

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Chris Sturm, Stream Restoration Coordinator

DATE: November 10, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 28d, November 16-18, 2009 Board Meeting**
Non-Reimbursable Investments Recommendations
Colorado Watershed Restoration Program

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Harris D. Sherman
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Dan McAuliffe
CWCB Deputy Director

Introduction

The CWCB supports watershed restoration projects presented by multiple stakeholders with diverse interests. The results are plans and projects designed to satisfy a range of non-consumptive and consumptive water use objectives. Many of these efforts are completed on small budgets funded through several sources of local, state and/or federal funds. There is often a community volunteer component that contributes in-kind services through donated materials and time.

Discussion

The Colorado Watershed Restoration Program was funded with nearly \$380,000 for the 2009 grant cycle. The funding source was Non-Reimbursable Investments from 2006 and 2009. CWCB Staff received 15 grant applications requesting \$739,333. All the applications met the minimum qualifications for funding consideration. Eight projects were chosen for grant funding. The total amount awarded was \$356,226. This amount leverages an average of \$4.56 additional dollars for each project. The funds remaining in the Program will be used for monitoring and operational expenses. **In order to meet FY '10-'11 request, staff is recommending that spending from the CWCB Fish and Wildlife Resource Fund (FWRF) be restricted by \$250,000.** This amount will not impact anticipated expenditures from the FWRF balance.

The Program objective is to provide funding for watershed restoration studies and projects. Special consideration is given to projects that reduce flood hazards, protect infrastructure, and increase benefits for water supply. Projects successfully completed during the 2009 grant cycle include Middle Boulder Creek bank stabilization, Tarryall Creek Riparian Re-vegetation, and Squirrel Creek (Upper San Luis Creek) bank stabilization. Other ongoing projects include the Eagle River restoration project, Lake Fork of the Gunnison floodplain/channel design study, Trail Creek (Upper South Platte) restoration project, Westerly Creek (metro area) master plan, and the Mancos River diversion structure assessment/prioritization study. Future projects will be funded during the 2010 competitive grant cycle. Studies and projects resulting from this program can have far reaching benefits for water supply (e.g. SWSI), flood protection, enhancement of aesthetic and environmental quality, recreation, and increased economic benefit.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board request that the General Assembly authorize \$250,000 from the Construction Fund to be appropriated to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program.

Water Project Construction Program - Project Data Non-Reimbursable Investment

Grantee: Colorado Water Conservation Board **County:** Statewide
Project Name: Colorado Watershed Restoration Program
Project Type: Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation
Drainage Basin: All River Basins in Colorado **Water Source:** N/A
Total Project Cost: up to 50% cost share **Funding Source:** CWCB Const. Fund
Type of Grantee: State Government
CWCB Non-Reimbursable Inv.: \$250,000

SUMMARY

The Program objective is to provide funding for watershed restoration studies and projects. Special consideration is given to projects that reduce flood hazards, protect infrastructure, and increase benefits for water supply. Past projects successfully completed with aid from the Construction Fund include Middle Boulder Creek channel restoration, Roaring Fork multi-objective planning study, Rio Grande headwaters restoration, and Alamosa River watershed restoration. Studies and projects resulting from this program can have far reaching benefits for water supply (e.g. SWSI), flood protection, enhancement of aesthetic and environmental quality, recreation, and increased economic benefit. The CWCB has not had access to a regular and reliable source of funding for this Program in past years. Instead, special allocations on an annual basis from Severance Tax and Construction Fund investments have provided support for the Program. CWCB staff received 15 applications for Program funding in January 2009. The total request for funding was \$739,333. The total proposed match funding was \$2,363,220. All the applications met the minimum qualifications for funding consideration. Many of the applications scored well, and the median score was associated with a tight standard deviation. The Program was able to fund almost half of the total requests. Five of the eight projects funded have been mapped with focus areas identified in the Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment. The Program is intended for statewide benefit. The map below displays projects funded in 2009.

