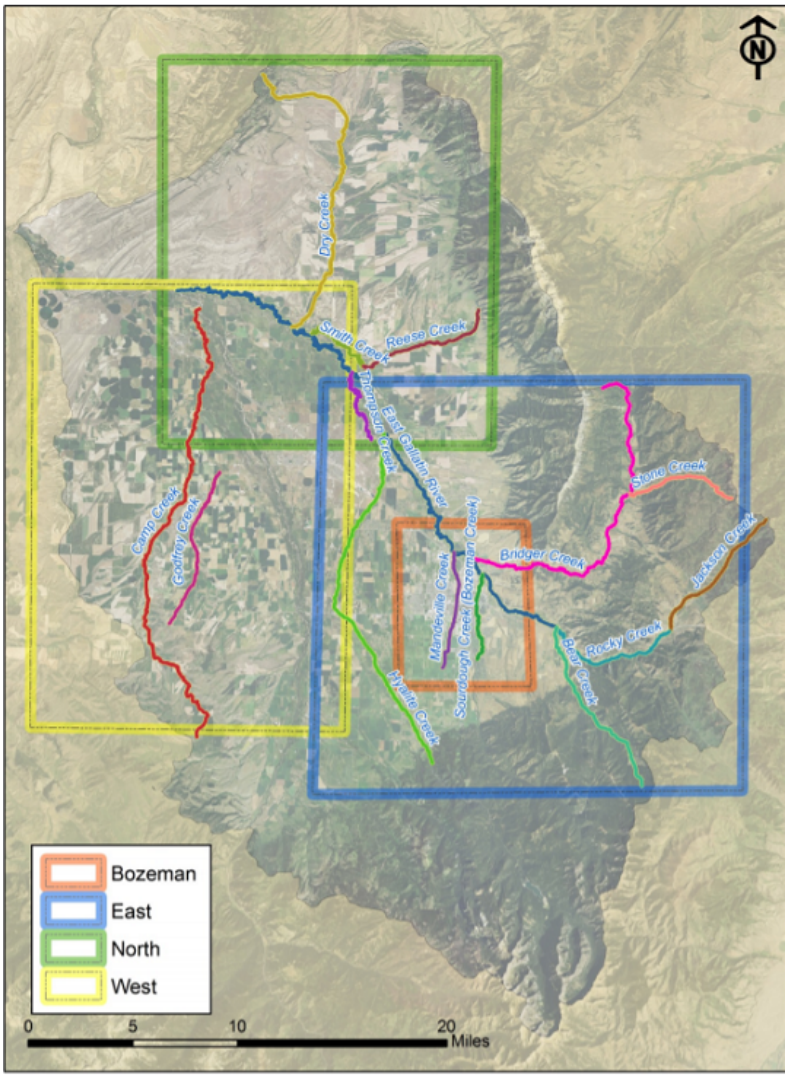
We plan to engage targeted stakeholders through the following efforts:

- Invite groups to participate in Gallatin Water Collaborative meetings and discussions
- Visit these groups to listen and understand their priorities on their turf; i.e. Commission meetings, potato fields, at community events, homeowners association meetings, etc.
- Connect with the Montana State University Native American Studies Department and the local chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society
- Share stories of collaboration and celebrate small successes through newsletters, website content and press releases

E.1.1.2. Sub-criterion No. A2. Geographic Scope

The specific tasks and goals outlined in this proposal address water resource issues across the entire Lower Gallatin Watershed. During the development of the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan, GWC divided the Lower Gallatin Watershed into four areas: North, East, West, and Bozeman (Map 3). Varying land ownership and land use patterns along with varying stream types and conditions between these areas provide an opportunity for GWC to implement

restoration measures and water supply planning that address the concerns of individual stakeholder groups.



Map 3. Lower Gallatin Watershed Areas

Lower Gallatin Watershed - Bozeman

The area in and around Bozeman is highly urbanized and includes impaired segments on Bozeman Creek, Bridger Creek, Mandeville Creek, and the East Gallatin River. Primary stakeholders in this area include the City of Bozeman, Montana State University, Gallatin Conservation District, Gallatin County, United States Forest Service, agricultural producers, private landowners, local residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

Lower Gallatin Watershed - East

The eastern portion of the Lower Gallatin Watershed includes impaired segments on Bear Creek, Bozeman Creek, Bridger Creek, Hyalite Creek, Jackson Creek, Mandeville Creek, Rocky Creek, Stone Creek, and the East Gallatin River. Primary stakeholders in this area include the City of Bozeman, Montana State University, Gallatin Conservation District, Gallatin County, United States Forest Service, agricultural producers, private landowners, local residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations, including the Gallatin Valley Land Trust and Montana Land Reliance.

