



City Awarded WaterNow Alliance Project Accelerator Grant *WaterNow Provides 250 Hours of Professional Technical Support*

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-February 7, 2022-The WaterNow Alliance announced three recipients of the inaugural Regional Project Accelerator grants including the City of Steamboat Springs, Ruedi Water & Power Authority and Town of Wellington. The Yampa Valley project will focus on Steamboat Springs Water Resiliency and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding (IJA) Strategy.

“This grant will provide valuable assistance to the city as we develop a strategy for pursuing federal funding to implement priority water resiliency and infrastructure projects in the area,” said Water Resources Manager Julie Baxter.



WaterNow and Steamboat Springs, a community of approximately 13,000 people in Northern Colorado’s Yampa Valley, will be partnering to develop a strategic approach to maximize the use of IJA funds. The project will research IJA opportunities and align them with high-priority city goals, such as:

- forest and watershed restoration to protect drinking water sources
- improving the efficiency of park irrigation systems
- establishing a stormwater utility to help fund the stormwater management program
- addressing water quality and temperature regulations through nature-based approaches
- implementing multi-objective river restoration projects; and
- developing new efficient water infrastructure for low-income and affordable housing communities

This work will result in a framework that supports Steamboat Springs and other Colorado communities in navigating the new IJA funding opportunities to advance their water infrastructure and resiliency needs.

“Many water challenges are regional in nature, and through this regional approach, we hope to not only support individual communities, but to also generate synergies between communities and utilities tackling these complex issues,” commented WaterNow Alliance Amy Weinfurter.”

WaterNow Alliance staff select projects to receive professional hands-on support, and technical and program assistance. The Alliance’s expertise ranges from deep water policy guidance to support and advice on communications strategies. Selected Project Accelerators receive up to 250 hours of professional support in 6 to 9 months (valued at \$25,000 each). The Accelerator is open to cities, towns, or special districts responsible for providing drinking water, wastewater, and/or stormwater services.

-WeServeTheCity-

Contact

Julie Baxter, Water Resources Manager, 970.871.8267 or [email](#)
Michael Lane, Communications Manager, 970.871.8220 or [email](#)