

2026 Water Meter Modernization & Replacement Project



Town of Fraser
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Fraser, CO 80442

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D.2.2.2 - Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

Application Information

Submittal Date: May 29, 2024	
Applicant	Town of Fraser Lucus C. Seffens, Utilities Superintendent Fraser Town Hall 153 Fraser Avenue Fraser, CO 80442 (970) 531-7701
Funding Opportunity Title	WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects (for 2024 and 2025)
Funding Opportunity Number	R24AS00059
Applicant Type	Category A
Grant Funding Request	\$100,000
Total Project Budget	\$216,305
Project Duration	January 2026 through December 2026
Estimated Project Completion Date	December 15, 2026
Project Location	Within the boundaries of the Town of Fraser's South Water System
Project Description	The Town of Fraser's 2023 Water Efficiency Plan identified the need to replace all failing water meters in the water system, install an automated meter reading (AMR) system and improve the water accounting system. This project aims to address all three objectives by installing smart water meters with an integrated water accounting system and leakage and irrigation detection tools. This project aims to replace all water meters in the Fraser South Water System that have failed or exceeded their useful life.

Executive Summary

The Town of Fraser (“Fraser” or “Town”) is located in the high basin of Middle Park, overlooking the continental divide to the east. Like many mountain communities, Fraser is growing rapidly as more and more people discover the delights and quietude of high-country life. Fraser’s water resources are central to the community both geographically and culturally. Every year, icy streams and summer thunderstorms ebb and flow the water of the Fraser River, one of the headwaters of the Colorado River. With additional growth and changing climate, the Town is committed to water conservation for the present and future to protect this critical resource. To further ensure the responsible use of our limited water supply, the Town of Fraser will be replacing all expired water meters and upgrading to a smart metering system.

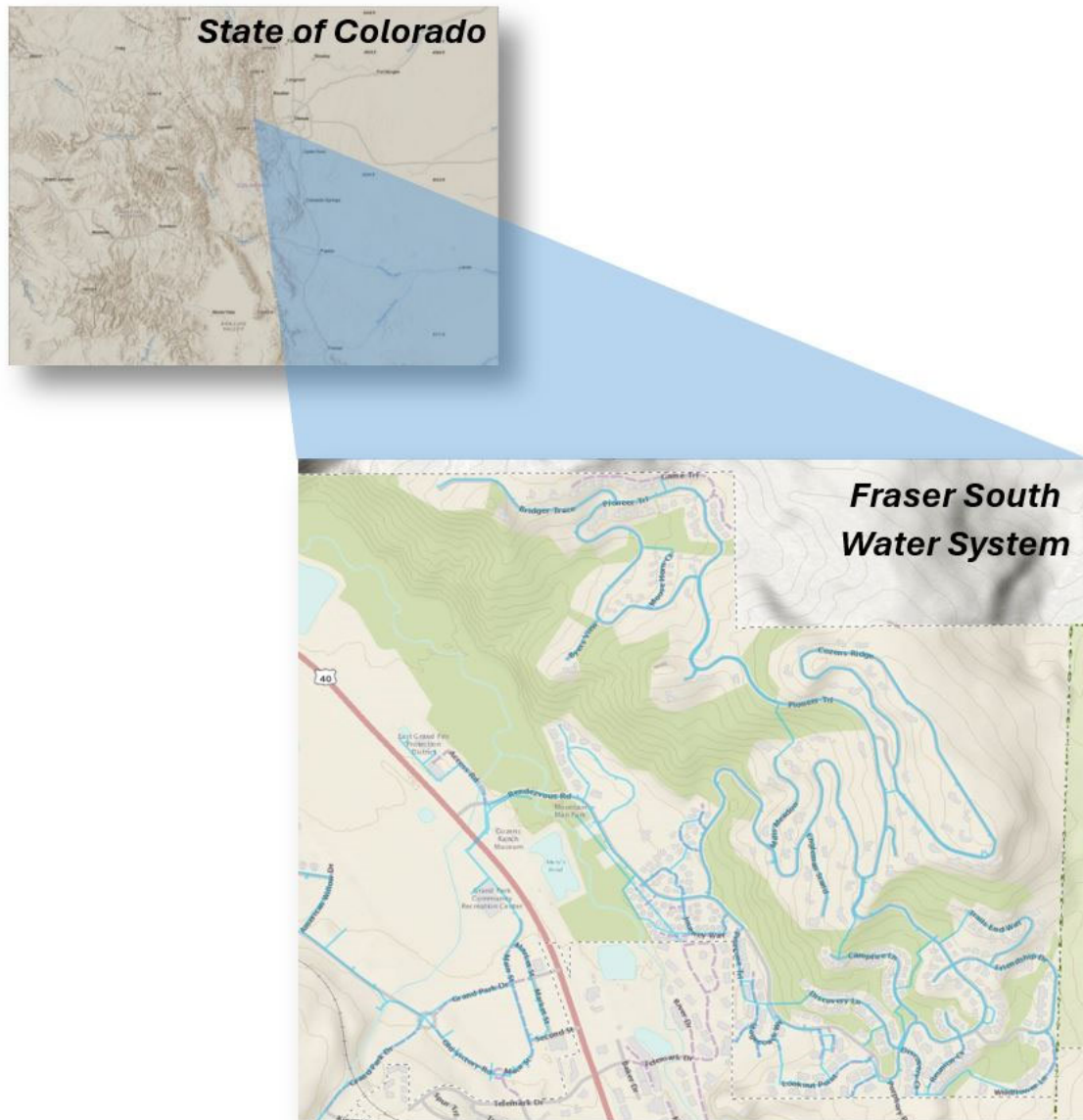
The Town’s 2023 Water Efficiency Plan (Plan) recognized the need to replace all failing water meters that were beyond their useful life, recognized the need to better understand water consumption use, and to install an improved billing system. These priorities can be achieved by installing smart meters throughout the water systems.