Lower Gallatin Watershed - North

The northern portion of the Lower Gallatin Watershed includes impaired segments on Dry Creek, Reese Creek, Smith Creek, Thompson Creek, and the East Gallatin River. Primary stakeholders in this area include the Gallatin Conservation District, Gallatin County, United States Forest

Service, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Montana Land Reliance, agricultural producers, and private landowners.

Lower Gallatin Watershed - West
The western portion of the Lower Gallatin Watershed includes impaired segments on Camp Creek and Godfrey Creek. Primary stakeholders in this area include Gallatin Conservation District, Gallatin County, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Montana Land Reliance, agricultural producers, and private landowners.

Lower Gallatin Watershed - Triangle Area
Over the last year of Collaborative discussions, one of the geographic locations that stakeholders have identified as a priority is "The Triangle", defined as the area between Bozeman, Four Corners, and Belgrade and located within the convergence of the East, North and West boundaries on Map 3 below. The Triangle is a mix of all land uses and represents the transition of landscapes once dominated by critical natural resources for wildlife and agriculture to residential and commercial development. The Triangle Community Plan was adopted by the Gallatin County Commission in 2020 and promotes the development of a coherent land use pattern that supports the needs of citizens while protecting community character. This plan includes broad water and sewer goals for the Triangle Area that the Gallatin Water Collaborative may help to implement.

As noted in the Watershed Group Diversity section, GWC has already built solid foundations with most all of the stakeholders included in our geographic scope. Funding through this application would enable us to target areas most critical to restore and maintain the health of the LGW.

E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B—Addressing Critical Watershed Needs

E.1.2.1. Sub-criterion No. B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Critical issues and needs in the Lower Gallatin Watershed include:

- Water quality degradation
- Rapid rate of growth and development, including land use changes, leading to declining ecological resilience
- Water supply and availability concerns exacerbated by increased climate variability and drought
- Lack of public understanding and engagement to address water quantity concerns

Water Quality Concerns
Fifteen of the 23 streams in the Lower Gallatin Watershed are listed on the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) 2012 List of Impaired Waters. This prompted the DEQ to

identify the sources of pollution to those impaired streams and the total pollutant load that a particular waterbody can sustain while still supporting its designated uses – fish & aquatic life, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, industry, and drinking water – through the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program. Nearly 90% of the water pollutants across Montana are contributed through nonpoint sources (NPS), as there is no regulatory framework to address NPS water quality concerns.

Bozeman's rapid urbanization has led to an increase of NPS pollution across the watershed. Developed areas with impermeable surfaces easily mobilize pollutants with rainwater as it runs off over land, roads, and parking lots, into storm drains, and directly into our streams. Oil, gas, and other fluids that can leak from cars, salt and sediment on the roadways, litter, fertilizers/pesticides, and pet waste are all examples of pollution that runoff of urban surfaces and into our waterways. With increased human influence and warmer temperature, the Gallatin River has suffered from harmful algal blooms every summer for the past four years.

Additionally, agriculture is one of the dominant industries in Gallatin Valley and is also a contributor to NPS pollution. Nutrients in fertilizers and manure easily dissolve in water, and in instances of heavy rain or over irrigation, they can be transported with runoff to nearby streams or canals, or infiltrate through the soil profile into the groundwater. Livestock in riparian areas can have negative impacts on streambanks and woody vegetation cover, which can ultimately lead to bank instability, erosion, and sediment pollution. Both the urban and rural influences within the Lower Gallatin Watershed contribute to water quality degradation.

Rapid Growth and Development

Since 2010, Gallatin County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Montana. It has taken from the mid-1800s until 2015 for the County's population to reach approximately 100,000 people, but if growth continues at even a modest 2.75% annual growth rate, Gallatin County will reach a population of 200,000 by 2040.

