



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

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

DATE: July 16, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: Stream Restoration Grant Program Funding Recommendations

Background: On May 5th, 2014, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 14-179, which was later signed into law by the Governor. The Bill 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.” This grant criteria was adopted by the Board at its May 2014 meeting. The Board also directed staff to present funding recommendations at its regularly scheduled meeting in July 2014, for approval consideration as part of the consent agenda.

A grant application cycle was also approved, with a deadline to submit applications on July 1, 2014. This application deadline, along with the need for a thorough application review by a committee consisting of CWCB staff and representatives from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, requires some additional time to generate appropriate grant funding recommendations. Therefore, the committee’s recommendations are not available as of the date of this memo. Once the review is complete, staff’s recommendations for funding based on the committee process will be provided to the Board as a late status item, which is anticipated to occur on July 10th.

To summarize, staff will provide an updated memo with specific grant funding recommendations as proposed by the grant review committee. This information will be distributed electronically prior to the July Board meeting for consideration as part of the consent agenda.