Once all meters are replaced, the Town will be able to monitor for leakages throughout the distribution system by comparing water consumption to production. Specifically, the smart meters with the associated software will be able to monitor for backflow events and alert staff and homeowners to freezing temperatures in the plumbing. Failed or inadequate heating results in multiple burst pipes and service lines every winter, further adding to water loss.

The Town of Fraser is comprised of two water systems with two different water supplies, the North Water System and the South Water System. Meter replacement in the older North Water System is ongoing. Meter replacement in the South Water System is scheduled to be replaced in 2026. This grant will enable the Town to replace all water meters in the South Water System which have reached or exceeded their useful life, or no longer function.

Project Location

2026 Water Meter Modernization and Replacement Program is located within the Town of Fraser South Water System in the state of Colorado, within a one-mile radius of latitude 39°56'02" and longitude 105°47'06" W.



The Town of Fraser is located on the western slope of the Continental Divide. The Fraser River runs through the Town and originates near Berthoud Pass, along the Continental Divide, and is tributary to the Colorado River. The Fraser River joins the Colorado River west of Grandby, CO near the Windy Gap Reservoir. At this strategic location, efforts by the Town to conserve water, manage river water quality, specifically salinity, and manage river flow quantity serves the Colorado River. The Colorado River is a critical resources in the West, because seven basin

states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming) depend on it for water supply, hydropower production, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other benefits.

The Town of Fraser is an active member of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG), Water Quality/Quantity Committee. Fraser adheres to and supports the five guiding policies that include:

Policy One – protecting and implementing local government authority to protect water resources

Policy Two – Building coalitions and education

Policy Three – Oversight of transmountain diversion proposals and projects

Policy Four – protecting water quality

Policy Five – influencing water policy.

Fraser is located in Grand County. Grand County is active in water protection and advocacy for the county and West Slope water interests. Fraser leverages and supports County efforts for water resources management.

Technical Project Description

The primary goal of the Project is to replace meters in the South Water System that have reached projected life expectancy and to upgrade to a smart metering system. Many of the existing meters in the Fraser South Water System were installed over 20 years ago and are of the Sensus SRII Type positive displacement meter. These meters have begun to fail in recent years primarily due to exceeding their useful life.

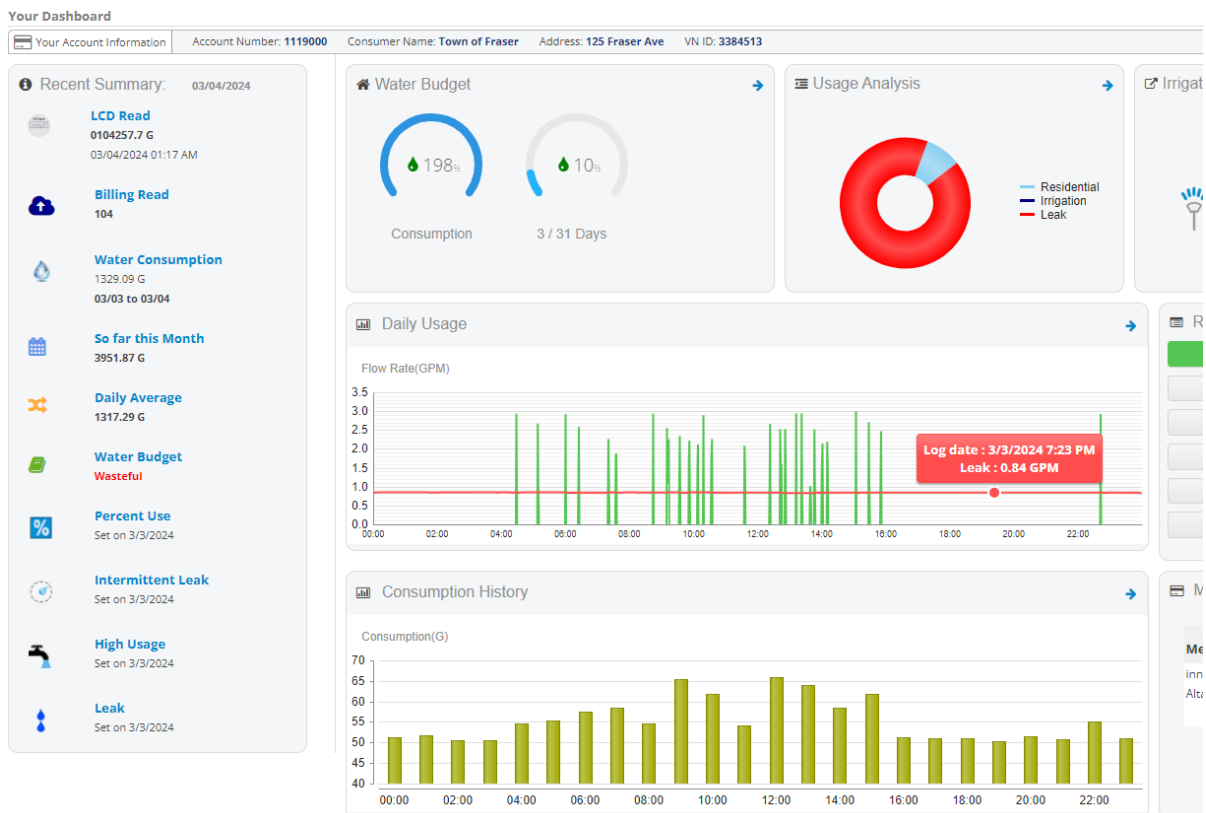
The secondary goal of this project was to investigate options for a continuous read metering system and water accounting system. The Sensus water meters required radio towers to be placed throughout the Town. Not only would this require additional equipment that would need replacement every 10-20 years, but this equipment would be exposed to our extreme high mountain environment requiring frequent maintenance.