From 1990 to 2016, the number of single-family homes in Gallatin County grew by 150%, from roughly 11,640 homes in 1990 to 28,938 in 2016. More than a third were built on lots greater than 10 acres. From 1990-2016, 93.440 acres were converted from open space to sprawl—large lot (10+ acres) residential development. That's the equivalent of 146 square miles, or around six times the size of the City of Bozeman (Headwaters Economics, 2018b). According to the Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook, the biggest threat that growth may pose is contamination to groundwater from increased density of individual septic systems and from localized chemical spills. Additionally the increased use of exempt wells for subdivisions built outside of public water systems creates the potential for groundwater resources to be overused without penalty.

Water Supply and Availability

The Lower Gallatin Watershed possesses a finite supply of water that could potentially be surpassed as the demand for water increases with community growth. The LGW is located in a closed basin with respect to water rights, and existing water supplies are susceptible to the

impacts of drought and climate change. In 2013, the City of Bozeman adopted an Integrated Water Resources Plan to guide Bozeman's water supply and use practices for the next 50 years. The Plan estimates that if current water uses are not reduced, Bozeman's demand for water will exceed available supply around 2036, or when the City's population exceeds 62,000 (Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook, 2017). All of this change is exacerbated by climate change impacts. 2021 was one of the worst on record in terms of drought. The City of Bozeman has a drought management plan and implemented a Stage 2 drought declaration, which included mandatory outdoor watering restrictions and drought surcharges on water bills. Farmers and ranchers in the Gallatin Valley also continue to face the impacts of drought to their farming and livestock operations.

While the City of Bozeman's Integrated Water Resources Plan has identified alternatives to meet the estimated water balance gap, including water conservation and increasing available water supply capacity, this plan does not address the area outside of City boundaries: the larger Gallatin Valley and the Lower Gallatin Watershed.

Land use changes and conversions from flood to sprinkler irrigation have changed the "engineered watershed" by lessening the aquifer recharge from flood irrigation and ditch seepage. Drought, increased demand, and climate changes will also affect the timing of seasonal water level changes. Late season surface water flows will be affected the most, with groundwater levels in sensitive areas in the valley also showing some effect (Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook, 2017). Depending on weather and climate changes in the coming years, this trend may be variable affecting crop production, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and tourism.

Public Understanding and Engagement

The Lower Gallatin Watershed has an increasing influx of new community members, many of which may be unfamiliar with the ecological limitations of living in a headwaters watershed in a semi-arid environment as well as ongoing efforts by local partners to protect and enhance our waterways. Ongoing education and outreach to landowners, Homeowners Associations, developers, real estate agents, and municipal water users will be a key component for the successful implementation of water quality and quantity efforts. Several federal, state, and regional planning efforts have been initiated to address water quality and quantity issues across Montana. In each of these plans, recommendations include increased public awareness, engagement and coordination. These plans and specific, relevant recommendations, as well as how GWC proposes to address these recommendations, are included in the Evaluation Criterion C2 section.

In fall 2020, the Gallatin Watershed Council conducted a Community Readiness Assessment (CRA) with assistance from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. The Community Readiness Assessment (CRA) measures the degree to which a community, in our case, the Lower

Gallatin Watershed, is willing and prepared to take action on an issue. Our issue was nonpoint source pollution. The CRA provides a measurement of community readiness and recommends appropriate actions based on our readiness level. Our community received an average readiness score of 3.52 out of 9. This translates to Vague Awareness. Using this score as a foundation, we hope to conduct future assessments and hope that our community's readiness increases over time as a result of our efforts to raise awareness.

E.1.2.2. Sub-criterion No. B2. Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning

Tasks B activities are described in detail in the Approach Section of our proposal and are outlined in the Project Implementation Sub-criterion Table. The critical needs of our watershed will be most effectively addressed with a collaborative and strategic approach. There are many different groups that all impact and rely on an overapproriated, closed basin, with 15 impaired streams, and a rapidly growing population. Maintaining The Collaborative will 1) continue to provide a structure for stakeholders to come together regularly and coordinate their work, 2) support task forces to implement priority actions identified by The Collaborative, and 3) increase community awareness of The Collaborative and its work. Bringing this diverse group of stakeholders together will increase the impact of each of our actions to protect water resources by leveraging partnerships and capacity, and reaching larger and new audiences. The Collaborative is in the initial stages of identifying task forces, which will be coordinated as described in Task B. Possible task forces are: Education and Outreach, Stream Restoration, New Development and Growth, and Water Budget. Education and outreach has been identified as a "cross-cutting issue" that supports almost every action within the Watershed Management Matrix. The successful implementation of many actions will require public support and/or behavioral shifts and voluntary participation from the community at large. A Stream Restoration task force will be integral to the implementation of Task C1, described in the Watershed Management Project Design section. A communications plan will help create a sense of legitimacy, energy and momentum around the efforts of The Collaborative and encourage broader participation and adoption of its priority actions.

