



**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

DATE: January 15, 2015

AGENDA ITEM 25 Flood Recovery Update

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**Introduction:**

On September 11, 2013, a prolonged rain event started a disastrous flood event in Colorado. This weather pattern was characterized by only moderate short-term intensity, but for medium and long durations, the rainfall experienced in a number of locations exceeded a 1,000 year rainfall event. A number of stream reaches experienced flood episodes equaling or exceeding a 100-year streamflow event. In addition, the long duration of the event resulted in heavy erosion in a number of stream reaches that contributed to flooding in areas outside of the regulatory 100-year floodplain. The end result was the deadliest flood since 1976, the costliest flood in state history, and the first presidentially declared flood disaster since 1999.

CWCB staff continues to work with other state agencies, local watershed coalitions, and individual flood impacted parties to restore streams in flood affected counties. The CWCB has partnered with the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to administer Community Development Block Grants – Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) focusing on watershed resiliency. The grant program requires watershed coalitions to develop mission and vision statements as well as defining a governance structure. CDBG-DR grant applications for capacity building, i.e. funds to hire coalition staff, are due January 30, 2015. CWCB and DOLA staffs have provided support to coalitions in the form of a technical advisory team with expertise in coalition building. CDBG-DR grant applications for implementation of project identified in watershed master plans will be due mid-March and November 2015.

CWCB staff hired a technical advisory team to assist in the management of the Senate Bill 14-179 River Restoration Grant Program. Twenty applicants were awarded \$2.3 million for restoration projects in flood affected counties. The advisory team will work with successful applicants and their consultants/contractors to ensure that river restoration design plans and project implementation align with the CWCB's philosophical approach towards stream restoration as defined in the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program guidance document and with master planning activities as outlined in the watershed master plans. The team will also continue to support local watershed coalitions upon request.

**Staff Recommendation:**

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