After researching all other options, we decided to conduct a full meter replacement program, switching from using Sensus meters to Metron-Farnier single-jet type water meters. The Metron-Farnier meters offered solutions to all of the above challenges. The Metron-Farnier

meters utilize the existing cellular network thus eliminating the need for radio towers and radio transmitters. The new meters also come with the Waterscope water management system which provides minute accurate water consumption data for the entire water system that is transmitted every 24 hours. Furthermore, Metron-Farnier provides an installation service without the need for the Town to hire temporary staff or a plumber.

The Waterscope system (provided with the Metron-Farnier meters) is easily programmable to alert both the Town and individual homeowners to the risk of freezing, leaks in plumbing and fixtures, irrigation, types of water use and excessive water use. The Town successfully tested the Waterscope interface as shown in Figure a. The collected data will be readily available to each homeowner through a cell phone app, empowering every customer to monitor their own water consumption. More importantly, the Town will gain the data necessary to quantify and identify leaks, and to help enforce the current Town policies on water usage. Figure b shows the results of the meter pilot program. This data would also be used for the next Water Efficiency Plan and assist the Town with drought response, particularly in identifying lawn irrigation.

a. Waterscope interface test at Town Hall, a leak was accurately identified and measured.



b. Fraser meter pilot program demonstrated the accuracy and usability of the system.



E.1 Technical Proposal: Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria Scoring Summary		Points
A. Project Benefits		35
B. Planning Efforts Supporting the Project		25
C. Project Implementation		20
D. Nexus to Reclamation		5
E. Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities		10
Total		95

E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A. - Project Benefits (35 points)

Benefits to the Category A Applicant's Water Delivery System:

The Town of Fraser 2026 Water Meter Replacement and Modernization Project was in response to the primary findings of the 2023 Water Efficiency Report prepared by Merrick & Company. A full audit was carried out of our water consumption accounting system. The data being collected by the Town's existing water metering system showed significant inaccuracies both in the accounting system and the meters themselves. This was due to antiquated software that was geared towards billing and gathering data on an inconsistent monthly basis, failing measuring chambers and depleted batteries in old water meters. After a year of researching the most efficient way to address these concerns, the Town decided to replace all water meters in both water systems with Metron-Farnier meters with the included Waterscope water management system for the following benefits:

- **Will the project result in more efficient management of the water supply?**

Yes, we will improve efficient management of water supply by acquiring real-time consumption data, with algorithmic analysis tools to identify water losses and excessive water use. This information will be a vast improvement over the Town's current metering system which has provided inaccurate data in pdf reports on a 26 to 34 day basis. The data provided by the new smart meter system will supply the decision makers and operational staff to better encourage water conservation by the consumer, identify unauthorized irrigation activities, detect leaks within customers homes, prevent ruptures due to frozen pipes, and recording water consumption throughout the system to identify new leaks within the distribution system by comparing production to consumption. Leakages and other associated issues will be identified, prioritized and repaired.

- **Where (will) any conserved water as a result of the project will go and how it will be used?**

The Project will result in water conservation. The Town of Fraser, located along the Fraser River, a tributary to the Colorado River, sets the standard for care of the river by implementing meter replacement to improve accuracy of data and encourage mindful use of valuable water resources,

directly benefits the quantity and quality of water in the Colorado River. The metering program supports regional- and county-level programs to protect water quality and quantity.

The water conserved through utilization of the collected information, and resultant repairs and reduction in use, will remain in the Fraser River Alluvium, increasing the in-stream flows entering the Upper Colorado River Basin. This will benefit watershed stakeholders throughout the Upper Colorado Basin and be beneficial to this ecosystem.