Task C: Watershed Management Project Design

Task C activities are described in the Approach Section of our proposal and are outlined in the Project Implementation Sub-criterion Table. Specific project locations are unknown at the time of grant submission, but we expect to be closer to finalizing project locations during the fall of 2022. Based on initial prioritization by The Collaborative, it is likely projects will be focused in the East Gallatin subwatershed, where 12 of the Lower Gallatin Watershed's 15 impaired streams are located. According to a LGW Potential Project Mapping report completed by DEQ, approximately 476 stream miles in the East Gallatin watershed have less than 25% of the

streamside vegetation than is naturally expected, representing almost 50% of the streams in the watershed. Almost all of these impacts have been identified as a result of cropping and grazing. Through the collaborative planning process, restoring contiguous and intact riparian corridors is emerging as the most obvious lever to restore natural river system function and address multiple water quality concerns simultaneously.

Project timelines and milestones will be developed by the GWC Watershed Restoration Director with input from landowners and technical advisors as necessary.

GWC will be glad to work with Reclamation's environmental and cultural resource staff to determine whether environmental compliance will be necessary.

As discussed throughout the proposal, Task C Project Development and Design will build on previous efforts of The Collaborative.

E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion C—Implementation and Results

E.1.3.1. Sub-criterion No. C1—Project Implementation

Plans for implementing the proposed scope of work are included in the Approach Section of our proposal. Tasks, milestones, proposed timelines and costs are outlined below.

TASKS AND MILESTONES	START DATE	END DATE	COST
Task B1 Maintain the Gallatin Water Collaborative			**$45,454.55**
B1.1 Research, develop, and adopt a "collaborative adaptive management" process to monitor and evaluate goals, action options and effectiveness of actions based on emerging information	February 2023	May 2023	
B1.2 Host biannual Gallatin Water Collaborative meetings with the full stakeholder group	February 2023	January 2025	
B1.3 Coordinate task force committees to implement prioritized matrix actions	February 2023	January 2025	
B1.4 Update the Watershed Management Matrix to reflect ongoing work of the Collaborative	September 2023	January 2025	
B1.5 Create a stakeholder directory and map of who is doing what where	June 2023	December 2023	
B1.6 Explore opportunities and develop guidelines for Gallatin Water Collaborative to provide technical comments during the review of new developments, planning processes, and policy updates.	February 2023	January 2025	

Task B2 Increase community awareness of the Gallatin Water Collaborative and its work through the development and implementation of a Communications Plan			**$45,454.55**
B2.1 Establish and maintain internal stakeholder newsletter	March 2023	January 2025	
B2.2 Maintain Gallatin Water Collaborative Website	February 2023	January 2025	
B2.3 Maintain and share a centralized event clearinghouse	February 2023	January 2025	
B2.4 Provide Gallatin Water Collaborative updates to commissions, boards, and the public	February 2023	January 2025	
B2.5 Gather and share success stories about collaborative projects being done by participating stakeholders.	February 2023	January 2025	
Task C1 Complete design and engineering for 2-4 on the ground restoration projects			**$90,909.10**
C1.1 Define the restoration program and process	June 2023	December 2023	
C1.2 Announce the program through our conservation partners, targeted landowners, and more publicly	January 2024	March 2024	
C1.3 Conduct landowner application process	January 2024	March 2024	
C1.4 Procure contractor(s) to complete project design and engineering	March 2024	April 2024	
C1.5 Participate in restoration project development	June 2024	January 2025	
C1.6 Contractor(s) help guide project development and complete design and engineering	June 2024	January 2025	
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS			**$181,818.20**

E.1.3.2. Sub-criterion No. C2—Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts

The work proposed in this grant application builds on previous planning efforts conducted by Montana DEQ, Montana DNRC, Gallatin County Planning Coordination Committee, the Gallatin River Task Force (Upper Gallatin Watershed), and the City of Bozeman. Relevant recommendations and GWC proposed activities are included below:

Planning Document	*Relevant Recommendations*	*GWC Proposed Activities*
Lower Gallatin Planning Area TMDLs and Framework Water Quality Improvement Plan (MDEQ, 2013)	- Effectiveness monitoring of projects should include information about specific locations, spatial extent, designs, contact information and effectiveness evaluation and should be compiled into one location for the entire watershed	- Maintain the shared Project Management Matrix (Task B1.4) - Create a stakeholder directory and map of who is doing what where (Task B1.5)
Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan (RESPEC, 2014 / Anticipated update September 2022)	- Work with stakeholders and partners to begin developing at least one restoration project every year - Complete at least one riparian enhancement project on Bozeman Creek, Camp Creek, Dry Creek, Godfrey Creek, Thompson Creek and the East Gallatin River - Engage ag community in riparian buffer enhancement projects	-
City of Bozeman Integrated Water Resources Plan (AE2S, 2013)	- Engage the public in active review and comment regarding water-resource possibilities open to Bozeman	- Bring together key stakeholders and engage the public to identify water-resource opportunities and active review, including Bozeman (Task B1.2, B1.6)
Gallatin Triangle Planning Study (Sanderson Stewart, 2014)	- Protect surface and groundwater quality and availability	- Collaboratively identify on-the-ground water supply projects

and Gallatin Triangle Community Plan (Boyer et al., 2020)	- Identify, conserve, and protect wetlands - Increase community participation, communication, cooperation and coordination	(Task B1) - Increase community awareness and engagement in water planning efforts (Task B2) - Conduct design and engineering for on-the-ground restoration (Tasks C1)
Missouri Headwaters Drought Resilience Demonstration Project (MT DNRC, 2015)	- Increase local community awareness of drought and supply planning, forecasting, mitigation - Develop a regional network to create a streamlined structure to share learning, coordinate and pursue funding opportunities and deliver resources across the basin	- Increase community awareness and engagement in water planning efforts (Task B2) - Maintain the Gallatin Water Collaborative (Task B1)
Big Sky Area Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan (RESPEC, 2018)	- Action items for water supply and availability in the Upper Gallatin Watershed have been identified in this plan	- Build on water supply work already conducted in the Upper Gallatin Watershed, coordination and partnership with the Gallatin River Task Force (Task B1)
Montana State Water Plan (MT DNRC, 2015)	- Be better able to supply water to serve the needs of a growing population and thriving economy as well as the natural systems, habitats and species that our state is renowned for - Have a public that better understands the	- Increase community awareness and engagement in water planning efforts (Task B2) - Incorporate water supply projects and Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership recommendations into LGWRP (Task B2.4)

	dynamics of our water supply and the water rights system they rely upon every day	

E.1.4. Evaluation Criterion D—Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities

E.1.4.1. Sub-criterion No. E1. Climate Change

In Gallatin County, temperatures have risen 2.3 degrees since 1950, and are projected to rise another 5 degrees by mid-century. Our total precipitation is likely to stay about the same, with more arriving as rain and less snow. According to the 2017 Montana Climate Assessment, it is predicted that there will be longer dry spells stretching between precip events. These factors combined have many implications for water quality and water availability including: increased evapotranspiration due to an earlier start to the growing season and a drier, thirstier atmosphere; earlier snowmelt and run-off due to warmer temperatures and rain on snow events, which can lead to flashier, bigger flood events, and less water available in summer and fall; with warmer temperatures and less water in our rivers and streams, the impacts of existing water quality issues are compounded by concentrating nutrients and sediment, and increasing water temperatures.

The Collaborative has been structured to identify goals and actions in 3 focus areas. Water Quality, Water Availability, and Resilient Landscapes. The group recognizes the importance of robust riparian areas, intact wetlands and floodplains, and healthy forests to provide critical ecosystem services. Resilient Landscapes have become an increasingly important tool in the face of climate change. Actions that have been identified by The Collaborative include promoting natural water storage, wild fire fuels reduction, and developing more unified protections for stream setbacks. As our watershed continues to face rapid growth and increased water quality and availability challenges, it is critical that our community come together to work to build resilience. The coordinated efforts of The Collaborative and associated task forces will help.

E.1.4.2 Sub-criterion No. E2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

The western half of the Lower Gallatin Watershed remains rural in nature and agriculture continues to be an important industry in the Gallatin Valley. Rural community members in the Gallatin Valley face increasing pressure from development and often cannot afford to keep their land in production over generations. The Gallatin Water Collaborative is a voice for the importance of keeping working lands and open space intact and for supporting the farmers and ranchers that steward our rural landscapes.

