



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Lauren Ris, Deputy Director

DATE: January 22- 23, 2018 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 29. Water Plan Grants - Overview

(This item is for information only - No action is required)

Introduction

This agenda item will provide the Board with an overview of the Water Plan Grant review and approval process and timeline. WPGrants reviewed at this Board meeting only include applications to be considered for final approval.

Background

The 2017 Projects Bill (HB17-1248) included \$10 million for the Board to begin implementation of Colorado's Water Plan (CWP). The Bill included \$1 million for the SWSI Update work, leaving \$9 million for grants for projects or activities that specifically have the potential to achieve the measurable objectives identified in CWP.

The Board's goal is to achieve the highest and best use of the WPGrant funds while understanding that projects ideally aligned with advancing the measurable objectives in CWP may not be ready for an application at this time. Staff also made available to applicants an option to identify their application as an "Intent to Apply" status. This provides the Board with an indication of future funding needs and allows for staff to assess future applications with the currently submitted applications.

The WPGrant approval process spans two Board meetings, including an initial review followed by final Board approval. The first round of applications was received on August 1, 2017 and the grants were approved at the November Board meeting. The second round of applications was received on October 1, 2017 and will be considered for final approval at this Board meeting. The 3rd and final round of Fiscal Year 2017/18 applications will be due February 1, 2018.

During the review process, some applications were withdrawn and some applications needed additional time or detail before a full assessment could be made. Applications that required additional time were recommended to be moved to an "Intent to Apply" status. Staff offered to work with applicants to assist with missing or incomplete information.

The agenda items that follow are based on the categories identified for WPGrant funding in the 2017 Projects Bill. Staff provided a presentation on each of the projects or activities at the November 2017 Board meeting, including how it advances the measurable objectives of CWP. Staff will be asking the Board for block approval of the grants in each category, unless separate votes are requested by the Board.



Grants that receive final approval today will begin the contracting process. Applicants are expected to enter into a contract within six months of approval.

Table 1 is a summary of the WPGrant categories and the current demand on the amount available for grant funding.

Table 1. Funding Summary of WPGrant Categories

WPGrant Category	HB17-1248	Total Request	Total Recommended	Remaining Balance
Agricultural	\$1,000,000	\$1,652,000	\$952,000	\$48,000
Storage	\$3,000,000	\$1,584,260	\$1,584,260	\$1,415,740
Supply Gap	\$2,000,000	\$2,041,143	\$1,634,551	\$365,449
Env/Recreation	\$1,000,000	\$2,595,047	\$795,284	\$204,716
Conservation	\$1,000,000	\$254,500	\$254,500	\$745,500
Innov/Outreach	\$1,000,000	\$870,505	\$870,505	\$129,495

Attached to this memo is the list of projects or activities that were approved by the Board in November and those submitted on October 1, 2017 and the action or position taken on each.