This will happen in three phases. The first phase will be direct observation of water use and leak detection within each home, several leaks have already been detected and controlled during the initial pilot program. The second phase will be to create a leak and loss detection program across the distribution system by comparing consumption data to production. The third phase will happen after acquiring a full year of consumption data with the Waterscope system. This data will be used to create the Town's next Water Efficiency Plan, which will be used to shape Town code that encourages water conservation.

• Are customers not currently getting their full water right at certain times of year?

There is a significant risk of restrictions to customers and planned development areas if water loss and excessive consumption continue to occur. To date, no water restrictions have been implemented but the risk continues to grow with the continued loss of snowpack due to changes in the climate. More reliable consumption data will help ensure our limited water supply and allow us to target specific uses, mainly irrigation, when restrictions are in effect.

• Does this project have the potential to prevent lawsuits or water calls?

Yes, the data collected will be used to track, account for, and regulate the water drawn from the surrounding watershed under the Town's decreed municipal water rights. This will leave more water in the Fraser and Colorado Rivers, thus reducing impacts to the overall water supply. Additionally, the data will assist the Town in ensuring that it remains in compliance with its Water Court decrees, which would prevent enforcement actions by the State Engineer and potential lawsuits by other water users, who may be concerned that their water rights are being "injured", due to the Town exceeded the water diversion limits approved under its decrees.

- **What are the consequences of not making the improvement?**

If the improvements can't be made, the Town may be more vulnerable to water restrictions due to over consumption from excessive use, unknown quantity of water loss due to mainline breaks and plumbing leaks, and future droughts. In addition, loss practices are placing undue stress on source, treatment, and distribution components, increasing the likelihood of early failure of those components. This could also cause a premature end to new construction and development prior to projected Town buildout.

Broader Benefits

- **Is the project in an area that is experiencing, or recently experienced, drought or water scarcity? Will the project help address drought conditions at the sub-basin or basin scale? Please explain.**

The location of the Project (Grand County) has been actively experiencing drought conditions over the past few decades. As part of Fraser's participation and support of County-level programs, the Grand County Drought Preparedness Program encourages all uses within the Basin to create drought response programs and codify them to be easily implemented by each municipality. To enforce and create new drought response restrictions, the Town requires accurate water consumption data.

- **Will the project benefit species (e.g., federally threatened or endangered, a federally recognized candidate species, a state listed species, or a species of particular recreational, or economic importance)? Please explain.**

The Project will indirectly benefit species in the watershed. In 2010 the Fraser River was listed as the third most endangered river in the United States by the American Rivers Report. The Fraser River is one of the first tributaries of the Colorado River, and any reduction of flows from the Fraser River will affect the ecosystems supporting endangered fish such as the Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker and bonytail.

- **Will the proposed project positively impacts/benefit various sectors and economies within the applicable geographic area (e.g., impacts to agriculture, environment, recreation, and tourism)? Please explain.**

The Project will positively impact and benefit various sectors and economies within the watershed. The Fraser River is a substantial recreational asset for tourism throughout Grand County. Since the Town's water supply is drawn from the headwaters of the Fraser River, consumption (including water loss) has an effect over much of the length of the River. If substantially depleted, the supported fish and wildlife populations along the River would collapse, substantially impacting tourism in Grand County.

E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B. - Planning Efforts Supporting the Project (25 points)

Two planning efforts conducted by the Town of Fraser recommended a meter replacement and testing program as well as installing Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and improving our water accounting system. The following reports were completed:

- **Colorado Water Loss Initiative, Water Audit Level 1 Validation**

Plan Description and Objectives: To introduce water systems to the American Waterworks Association (AWWA) M36 methodology and the industry standard tool for quantifying water loss and non-revenue water. To establish a baseline of validated water audit data to form a water loss strategy and water loss program.

Plan Development: The planning effort was developed by the Colorado WaterWise (CWW) conservation community. Their mission is to promote water conservation throughout the State of Colorado by collaborating with water providers to foster innovation, and dissemination of education and technology. The Town of Fraser participated with the level 1 and level 2 validation process by providing all the necessary data to complete the water audit.

Support for the Project: The following suggestions for improving validity were given in the Water Audit Level 1 report:

-Improved understanding of Supply Meter (Own or Import) Master Meter Error: consider adopting or increasing the rigor of a source meter volumetric testing and calibration program, informed by the guidance provided in AWWA Manual M36 — Appendix A.

-Temporal alignment of Billed Metered Authorized Consumption with Water Supplied: consider pro-rating the first and last months of the audit period to better align consumption with actual dates of use and using read date as basis for reporting.

-Level 2 validation on raw data for Billed Metered Authorized Consumption to determine and resolve any instances of potable volume duplication or non-potable volume inclusion.

-Improved estimation of CMI: consider a customer meter testing program which tests a sample of random meters whose stratification (by size, age, or other characteristics) represents the entire customer meter stock.