Gallatin County has a small Native American population, but for thousands of years Native American tribes made the Gallatin Valley their home. Indigenous perspectives are not yet fully incorporated into watershed management decisions in the LGW and we aim to change that.

OVERLAP OR DUPLICATION OF EFFORT STATEMENT

As discussed throughout the application, GWC currently has a BOR CWMP grant that closes on September 30, 2022. Proposed activities will build on work completed during our first CWMP grant. If funded, timing of the two CWMP grants is not anticipated to overlap.

The following grant proposal was submitted to support staff time and GWC's organizational capacity to maintain the Gallatin Water Collaborative:

- City of Bozeman Outside Entity Budget Request - $13,920
    - Date Submitted: March 18, 2022
    - Funding Source: City of Bozeman
    - Expected Funding Decision: June 2022

GWC will likely submit a grant proposal with similar activities to support the continuation of the Gallatin Water Collaborative to the following funding source:

- Network for Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund - $25,000
    - Proposals Due: April 22, 2022
    - Funding Source: Network for Landscape Conservation
    - Expected Funding Decision: July 2022

If GWC is awarded any funding with overlapping activities, we will notify the CWMP Program Coordinator immediately.

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PROJECT BUDGET

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Table 1. Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
Non-Federal Entities	
	$0
Non-Federal Subtotal	$0
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	**$200,000.00**

Table 2. Total Project Cost Table

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	$200,000.00
Cost to be paid by the applicant	
Value of third-party contributions	
TOTAL PROJECT COST	**$200,000.00**

Table 3. Budget Proposal

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		Quantity Type	TOTAL COST
	$/Unit	Quantity		
Salaries and Wages				
Executive Director	$40.27	385	hours	$15,514
Restoration Director	$37.17	1516	hours	$56,353
Communications Director	$33.71	813	hours	$27,406
			Subtotal	**$99,274**
Fringe Benefits				
Executive Director Fringe	$6.9126	385	hours	$2,661
Restoration Director Fringe	6.539	1516	hours	$9,913
Communications Director Fringe	6.1130	813	hours	$4,970
			Subtotal	**$17,544**
Equipment				
				$0.00

Supplies and Materials				
Annual Desktop Publishing Software	$250	2	lump	$500
Paid Media Promotion/Storytelling	varies	10-15	ad/story/article	$3,500
Annual Website Subscription Fees	$216	2	lump	$432
Printing	$.10	5680	pieces	$568
			Subtotal	**$5,000**
Contractual / Construction				
Contracted Labor, Project Engineer(s)	$150	400		$60,000
			Subtotal	**$60,000**
Third Party In-Kind Contributions				
				$0.00
Other				
				$0.00
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS				**$181,818.20**
	Type	Percentage	$ Base	Total
Indirect Costs				
GWC Administration	de minimis	10%	$181,818	**$18,181.80**
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS				**$200,000.00**

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Salaries and Wages

Hourly wages for GWC staff are outlined below. Hourly estimates for each task are delineated in the Task and Milestones table included in the Approach Section of our Technical Project Description. Holly Hill, GWC Executive Director, will manage the grant and has included coordination and oversight costs for Task B1, as well as 8 hours per quarter to maintain compliance with grant oversight and reporting requirements.

- Holly Hill, Executive Director
    - Salary: $73,457
    - Estimated total grant hours: 385
    - Percentage of total time spent on grant: 11%
    - Rate of compensation: $40.27/hour

- Watershed Restoration Director
    - Salary: $67,803
    - Estimated total grant hours: 1516
    - Percentage of total time spent on grant: 42%
    - Rate of compensation: $37.17/hour
    - Will provide technical assistance and coordination of task forces, will lead on-the-ground project development
- Communications Director
    - This would be a new position at GWC and the hiring process would begin upon notification of a successful CWMP grant application. Proposed salary and wages are as follows:
    - Salary: $61,500
    - Estimated total grant hours: 813
    - Percentage of total time spent on grant: 22%
    - Rate of compensation: $33.71
    - Will implement communications plan to increase public awareness of Gallatin Water Collaborative activities

Fringe Benefits

The table below outlines fringe costs for each position.

