

2022 Community Ditch and Acequia Maintenance Funding Announcement

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD), along with our partners, Bureau of Reclamation and Rocky Mountain Youth Conservation Corp are once again inviting landowners who use community farm ditches and acequias to apply for funding that can be used for ditch maintenance in 2022. Eligible facilities are those that don't have an Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the MRGCD.

Applicants should prepare a brief project proposal that clearly outlines the maintenance needs of the facility to be considered for the current round of funding. The Youth Corp crews will have experience using hand tools and implements to move, shape, and pack earth, clear vegetation and trees smaller than 8" in diameter at chest height, among other tasks. MRGCD is interested in promoting long-term efficient water conveyance in these facilities and wants applicants to view this program as a catalyst for continuing yearly maintenance after any project work is completed. It is preferred that interested landowners work with their fellow irrigators to create a group application for the shared ditch, rather than individuals applying for small sections of facility. Proposals should clearly respond to the following prompts.

Where is the project located – Provide an area map of the ditch and identify lands served within the project area. Mark and describe specific maintenance needs on the map. Provide photos of the project site if possible.

Maintenance Needs – Describe the specific maintenance needs of your ditch in your group proposal. Some of these needs might include but are not necessarily limited to Earth Work, Vegetation Removal, Small Tree Removal, and Ditch Shaping, Field Turnouts, Basic Concrete.

Project Goals & Objectives – Describe the unique goals and objectives that your group intends to accomplish if awarded funding for ditch maintenance.

How will this project improve water conservation or the operation of the ditch during the irrigation seasons – Describe specific infrastructure or delivery impediments that will be improved if awarded funding for maintenance. Some of these improvements might be but are not limited to reducing vegetation drag within ditches, improving ditch slope or bank elevation, removal of woody vegetation along ditch banks, or increasing carrying capacity of ditches.

Application Window – MRGCD will be accepting applications for funding **starting February 14th of 2022 through March 31st of 2022.**

Project Implementation – **Approximately 5-6 weeks of work crew funding is available for 2022 and projects will be completed in late April through mid-July.**

Project Priority Funding – Once all applications have been received and reviewed they will be ranked and given a priority relative to all other projects. If the Priority 1 Project is completed and there is still funding, then the Priority 2 Project will be completed. Similarly, if Priority 2 Project is completed and there are still remaining funds, those funds will be committed to Priority 3 Project and so on.

Proposal Submission – Applicants should send their proposals to Casey Ish at casey@mrgcd.us or to 1931 2nd Street SW, Albuquerque, NM – Notice to Casey Ish.