Note: While investigating solutions, Town staff discovered that as many as 30% of the water meters were inaccurate or were failing to read. With such a high rate of failure, it was considered more efficient to begin replacement of all meters older than 20 years. Furthermore, the Town staff decided more investigation was needed before proceeding. These investigations included researching alternative water meter products (such as AMI) and preparing a Water Efficiency Plan to evaluate the most effective way to proceed.

• 2023 Water Efficiency Plan, prepared by Merrick and Company

Plan Description and Objectives: To create a comprehensive report under the guidance from the Colorado Water Conservation Board on five key sections; analysis of existing water system, review water consumption data and past conservation measures, outline the benefits of water efficiency planning and the Town's goals, strategies for increasing efficiency, and the implementation of these strategies.

Plan Development: During the fall and winter of 2022, Town staff worked alongside Merrick to gather all available data in order to create an analysis of the Town's infrastructure, water consumption history, and gain a general understanding on how water is used within our community. Merrick was particularly capable of completing this task since they were also

contracted by the Town to complete a 10-Year Water System Capital Improvement Plan. The project cost analysis, and infrastructure age and replacement schedule was completed a few months prior to Water Efficiency Plan.

Support for the Project: The Water Efficiency Plan created a list of goals to be completed. They were organized by importance and in order of effect. The following activities will be accomplished by the meter replacement project:

-Activity 1: Meter Testing and Replacement Program

Information and robust data are critical to create an appropriate and effective water efficiency strategy. Without adequate tracking of water usage, it is difficult to identify areas where water efficiency can be improved. Data collection and analysis guides the selection and implementation of the remaining suite of demand management activities.

- Activity 2: Billing and Demand Database Improvements

Database management and quality control were also identified as areas of foundational improvement. Currently, the demand database is recorded cumulatively by quarter and required significant post-processing to obtain the monthly resolution presented in this report. Town staff identified improving accessibility to monthly data as a key activity to support leak identification. Customer data in the existing database also requires additional development to support improved water efficiency education, observation, and monitoring in the community.

- Activity 5: Largest User Water Use Reduction and Outreach

As discussed at the December 2022 workshop, Town staff identified that outreach to largest users should be a priority. First, improved data collection and monitoring is needed to help define this group and inform this activity. Staff then identified community-wide outreach efforts as a precursor step before establishing communications with this group. Merrick recommends the development of a program that works individually with largest users to help define inefficiencies and potential solutions.

Note: Activity 2 is accomplished since the Metron-Farnier meters are integrated into the Waterscope Water Management System. Activity 5 is accomplished in two ways. One, the Waterscope System comes with a cell phone app and direct email alerts that allow the homeowner to monitor their water usage. Two, the Town also has the ability to program automated alerts that will contact the homeowner when preset limits have been exceeded.

Furthermore, an additional activity was suggested to the Town during the initial drafting of this report. “Remote Metering Upgrade” or installing an AMI system was suggested, but the estimate produced by our current meter supplier (Sensus) was considered to expensive to be accomplished within five years. However, an AMI system is integrated into every Metron-Farnier meter for less than the cost of each Sensus meter with a radio transmitter.

E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion C. - Implementation and Results (20 points)

• **Describe the implementation plan for the proposed project. Please include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates.**

The proposed project was determined to be of high importance primarily due to the amount of time and effort it would take to setup appointments with homeowners and gain entry into the crawlspaces and utility rooms where the water meters are located. In order to ensure we have the funds to complete the meter replacement project in a timely manner, other water system projects have been moved to later dates pending additional funding, such as this grant. The following is a timeline for completion of the project.

Project Timeline

Activity	Start Date	Completion
Preliminary Planning	1-5-2026	2-1-2026
Environmental and Cultural Impact Research	Grant Awarded	Within 60 Days
Bulk Meter Order	2-1-2026	3-1-2026
Organize Contact Info/Install List	2-10-2026	3-10-2026
Public Notification	3-20-2026	5-1-2026
Contact Customers for Appointments	3-25-2026	10-1-2026
Meter Installation	4-1-2026	11-1-2026
Integrate Waterscope Data with Billing Database	5-1-2026	Ongoing
Customer Education on Waterscope Application	10-1-2026	12-15-2026

Due to the large number of second homes and vacation rentals in our community, making appointments and gaining permission to enter homes will take a year to complete. We do not anticipate any requirements for permits. We will require homeowners' permission to enter each unit with their approved representative or property manager onsite during installation.

No engineering or design work will be needed. No new policies or administrative actions are required. Work associated with this project is occurring within previously disturbed areas and is only a replacement of an existing appurtenance. No additional cultural or environmental impacts are anticipated.

E.1.4. Evaluation Criterion D. Nexus to Reclamation (5 points)

The Bureau of Reclamation has many projects in the Upper Colorado Basin, where the Fraser River runs and joins the Colorado River. Bureau projects in the Aspinall Unit where water quality and quantity is linked to the endangered Colorado pinkeminnow and razorback sucker and the Upper Colorado River Endangered fish Recovery Program are directly related to Fraser's improved metering program. The River serves as a primary source of drinking water and agricultural supply to millions of people, livestock, and farmland. When the project is completed, it is anticipated that conserved water will remain in the watershed, benefiting the Bureau's mission to protect the Upper Colorado Basin through conservation and storage efforts.



