

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 4, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 17d, November 15-16, 2011 Board Meeting**
Non-Reimbursable Investments – CWCB
Colorado Watershed Restoration Program

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB 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 (CWRP) has funded 27 projects with \$846,464 since its first grant cycle in January 2009. This money has been matched with over 5.1 million in cash funding and in-kind services. This equates to \$6 match for every \$1 contributed by the CWCB. Staff has also cooperated with the Water Quality Control Division to develop a Measurable Results Program (MRP). MRP is monitoring several CWRP projects to measure success and provide information to better advise future projects.

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 funded in 2011 include channel stabilization on Trail Creek (Lake George), Clear Creek (Golden), North Massey Draw (Ken Caryl Ranch), West Beaver Creek (Pikes Peak), Union Creek (Leadville), Kerber Creek (Villa Grove), Yampa River (Craig), and the Blue River (Breckenridge). Other new 2011 projects include ditch diversion reconstruction on the San Miguel River, Coal Creek (Crested Butte), and Gunnison River (Upstream of Delta); river restoration planning for Lightner Creek (Durango); and riparian restoration on Boulder Creek. Future projects will be funded during the 2012 competitive grant cycle. Studies and projects resulting from this program can have far reaching benefits for water supply, 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:** CWCBC Const. Fund
Type of Grantee: State Government
CWCBC 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 channel stabilization and restoration on Fourmile Creek in South Park, riparian re-vegetation on the Eagle River in Edwards, and channel stability analysis in the Horse Creek Watershed (Upper South Platte). Program funding has also been used in conjunction with funding from the Water Quality Control Division to develop a Measureable Results Program (MRP). 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 CWCBC 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. The Program has funded 27 projects since the first grant cycle in January 2009. Total project funding exceeds \$845,000. The projects have leveraged \$6 for every \$1 contributed by the Program. Twenty-one of the twenty-seven 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 since 2009.

Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Grant Projects 2009 - 2011