Table 4. Fringe Cost Detail by Staff Position

Position	Direct Labor Rate (per hour)	Retire-ment	FICA (Federal SS & Medi-care)	Health Stipend ($200/mo)	St Emp Ins (UI and Admin)	Workers Comp Ins	Tech Stipend ($100/mo)	TOTAL Fringe	Total Hourly COST / Billing Rate
Rates		3%	7.65%		1.40%	0.23%			
Executive Director	$40.27	$1.21	$3.08	$1.315	$0.56	$0.09	$0.6578	$6.92	$47.19
Watershed Restoration Director	$37.17	$1.12	$2.84	$1.315	$0.52	$0.09	$0.6578	$6.54	$43.71
Communications Director	$33.72	$1.01	$2.58	$1.315	$0.47	$0.08	$0.6578	$6.11	$39.83

Travel

No travel expenses are requested in this proposal.

Equipment
No equipment costs are requested in this proposal.

Materials and Supplies

Task/Item	Price	Quantity	Unit	Total	Description
B2 Desktop Publishing Software (Microsoft Publisher or Adobe InDesign)	$250/year	2	lump	$500.00	Software will be used to create newsletters, outreach and communications materials
B2 Paid media promotion and storytelling	Varies depending on outlet (range from $5-$2500)	10-15	ad/story/article	$3,500	Gallatin Water Collaborative promotional campaign through local newspapers, magazines, radio and digital media
B2 Gallatin Water Collaborative Website	$216/year	2	lump	$432	Collaborative website annual subscription fees
B2.2 Printing	$.10	5680	pieces	$568	Necessary for printing meeting materials for Gallatin Water Collaborative and task force meetings
TOTAL				**$5,000**	

Contractual
Contracted work is clearly identified in the budget proposal under Task C1 and includes work to be completed by a Contracted Project Engineer(s) that will design and engineer selected projects. Different contractors may be selected for each of the 2-4 projects that are finalized. If the project is funded, GWC will conduct an open, competitive bid and hiring process for all contractors, so exact rates are currently unknown, but we have estimated a rate of $150/hr for the Project Engineer. Depending on scope of work and anticipated value of services, GWC will utilize either

a Limited Solicitation procurement process (under $25K) or a Formal Solicitation Competitive Request for Proposals (over $25K).

Third-Party In-Kind Contributions
No third-party in-kind contributions are included in this proposal.

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs
No compliance assessments or costs are anticipated for the proposed activities.

Other Expenses
None

Indirect Costs
GWC is requesting 10% of the base direct costs to cover indirect expenses. This rate is in alignment with other grants received by GWC.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

GWC is not proposing activities related to field work, measurement or monitoring in this proposal and does not anticipate requiring compliance review.

REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS

No permits or approvals are required for the proposed activities.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

No actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of grant submission.

SINGLE AUDIT REPORTING STATEMENT

The Gallatin Watershed Council was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

I, Holly Hill, serving as GWC's Authorized Official, certify that I have not made, and will not make, any payment prohibited by CFR Part 18.

ATTACHMENTS

Letters of Support

Attachments below include letters of support from:

- Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- Gallatin Water Collaborative, with signatures from the following stakeholder participants:
    - Montana Freshwater Partners
    - Montana State University Extension - Water Quality
    - RESPEC
    - Montana Water Center
    - Gallatin Local Water Quality District
    - City of Bozeman, Parks and Recreation Department
    - Gallatin River Task Force
    - Trout Unlimited
    - Gallatin Conservation District
    - Confluence Consulting, Inc.
    - Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators
    - Gallatin Valley Land Trust
    - Natural Resources Conservation Service
    - Kevin Haggerty Drilling

Official Resolution

Attached below is an official resolution from the GWC Board of Directors in support of this application.

GallatinWater
COLLABORATIVE

March 25, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Cooperative Watershed Management Program
PO Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

Dear CWMP Grant Review Committee:

The Gallatin Water Collaborative is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Gallatin Watershed Council's (GWC) grant proposal to the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program. The Gallatin Water Collaborative was established as a result of the Gallatin Watershed Council's first successful CWMP grant awarded in 2020. Over the last year, this group of diverse water stakeholders has developed goals and actions in support of a shared mission to unify local efforts to protect, restore and enhance water resources in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. Stakeholders have recognized that coming together to identify priorities, coordinate efforts, and leverage partnerships is critical to protecting the future of water. We have built momentum around taking actions strategically and in consideration of the watershed and its various communities as a whole.