E.1.5. Evaluation Criterion E. – Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities (10 points)

• E.1.5.1. Sub-criterion No. E1. Climate Change

The Town's water supply is located on the Fraser River, the first principal tributary of the Colorado River. Over the course of the past three years, the Biden-Harris administration has been investing in efforts to protect and stabilize the water supply throughout the Upper Colorado Basin by directing substantial federal funds into projects supporting water conservation and storage. All water conservation efforts carried out by the Town of Fraser will naturally impact the instream flows along almost the entire length of the Colorado River, helping to minimize the impacts of the climate crisis. The project will supply the Town with critical data required to incentivize and enforce efficient use of the limited water resources.

• E.1.5.2. Sub-criterion No. E2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

When reviewing the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, the Town of Fraser is 14% higher than the threshold in Health and Low-Income categories and therefore not considered disadvantaged. However, when reviewing the data on the Census Reporter tool, the data supports what has been long understood by Fraser's permanent residents, where over 12.5% of the year-round residents are living below the poverty line and over one-tenth are foreign-born¹, well above Grand County and the State of Colorado metrics.

Many of the area residents are working class individuals that support the areas several resort towns. Providing clean, safe, and reliable drinking water at a fair cost will help support work-force populations and the most vulnerable in the community by improving water supply in the long-term, stabilize water costs by capturing accurate water usage across the customer base, and streamline water efficiency practices. The project is simply the responsible thing to do and will benefit all populations that rely on the limited water supply within the Colorado River Basin.

¹ [Fraser, CO - Profile data - Census Reporter](#)

- **E.1.5.2. Sub-criterion No. E3. Tribal Benefits**

There are no direct Tribal benefits from this project. However, all Tribes that use the Colorado River as a water source benefit from all water conservation efforts within this river basin.

D.2.2.3- Budget Narrative

The Town of Fraser Water Utilities will provide Non-Federal/on-Reclamation funding for 54% (\$216,305) of the project through its Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. The Town is requesting the remaining 46% (\$100,000) of the funds to be provided from the WaterSMART grant. There are no third-party contributions. All funding for this project comes from the utility service and consumption fees paid for by our customers, and this grant pending approval.

Most of the funding will be used for equipment costs which will be used for the purchase of the water meters (\$197,980). The remaining costs will be associated with the labor to install the meters either from personal costs (\$11,900) or through fringe benefits (\$6,426). No additional travel costs will be needed since most of the meter locations are within half a mile of the South Facility. No additional supplies outside of the standard water operator equipment will be needed. No contractual, construction, or other direct or indirect charges will be necessary.

See budget narrative and form SF424A for further information.

D.2.2.4- Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

H.1. Environmental and Cultural Resource Considerations

- **Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.**

The project will not include changes to the surrounding environment. Instead, the project will include work that is located within existing structures. The new water meters will be installed in the existing footprint, thus no disturbance to air, water, and/or animal habitat will be included.

- **Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?**

The project is located within existing structures and within the existing footprint. There are no species listed or proposed as Federal threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat within the project area. Therefore, no impacts should be associated with the proposed project.

- **Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as “Waters of the United States”? If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.**

The project is located within existing structures and within the existing footprint. There are no wetlands or other surface waters inside the project area that would potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as WOTUS. Therefore, no impacts should be associated with the proposed project.

- **When was the water delivery system constructed?**

The first water lines for the Town of Fraser were installed in 1954. The majority of the South Water System, the Rendezvous development, was constructed between 2001-2005.

- **Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.**

The project is focused on replacing old, failing water meters with new meters that are located within existing structures and within the existing footprint. No modifications of or effects to individual features of an irrigation system will be included in the project.

- **Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?** *A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.*

Yes, historic properties eligible or listed to the National Register of Historic Places are in the project area. However, this water meter replacement project aligns with the Bureau of Reclamation's *Programmatic Agreement (PA) Regarding the Management of Water Control Features in the State of Colorado's* Appendix A: Undertakings affecting water control features with minimal potential to cause adverse effects to historic properties. Specifically, this Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act undertaking limits work to replacement of water meters in residential neighborhoods (PA Appendix A. I. B. 3).

-Katie Arntzen, Archaeologist

Bureau of Reclamation Western Colorado Area Office (WCAO)

- **Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?**

Yes, known archaeological sites are within the proposed project area. This project does not propose ground-disturbances and does not have the potential to impact archaeological sites.

-Katie Arntzen, Archaeologist

Bureau of Reclamation Western Colorado Area Office (WCAO)

- **Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?**

The project is being carried out with no additional charges or changes to service fees. There will be a higher accuracy of measured water consumption that will allow the City to better support usage charges to those customers consuming higher quantities of water. The result of this data will affect all homeowners equally, helping those lower and/or minority populations pay an equitable amount for actual usage.

- **Will the proposed project limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?**

No known sacred sites or tribal lands exist within the Town of Fraser or the project area.

- **Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?**

No alterations will be made to the local environment because the project will occur within existing structures and previously disturbed footprint. Therefore, it is proposed that the project will not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, and/or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species in the area.

