

THE COLORADO BASIN ROUNDTABLE
C/O P.O. BOX 1120
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO
81602

July 26, 2012

Greg Johnson
COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
1580 Logan Street, Suite 600
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Greg:

The Colorado Basin Roundtable voted at its July 23, 2012, meeting to approve six grant requests and forward them to the CWCB staff and board for consideration.

Five of the grants address the Roundtable initiative to implement short-term projects and methods to address nonconsumptive needs. Earlier this year, the CBRT set up a workshop to recruit interest in nonconsumptive projects. Five applications emerged for Water Supply Reserve Account potential funding. They are:

- **Grand County RICD Project.** The vote was 18-0 in favor with two abstentions. The abstentions related to conflicts of interest. The request is for \$100,000 in Basin Funds and \$400,000 in Statewide Funds. The CBRT believes this project on the Colorado River will solidify the recreational values enjoyed at the Pumphouse segment of the Colorado River, a benefit to the Basin and all of Colorado. Our funding would be directed at in-river work.
- **Grand Valley Riparian Restoration Collaborative Project/Tamarisk Coalition.** The vote was 20-0. The request is for \$42,726 in Basin Funds and \$207,274 in Statewide Funds. Funding would assist in tamarisk and Russian olive removal as well as work on invasive weeds. Money would also be directed at revegetation. Phreatophyte control is a local and statewide priority in water management and in restoring environmental integrity in important riparian zones.
- **Tenmile Creek Restoration Project/Blue River Watershed Group.** The vote was 19-1 in favor. The dissent questioned a "clear need" for the project. The request is \$17,500 in Basin Funds and \$332,500 in Statewide Funds. The targeted work on the creek will occur in the vicinity of the Copper Mountain Ski Area, a segment impacted over the decades by mining, timbering, ski area development, railroad and highway construction. The beauty of this project is that it is shovel-

ready and this money, along with cash and in-kind services, allows it to proceed to completion.

- **Colorado River Restoration and Conservation Projects/Eagle River Watershed Council.** The vote was 19-1 in favor. Dissent cited the fact that while this paves the way for projects, it is still a study. The request is for \$20,000 in Basin Funds and \$90,000 in Statewide Funds. This initiative seeks to create baseline information about a stretch of the Colorado River that has been little studied. It will prioritize strategies regarding rehabilitation projects and assess recreational impacts with an eye toward directing recreation to the most suitable sites on the river.
- **Crystal River Watershed Assessment and Design of Restoration Projects/Roaring Fork Conservancy.** The vote was 20-0 in favor. The request is for \$15,854 in Basin Funds and \$301,219 in Statewide Funds. This is a proposal to study a heavily impacted area of historical coal mining in drainage of the Crystal River. It will lead to projects, and includes a pilot project on road restoration.

As well, we approved one grant request addressed at consumptive uses. **The Robinson Ditch Company** that serves the Basalt-El Jebel area in the Roaring Fork Valley is seeking assistance for ditch piping. The request from the CBRT is for \$60,000 from Basin Funds. The vote was 19-1. Please note that the application asks for \$120,000. The dissent cited the lack of a revegetation plan, a need to engage the neighbors, impacts to wells and the fact that no ag was involved in this ditch that has seen uses migrate to urban uses. In halving the request, the applicants were also encouraged to apply for a low-interest CWCB loan to complete the work. The CBRT agreed overall that there are many benefits to piping this ditch that include safety to neighbors and the more efficient movement of water that enjoys about half its flow under pre-Colorado Compact water rights.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Pokrandt", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Pokrandt
Chair, Colorado Basin Roundtable