

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

FROM: Kevin Houck, P.E., Chief
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

DATE: October 16, 2013

James Eklund
CWCB Director

SUBJECT: **October 21, 2013 Special Board Meeting
Agenda Item 4 – CWCB Flood Program Update**

Staff Recommendation

This is an informational item and staff is not requesting board action.

Introduction and Discussion

The September flooding has served as an effective reminder that flooding is historically the costliest and most destructive natural disaster in Colorado. While the 2013 flood was one of the biggest events to impact the State, it is just one in a long series of destructive floods that date back to the 1860s.

The General Assembly has deemed the designation of floodplains a matter of statewide importance and interest and gave the CWCB the responsibility for the designation of regulatory floodplains and to assure public health, safety, and welfare and property. The CWCB is statutorily tasked with devising and formulating methods, means, and plans for the prevention of flood damages.

The purpose of this item is to present to the Board the tasks undertaken by the Watershed and Flood Protection Section as part of its mission. The section is responsible for all activities related to flood and watershed protection. This includes floodplain management and regulations, floodplain mapping, flood engineering, floodplain designations, management of watershed restoration grants, administration of the Flood and Drought Response Fund, chairing the Flood Task Force. In addition, the section is responsible for administration of the Weather Modification Permitting Program.

This item will also explain what activities the section has undertaken in response to the September 2013 flooding. Various actions have been undertaken and partnerships with various state, federal, and local entities have been leveraged for the purpose of helping the state and its citizens recover from this devastating flood.