

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

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 28, March 18 - 19, 2014 Board Meeting.
Watershed and Flood Protection Section, Watershed
Planning and Stream Restoration Update**

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

James Eklund
CWCB Director

Staff Recommendation

This is an informational item, and staff is not requesting Board action.

Background

The Stream Task Force, led by CWCB staff, is assembled to help communities affected by the September 2013 floods strategize the short and long term stabilization and rehabilitation of stream channels. The members of the team can advise on all aspects of the rehabilitation process including: Assembling local stream coalitions, permitting, technical assistance, funding, project design, project prioritization, and project implementation.

The Stream Task Force does not have authority to reconfigure stream channels. It will not be putting the streams into their historic configurations. Stream alignment decisions should ultimately be made by local communities and affected land owners. The Stream Task Force is advocating master planning/conceptual design for river alignments, especially those with significant damage. The landowner is ultimately responsible for the river, and they should be cognizant of the fact that discrete fixes do have the potential to damage upstream and downstream channel (property) owners. The Stream Task Force is willing to work with those interested in a holistic approach to restoration, but it's only regulatory authority is through permitting (USACE), 401 certification (Colorado Water Quality Control Division), and water rights issues (DWR).

Discussion

Staff will update the Board on recent activities of the Stream Task Force including community meetings, local stream coalition(s) momentum, interim channel stabilization progress, and ditch diversion reconstruction. Staff will also update the Board on the status of applications submitted to the Special Release of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program approved by the Board at the October 21, 2013 meeting.