

Memo

To: Town Council

From: Debbie Nichols

Date: April 15, 2016

Re: The Who, What, Why, When and How of the GOCO Inspire Initiative Planning Grant

Who: LiveWell Garfield County is the fiscal agent and convener of a board coalition that includes the municipalities of Parachute, Rifle, Silt, New Castle, Garfield County Public Library District, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (Rifle Gap State Park) and Garfield County School District RE-2 and 16. My position is representing New Castle on the steering committee.

What: The Inspire Initiative is a new GOCO (Greater Outdoors Colorado) initiative focusing on influencing Coloradans, particularly kids, to appreciate, enjoy and take care of our great outdoors. In 2015, the LiveWell Garfield County Coalition was selected to participate in Inspire. Following GOCO's recommendations, efforts will be focused on western Garfield County including Parachute, Rifle, Silt and New Castle. In spring 2017, LiveWell Garfield County will be eligible to apply for a total of \$1 to 5 million in implementation grants for projects in around these communities. GOCO requires a 10% match for implementation grants.

WHY: Inspire can fund a wide range of projects that give kids access to the outdoors, from capital projects to recreation programs. As you think about the opportunities in our community, we are starting with identifying the gaps in access and outdoor engagement. What barriers can be overcome to reach underserved people of neighborhoods? Inspire can fund the following types of projects:

- "Backyard Hubs" Backyard hubs are the places in the community where kids can have outdoor experience within a ten minute walk of where they live and/or spend their time. These places can include parks, natural areas, playgrounds, community gardens, etc.
- Pedestrian/bike access to the "Backyard Hubs" Inspire will build and enhance trails and other pathways that get kids safely from the local hub, neighborhood or school to the outdoor places in their community. Safe Routes to School is a good example.
- Programs and experiences from the backyard to the backcountry. Inspire will fund outdoor education and recreation programs and experiences for kids of every age. GOCO encourages partnerships with our local State Parks. Examples of programs include: growing plants in a school garden, learning about plants and wildlife at a park, fishing at a state park, hiking or biking to explore trails, hosting outdoor service learning projects or overnight camping excursions and visiting public lands.
- Stewardship and internships for youth. Provide service learning opportunities and internships that can lead to careers.

When and How: We have begun the inventory of the communities, what is available in trails, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, gardens or other outdoor experiences that could be a good project. We are now starting the process of hiring a consultant, hiring a Youth Liaison, one for each community and hiring the Youth Council members for each community, these are paid stipend positions. In June and July 2016, the Youth visioning sessions using creative methods to get input will take place at the library in each municipality in conjunction with

the Summer Reading Program. August to December 2016, Based on the youth visions, the coalition will begin to select projects in preparation for the spring 2017 grant application.

Working with local stakeholders, the LiveWell Garfield County coalition will select projects to apply for implementation. Some of the key factors in project selection will be:

- Impact, does the project have an impact on a large number of underserved kids? Does it align with the youth vision and community input?
- Feasibility, Can the project be ready for implementation by spring 2017? Is the cost of the program within the scope of the Inspire Initiative?
- Sustainability, can the project/program be maintained over a long period of time? GOCO will fund programming until 2020, so projects must have a sustainability plan after that.

This is the part where I have to keep you informed, of the projects and programs that the Youth Council choose to be a part of this grant process, would the Town of New Castle be able to maintain it after 2020.