A successful second CWMP grant would enable GWC to continue to facilitate the Gallatin Water Collaborative through biannual full stakeholder meetings, and working groups established to further the implementation of identified priority actions. It would also support GWC to engage the larger community and increase awareness of the Gallatin Water Collaborative and its work, as the success of many of the identified actions will require public participation and engagement. Finally, funding from the CWMP program would allow for the planning, development and design of two to four on-the-ground projects that the Collaborative identifies as the highest priority for accomplishing our goals.

As our watershed continues to face rapid growth and increased water quality and availability challenges, it is critical that our community come together and work to build resilience. Past funding from the Cooperative Watershed Management Program has been pivotal in developing GWC's capacity to lead this effort, and additional funding would ensure continued momentum and success. We encourage broad support of GWC as a recipient of these funds as they continue to further our collective goals for conservation of the Gallatin Valley's most important resources.

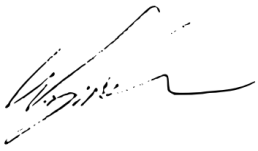
GallatinWater COLLABORATIVE

Signatures:

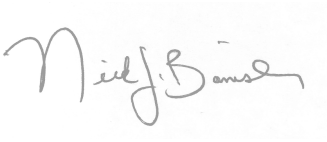
Wendy Weaver, PE, Executive Director
Montana Freshwater Partners

Adam Sigler, Water Quality Specialist
Montana State University Extension
Assistant Professor, Land Resource and Environmental Sciences
Montana State University

Tom Michalek, Senior Hydrogeologist
RESPEC



Dr. Wyatt Cross, Director
Montana Water Center
Professor of Ecology, Montana State University



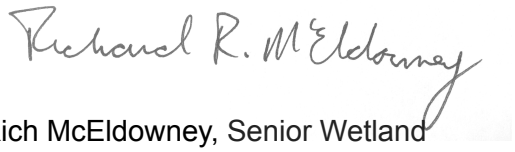
Nick Banish, District Manager
Gallatin Local Water Quality District

Addi Jadin, Parks Planning and Development Manager
City of Bozeman, Parks and Recreation Department

Kristin Gardner, PhD, Chief Executive and Science Officer
Gallatin River Task Force

Connor Parish, Gallatin Home Rivers Initiative Project Manager
Trout Unlimited

Loren Blanksma, Chairman
Gallatin Conservation District
Farmer/Rancher

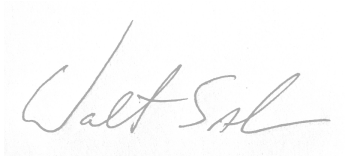


Rich McEldowney, Senior Wetland Scientist/Vice President
Confluence Consulting Inc.

Together we are working to unify local efforts to protect, restore and enhance water resources in the Lower Gallatin Watershed.

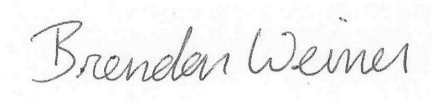
www.gallatinwatercollaborative.org

GallatinWater COLLABORATIVE



Walt Sales, Director
Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators
Farmer/Rancher

Christopher Mahony, District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service; Gallatin County



Brendan Weiner, Conservation Director
Gallatin Valley Land Trust

Kevin Haggerty, Well Driller
Kevin Haggerty Drilling

GALLATIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

Official Board Resolution

During a special vote of the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC) Board of Directors on March 28, 2022, the following resolution pertaining to a grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation was proposed and approved by the Board of Directors:

WHEREAS the mission of GWC is to guide collaborative water stewardship in the Gallatin Valley for a healthy and productive landscape;

WHEREAS the proposed activities in the prepared application support the mission of GWC;

WHEREAS GWC has the staff capacity and support from its Board and partners to perform the direct and indirect tasks proposed in this application;

Be it resolved:

1. That the GWC Board of Directors is in full support of the funding application, entitled "Gallatin Water Collaborative: Stakeholder Coordination, Community Engagement and Project Development" to the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program, Phase I, a program of the Bureau of Reclamation;
2. That GWC Executive Director, Holly Hill, is authorized to submit this application, via www.grants.gov, on behalf of the GWC; and
3. That GWC Board and staff will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet all established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement and necessary for the completion of proposed activities.

Signed and Dated:
John Nehring
3/28/2022

John Nehring
2022 GWC Board Chair