



What You Missed at the Board Meeting

Water Supply Planning

The Board discussed [Colorado's Water Plan Funding Guidelines](#) and CWCB staff will continue to revise the criteria and guidelines to incorporate the Board's input and ideas.

The Board approved the Colorado Foundation for Water Education's [Annual Scope of Work](#).

The Board approved the two Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grants, both from the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable. The projects are the [Rio Grande State Wildlife Area Design Project](#) and the [Phase II - Engineering Services for Mountain Home Reservoir Dam Outlet Works Upgrade](#).

Stream and Lake Protection

The Board took final action to appropriate instream flow water rights and natural lake level water rights on 13 stream segments and two lakes in [Water Divisions 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6](#). The Board's appropriation of these water rights will help achieve the goals set forth in Colorado's Water Plan of promoting the restoration, recovery, sustainability, and resiliency of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic- and riparian-dependent species and plant communities, protecting healthy environments, and enhancing environmental and recreational economic values.

The Board accepted an offer from the Colorado Water Trust of up to 1,200 acre-feet of leased water for instream flow use on the Yampa River below Stagecoach Reservoir. The Trust will lease water from the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District and sublease a portion of the water to the CWCB. Releases of leased water from Stagecoach Reservoir will boost flows in the Yampa River instream flow reach when it is water-short, and will increase flows on the Yampa River through the City of Steamboat Springs, improving conditions for aquatic species and recreation on that reach of the River.

Watershed and Flood Protection Section

The Board approved a \$439,000 grant for a multi-objective flood control project on the South Platte River below Chatfield Reservoir. The project will protect life and property from floods while enhancing aquatic habitat and recreational opportunities.

Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section

On May 17, Governor Hickenlooper signed the 2017 Colorado Water Conservation Board's Projects Bill, HB17-1248. Section 8 of the bill authorizes:

- Technical assistance for federal irrigation improvement cost-sharing program - appropriation.
 - For the 2017-18 state fiscal year, \$500,000 is appropriated to the department of natural resources for use by the Colorado water conservation board ... to provide technical assistance for applicants seeking competitive federal grant funds.

On May 18, the [Board approved](#) the use of the first \$200,000 of this \$500,000 to support potential applicants to federal irrigation programs facing an application deadline during the remainder of 2017.

The program is consistent with the objectives of Colorado's Water Plan to maintain agricultural viability and support agricultural conservation and efficiency. Some of the major federal grant

programs to improve irrigation systems that have approaching application deadlines and for which CWCB technical assistance will be available include:

- The [Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program](#) (CRBSCP)
 - The main federal funding partners are the [US Bureau of Reclamation](#) (USBR) and [US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (USDA-NRCS).
 - USBR recently provided notice of the 2018 cycle of its [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) (FOA) program.
- USDA-NRCS [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) (RCPP)
- USBR [WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants](#)

The CWCB is accepting written requests for technical assistance grants with funds available for distribution in July 2017. For additional information on program requirements see the “[Loans & Grants](#)” tab on the Board’s website, or contact Steve Miller at steve.miller@state.co.us.

[View the full May 2017 Board agenda.](#)