

# Rainbow Agenda 1.a.

---

**From:** Dakotah McGinlay  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 12:07 PM  
**To:** City Council; Dan Foote; Gary Suiter; Julie Baxter  
**Subject:** Fwd: Steamboat Springs - Growing Water Smart Letter of Support  
**Attachments:** Letter of Support SI GWS.docx

Hi Council,  
I'm sending this to you prior to our meeting tonight in case you have time to review. I'll be asking for support during my council report.  
See you tonight!

Kindly,  
Dakotah McGinlay

---

**From:** Meryl Corbin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2024 4:58:20 PM  
**To:** Dakotah McGinlay <dmcginlay@steamboatsprings.net>; Tom Leeson <tleeson@steamboatsprings.net>; Julie Baxter <jbaxter@steamboatsprings.net>  
**Cc:** Waverly Klaw [REDACTED] Letter of Support

Dear Councilor McGinlay, Mr. Leeson, and Ms. Baxter,

I hope this email finds you well. As a participant in the 2023 Growing Water Smart workshop, we are reaching out to request your support for the Sonoran Institute's grant application to the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership.

We are requesting funds from CRD and CWCB to build on the success of the 2023 Growing Water Smart workshop and continue to support your community and the region through education, training, networking, and project support, as well as to hold another GWS workshop for western slope communities in early 2025.

We would be so grateful if you are willing and able to strengthen our proposal by providing us with a letter of support. We are collecting these letters until February 13 so that we may submit them with our application on February 14. Attached to this email is a draft letter, which you are invited to modify to reflect your experience and perspective as a participating workshop team. If you are able to secure approval and signature from your board/council/commission by February 13, it would be much appreciated. If this timeframe proves challenging, we would be equally grateful if you could provide a letter coming from you individually or some/all of your team members.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. We sincerely appreciate your time and support.

Best,  
Meryl Corbin

**Meryl Corbin**  
(she/her/ella)  
**Program Manager, Growing  
Water Smart**

www.sonoraninstitute.org  
www.growingwatersmart.org

**DONATE TODAY!**



[Insert Date]

Colorado River District  
201 Centennial St., Suite 200  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Subject: Letter of Support for Sonoran Institute Growing Water Smart application to the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership

Dear Board Member,

[I am/we are] writing to express [my/our] support for the Sonoran Institute Growing Water Smart application to the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership.

A team from [insert community] participated in the October 23-25, 2023 Growing Water Smart workshop in Grand Junction, Colorado. [Please share your experience during the workshop (what did you learn/find useful, what did your team gain positive momentum on, did you build or strengthen relationships, etc.). What are some of your team's outcomes/next steps?].

Sonoran Institute is seeking funding from multiple sources, including the Colorado River District's Community Funding Partnership, to continue to support our community and the region through education, training, networking, and project support. [Community] welcomes this additional support as we move to implement the strategies identified during Growing Water Smart to address our water challenges.

Considering our positive experience and the benefits we have received from the program, we would also like to see the workshop and follow-up support offered to other cities, towns, and counties in the region. Doing so will facilitate a broader regional dialogue and foster a collective understanding and commitment to responsible water management practices.

We encourage the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership to fund the Growing Water Smart program. The impact of this program extends beyond individual communities, creating a ripple effect around how municipalities and counties manage our valuable water resources. By investing in the knowledge and collaboration of our communities today, we can collectively build a more resilient and water-conscious future.

Thank you for your dedication to advancing water conservation efforts in our region. Sincerely,

NAME(S) and SIGNATURE(S)

**Commented [WK1]:** The Growing Water Smart workshop proved to be an enlightening and collaborative experience for our community. The presentations, networking opportunities, and expert facilitation greatly contributed to the development of a comprehensive action plan that aligns with our community values. The program has played a pivotal role in enhancing our understanding of water conservation and resilience, equipping us with the knowledge and tools necessary to address the unique challenges faced by our region.

Our discussion about the second sheet of ice brought to light two statements most Steamboat residents agree on: we love to recreate, and we love our parks.

After the meeting, Councilor Muntean and I discussed a belief that there is now a third statement that could be agreed on: we want to invest in our parks. The assumption that no one wants to pay for the parks they love may no longer be true.

For the uninitiated, only 4% of our 8.5% sales tax goes directly to the City of Steamboat Springs. This 4% of sales tax pays for everything provided by the city: airport, roads, police, fire, buses, planning, and parks and rec. This means that the high quality of services we love are subject to swings in the economy.

This is like providing stability for your family when every paycheck fluctuates. For those of you who do this, you will likely agree - this makes life extremely difficult.

Demands for services - primarily Parks and Rec, SST, and fire - are growing faster than sales tax. If we keep doing what we're doing, our services will continue to get worse. And this will be exacerbated as the population of Steamboat grows. This is one of the concerns with Brown Ranch: increased growth will be matched by decreased quality of the things that make it worth living here - if something is not done.

As a council, we need to decide whether to increase revenue and keep what we love or to decrease the services offered. We need to start the process of making these decisions now.

Developing policy that can be put to a vote will give us the answers we desperately need. Doing this exercise and getting a vote, regardless of outcome, will give our council and future councils the direction needed to keep Steamboat special for future generations.

This is why Councilor Muntean and I are asking council to agree on putting the following worksession on our agenda:

A presentation from staff that explores dedicated funding for Parks and Rec including:

- What funding options are available
- What level of funding is needed to:
  - (1) get Parks and Rec off the general fund (i.e., match current funding)
  - (2) get Parks and Rec off the general fund and increase funding and what that funding level would look like from a user experience POV
- Funding source scenarios leveraging a property tax for Parks and Rec and
  - Cost to an average commercial property owner
  - Cost to an average homeowner
  - How those costs would compare to current tax burdens in comparable cities
  - What options are available for those who are house rich and cash poor such as those on a fixed income or those who bought an affordable home decades ago that now has an unaffordable appraisal
- The pros and cons of creating a Parks and Rec special district instead of having an earmarked funding source