

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: CWCB Board Members

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

DATE: May 5, 2014

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

James Eklund
CWCB Director

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item #24, May 21-22, 2014 Board Meeting**
Watershed & Flood Protection- Stream Restoration Grant Criteria

Staff Recommendation: *Staff recommends that the board adopt the attached Stream Restoration Grant Criteria.*

Background:

On May 5th, 2014 the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 14-179, which establishes a "Stream Restoration Account" within the CWCB Flood and Drought Response Fund for the purposes of providing funds for watershed cleanup and stream restoration within areas affected by the September 2013 flood event. The bill appropriates funding for the CWCB to implement the grant program, and initially transfers \$2.5 million from the Disaster Emergency Fund to the subject Stream Restoration Account.

One provision of this bill includes language that "The Colorado Water Conservation Board shall approve grants based solely on criteria and procedures adopted by the Board. As part of the criteria and procedures that the Board may adopt under this subsection..., the Board shall permit private entities and individuals to apply for grants."

In anticipation of the bill becoming signed into law and in order to be proactive, staff is proposing to use a modified version of the Watershed Restoration Program grant criteria as new stand-alone criteria to specifically address SB14-179 and future grants from the Stream Restoration Account. Staff will also provide the board with any status updates regarding SB14-179 as part of this agenda item.

Stream Restoration Account of Flood and Drought Response Fund
Grant Program Guidance
May 2014

Background

Senate Bill 14-179, proposed to the 2014 Colorado General Assembly, establishes funding for stream restoration in response to the September 2013 floods. The legislative declaration states:

INSERT FINAL BILL LANGUAGE

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is the state executive branch agency responsible for state water policy and planning. The Board's mission is to conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations. Its major programs include Watershed & Flood Protection; Water Supply Planning; Finance; Stream and Lake Protection; and Intrastate & Federal. More information about the CWCB and its sections can be found at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/>.

The purpose of this Grant Program Guidance is to establish and describe the program for the issuance and administration of 2013 flood restoration grants from the CWCB Flood and Drought Response Fund.

Grant Approval Criteria

1. Application Requirements

The Stream Restoration Grant Account within the Flood and Drought Response Fund has an objective to provide design and construction services for stream restoration projects. Planning and project efforts that integrate multi-objectives in restoration and flood mitigation will score higher than single objective applications. This may include projects designed to reconfigure stream channels, stabilize stream channels, remove debris from the stream channel and/or floodplain, provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species, re-vegetate riparian areas, mitigate flood hazards, improve recreational opportunities, provide fish passage, and increase the capacity to utilize water.

Basic Applicant Qualifications

Grant applicants must demonstrate:

- a commitment to collaborative approaches, involving locally and/or regionally based diverse interests within the watershed in question, with participation open to all interested persons in the watershed;
- a commitment to restoring or protecting ecological processes that connect land and water while protecting life and property from flood hazards;
- a broad based involvement in and/or support for the grant application, including relevant local, state, or federal governmental entities; and
- an ability to provide the appropriate in-kind or cash match for the activities proposed.

Grant applications that do not demonstrate the above criteria will be disqualified from the application review process.

Eligible applicants include state agencies, county and municipal governments, state-recognized special districts, non-governmental organizations, and private entities and individuals. Federal agencies are not eligible for grants under this program.

CWCB staff may initiate demonstration projects utilizing up to 25% of the authorized Program funding amount.

CWCB may reserve 10% of the annually authorized Program funding for program management, monitoring, and evaluation of projects.

2. Application Evaluation Criteria

As a threshold matter, only grant applications that conform to the Application Requirements set forth above in B. (1.) will be considered. Grant applications that meet these qualifications will then be evaluated with respect to the following three factors:

- How *well* does the applicant fit the qualifications test?
- Does the applicant organization have the capability to *accomplish* the proposed work?
- How effective is the proposal at accomplishing the goals of restoration or flood mitigation”?

These factors will be evaluated by applying the following criteria and rating system:

Qualifications Evaluation (Maximum of 30 points)

This factor assesses how *well* the applicant fits the qualifications test:

- 2.1 Identify the lead project sponsor and describe the other stakeholders’ level of participation and involvement. 10 points
- 2.2 What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed project? Include any relevant information regarding existing watershed master plans, geomorphic assessments, flood studies, riparian conditions assessments, aquatic/terrestrial habitat conditions, and/or river restoration reports. 10 points
- 2.3 Specify in-kind services and cash contributions (match) amount for the proposed activities. The applicant must provide at least 50% match of the total project cost. Discuss whether other funding sources are secured or pending. 10 points

Organizational Capability (Maximum of 20 points)

- 3.1 What is the applicant’s history of accomplishments in the watershed? Provide several past project examples. List partner organizations and agencies with which applicant worked to implement past projects. 10 points
- 3.2 What level of staffing will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project/planning effort? Discuss the number of staff and amount of time dedicated for the

project. Will volunteers be utilized, and if so, how? Include brief resumes for each member of the active project team. 10 points

Effectiveness of Proposal (50 points)

- 3.1 Demonstrate that the project budget and schedule are realistic. Please use the attached budget/timeline spreadsheet. 10 points
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- 3.2 Discuss the multi-objective aspects of the project and how they relate to each other. Describe similar activities in the watershed and how this project complements but does not duplicate those activities. Multi objectives may include (but are not limited to) channel stabilization, riparian re-vegetation, habitat improvement, recreation opportunity enhancement, natural hazard reduction, flood mitigation, water supply delivery improvement, fish migration improvement, and low flow channel development. 30 points
- 3.3 Describe the proposed monitoring plan. How will the project measure success of its objectives? 10 points

In addition, applications must be submitted electronically and written according to the following format:

Font size: minimum 11 pt

Margins: 1 inch

Maximum number of pages: 5 (excluding maps and attachments)

Projects from qualified applicants will be ranked based on these criteria for the purpose of determining which projects receive grant funds.

Grant Program Administration

1. Application Process

Timeline

The anticipated timeline for the grant application cycle, based on anticipation of signature into law, is:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • Applications available: | June 2, 2014 |
| • Deadline to submit applications: | July 1, 2014 |
| • Applications reviewed: | July 25, 2014 |
| • Grants awarded: | July 25, 2014 |
| • Annual progress reports due: | Every 6 months after notice to proceed |

Contact Information

Interested parties are strongly encouraged to call the CWCB to discuss potential applications.

For more information, please contact:

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2. Payment Procedure

- * The CWCB will make between 1 and 4 payments, as requested by each grantee. The individual payments do not need to be equal. All payments will be based on invoices for work already completed.
- * The final payment will be at least 10% of the total grant award, which will not be released until full completion of grant and upon preparation and approval of a final report.