H.1.1. through H.1.3. National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act and Endangered Species Act,

It is proposed that if the Town of Fraser is successful in obtaining a BOR grant, that the Town will complete Section 106 NEPA, to understand the effects and actions of the proposed project prior to any ground disturbing activity. Compliance with all applicable State, Federal, and local environmental, cultural, and paleontological resource protection laws and regulations is also required, including, but not limited to, the Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), consultation with potentially affected Tribes, and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.

D.2.2.5- Required Permits or Approvals

Given the water meters will be installed in the existing footprint, within the Town's right of way and/or on Town property, no permits or approvals will be required for this project.

D.2.2.6- Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

Currently, the Town has not submitted a similar application to the Bureau of Reclamation.

Therefore, there is no duplication of effort or overlap.

D.2.2.7- Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

The Town of Fraser has no actual or potential conflicts of interest.

D.2.2.8- Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

It is anticipated that the project will not exceed \$225,000. Therefore, the Single Audit Act report will not be required.

D.2.2.9- Certification Regarding Lobbying

The Town of Fraser is requesting \$100,000 in Federal funding and does not exceed \$100,000. Therefore, the certifications do not apply.

D.2.2.10- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Not applicable.

D.2.2.11- Letters of Support

See next page, Letter of Support from Merrick and Company

Engineers that supported the Town of Fraser in creating a Water Efficiency Plan in 2023

Page 25, Letter of Support from Grand County Board of Commissioners

The policy makers for the county in which the Town of Fraser and the headwaters of the Colorado River are located.

April 9, 2024

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

I am writing to support the Town of Fraser (Town), Colorado's application for the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) No. R24AS00059 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency cost-share funding opportunity. The Town is requesting \$100,000 in cost-share funding, which will be used to replace manual read water meters with a one-time purchase of new automated metering infrastructure that provides continuous meter reading integrated with a smart water accounting system.

Replacing the Town's current water meters was the highest-priority recommendation in the Town of Fraser 2023 Water Efficiency Plan (WEP), which the Town and Merrick worked together to complete. The Town Board of Trustees and Utilities staff elected to complete the WEP as stewards of precious water resources and partners in regional quality and quantity initiatives. The Town is committed to implementing water efficiency goals that include improved data collection, leak detection and repairs, realignment of rate structures to encourage water efficiency, institutionalization of water efficiency and sustainability in the Town code and comprehensive planning, and initiation and growth of relationships and regional partnerships for sustained change. This project is "shovel-ready" requiring only resources to close the funding gap, making this project a reality.

The Town provides water to approximately 1,400 metered service connections. Approximately 27%, or 380, of these meters are not functioning. Non-functional meters fail to report water use contributing to poor data about water consumption, non-revenue water loss, and overall poor water resources management. In addition, wasting water ages pumps and treatment facilities accelerating the need to spend money to repair or replace the equipment.

The project will remove manual read water meters and replace them with Metron-Farnier automated and continuous read meters integrated with a smart water accounting system. Effective and smart water metering allows the Town to detect irregular or unexpected high-water use and take immediate corrective action to prevent excessive wasted water. The smart meters will improve the Town's ability to communicate with customers about their water use, including any irregularities, and enable customers to view and understand their water usage better, and make conservation changes to support water source reliability.

The Town's data from the Justice40 metric shows Fraser residents 14% higher than the threshold in the health and low-income categories. Providing clean, safe, and reliable drinking water at a fair cost, particularly to work force populations, is an important element of the meter replacement program. Preventing and reducing water loss through accurate metering keeps the cost of providing water affordable for essential uses such as drinking water, cooking, and bathing. Affordable water will help the Town's year-round population remain above the threshold, enjoying good health and less strain on income.

Employee Owned



2480 W. 26th Street, Unit B225
Denver, Colorado 80211



Tel: +1 303-964-3333



hello@merrick.com
www.merrick.com

Town of Fraser
BOR NOFO Grant Request
April 9, 2024

These invaluable cost-share funds will allow the Town to provide long-term benefits to the community and support county, regional, and cross-state programs. To implement this foundational WEP goal, the Town will continue their diligent implementation of the WEP goals and activities, provide better water management practices, ultimately supporting the mission and purpose of this BOR NOFO funding opportunity.

Sincerely,



Merrick & Company
Julie Koehler, PE
Project Manager



Grand County BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Colorado

308 Byers Ave., P.O. Box 264 | Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451 | 970-725-3347

Richard D. Cimino

District I, Fraser 80442

Merrit S. Linke

District 2, Granby 80446

Randal F. George

District 3, Kremmling 80459

Email: grndcty1@co.grand.co.us

Phone: 970-725-3100

Fax: 970-725-0565

Edward Moyer, County Manager

Maxine LaBarre-Krostue, County Attorney

April 16, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
Nickie McCann & Christina Munoz
Mail Code: 86-63000
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225-0007

Dear WaterSMART Review Panel,

The Grand County Board of County Commissioners wishes to convey its support for the Town of Fraser's application for the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Funding Program and their Water Meter Modernization and Replacement Project.

