



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
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: November 14, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: Agenda Item 9, Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Update

Background:

The Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (CWRP) is designed to provide planning and project implementation funding for watershed and stream restoration and protection efforts. This includes stream management planning. The program supports applicants committed to collaborative approaches to restoring and protecting the ecological processes that connect land and water while protecting life and property. The CWRP guidance document and application was approved by the Board in September of 2008. The Board approved revisions to the program in May 2012 and July 2015. The latest revision requires board approval for applications greater than \$100,000.

Discussion:

At the time of this writing, the 2018 CWRP grant applications have not been submitted. Applications are due on November 2, and staff anticipates a high volume of requests. Several applications will be submitted requesting funds to address flooding and debris flow damage associated with 2018 fires. The funding requests are anticipated to cover the match requirement and associated unreimbursable costs associated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. EWP funds from the NRCS have already been awarded to local governments for flood protection. Staff will outline a strategy to review these applications that includes formal Board approval.

Staff recommendation:

This is an informational item and no board action is requested.