Grand County and the Town of Fraser have partnered on a variety of initiatives which support the Fraser River and its tributaries. Grand County requires a reliable water supply to sustain the environment and the many outdoor recreational activities that drive our local economy. Grand County takes an active role in the stewardship of the headwaters of the Colorado River for our residents, visitors, and for the benefit of future generations. The project objectives of the Water Meter Modernization and Replacement Project will enable the Town of Fraser to accurately monitor water consumption, detect leaks in their distribution system, measure irrigation, and provide a tool to empower individual homeowners to use water more efficiently. Their program is a crucial step toward Fraser's goal of reducing overall water demands, a goal that meets Grand County's strategic priorities.

This project will contribute to long-term resilience and increased water security for our local communities. The Grand County Commissioners fully support this application and encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to help fund the request.

Sincerely,

Merrit Linke
Commissioner Chair

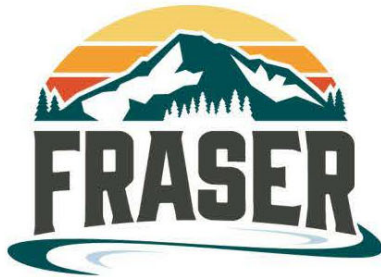
Richard Cimino
Commissioner

Randal F. George
Commissioner

D.2.2.12- Letter of Partnership

Not applicable for Category A applicants.

D.2.2.13- Official Resolution



MEMO TO: Mayor Cerkenik and the Board of Trustees

FROM: Lucas C. Seffens, Utilities Superintendent

DATE: May 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Grant funding for Water Meter Installation

SUBJECT: Authorize Town Staff to apply for funding through the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART program and to commit to the installation of replacement water meters in the South Water System.

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTER/PREPARER: Lucas C. Seffens, Water Utilities Superintendent

FISCAL INFORMATION:

Estimated Town Costs: \$116,305

Potential Federal Funding: \$100,000

Total Costs (all sources): \$216,305

New Appropriation Required: No

REQUESTED ACTION: Authorize Town Staff to apply for funding through the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART program and authorize the Mayor to sign the corresponding Assurances form. Authorize the allocation of matching funds from the 2026 Fraser water budget for the replacement of water meters in accordance with the technical proposal submitted with the application.

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER: The 2023 Water Efficiency Plan that was adopted by the Board of Trustees on May 6th, 2023, emphasized the need to improve consumptive water use accounting. The following goals were recommended by this plan: meter testing and replacement, water demand database improvements, leak reduction program, largest water user outreach, and the installation of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). Town Staff seek to achieve all these goals by replacing existing water meters with smart meters as they reach their useful life.

To assist with budget limitations, Town Staff seeks federal funding assistance through the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART program. If awarded, these funds will be used to cover 46% of the cost to replace meters in the South Water System. An official resolution by the Board of Trustees is required to apply for federal funding. This resolution serves to give Town Staff permission to apply for the WaterSMART program and commit to the project if awarded federal funding.

**TOWN OF FRASER
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-05-06**

AUTHORIZING TOWN STAFF TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FOR WATER METER
INSTALLATION THROUGH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATERSMART PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Fraser is the owner of the South Water System and is responsible for maintaining all water meters in the South Water System;

WHEREAS, the 2023 Water Efficiency Plan that was adopted by the Board of Trustees, recommends replacing all non-functional water meters and meters that have exceeded their useful life;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART funding opportunity matching funds up to \$100,000 for programs that increase water supply sustainability and as identified in Presidential Executive Order 14008;

WHEREAS, Town Staff have prepared an application for funding through the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program and requires a commitment to the project and approval to proceed from the Fraser Board of Trustees;

WHEREAS, Town Staff has received letters of support for this project from both Merrick and the Grand County Board of Commissioners to apply for funding through the Bureau of Reclamation for the 2026 Water Meter Modernization & Replacement Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF FRASER, COLORADO THE FOLLOWING:


1. Authorize Town Staff to apply for up to \$100,000 in funding through the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program for the 2026 Water Meter Modernization & Replacement Project.
2. Authorize the allocation of \$116,305 in matching funds from the 2026 Fraser water budget for the replacement of water meters in accordance with the technical proposal submitted with the Application.
3. Authorize the Mayor to sign the Assurances form for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)

READ, PASSED ON ROLL CALL VOTE, AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THIS 15th DAY OF MAY 2024.

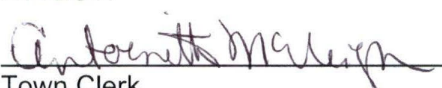
Votes in favor: 7
Votes opposed: 0
Abstained: 0



BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
TOWN OF FRASER, COLORADO

BY: 
Mayor

ATTEST:


Town Clerk

D.2.2.14- Letters of Funding Commitment

The cost share will be supported by the City's enterprise funds, personnel, and fringe benefits.

Thank you for considering the Town of Fraser's 2026 Water Meter Modernization and Replacement Project for the WaterSMART funding opportunity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lucas Seffens". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "L" and "S".

Lucas C. Seffens

Town of Fraser

Water Utilities Superintendent