



TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Chris Sturm, Stream Restoration Coordinator
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: November 14-15, 2018 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 10.a-f. Water Plan Grants Overview - Environment and Recreation

Introduction

In 2018, the Environment and Recreation category was appropriated \$1.5 million in funding. The unreserved balance in the Environment and Recreation category is \$1,501,002, including carryover funds from the fiscal year 2017-2018 appropriation. In the first round of fiscal year 2018-2019 applications, the CWCB received 6 applications totaling \$1,805,420. Staff is recommending approval of the 6 grants totaling \$754,711, leaving \$746,289 available for future rounds of grant funding. See attached Data Sheets for locations and project summaries.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the projects/activities listed in the following table for Water Plan Grant funding contingent upon the applicants' abilities to address the issues discussed below.

Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request Amount	Staff Recommendation
a. City of Grand Junction	Las Colonias Park River Recreation Feature	\$175,000	\$150,000
b. City of Brighton	South Platte River Berm Removal	\$640,907	\$200,000
c. Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	Del Norte Riverfront Project	\$140,000	\$140,000
d. Ducks Unlimited	South Platte Basin Shallow Water Wetlands	\$169,604	\$84,802
e. Year One Inc., dba Mile High Youth Corps	John Griffin Regional Park - Tamarisk & Russian Olive Abatement	\$39,840	\$39,840
f. The Nature Conservancy	Wines Ditch Diversion and Conveyance Improvements	\$140,069	\$140,069
Total Recommended for Approval			\$754,711

Project Issues/Additional Needs:

- a. **City of Grand Junction - Las Colonias River Recreation Feature**
 - Project design should be subject to an independent engineering review.
 - Applicant should clarify with CWCB and their design engineer that the primary objective is ecological enhancement and not recreation.



- Applicant should produce a riparian re-vegetation plan prepared by a qualified professional. It should promote biological diversity.
 - Project should comply with the CWCB's Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado.
- b. City of Brighton - South Platte River Berm Removal**
- Project design should be subject to an independent engineering review.
 - Applicant should produce a riparian re-vegetation plan prepared by a qualified professional. It should promote biological diversity.
 - Project should comply with the CWCB's Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado.
 - Applicant must demonstrate an ability to fully fund the project.
- c. Colorado Rio Grande River Restoration Foundation - Del Norte Riverfront Project**
- Project design should be subject to an independent engineering review.
 - Applicant should produce a riparian re-vegetation plan prepared by a qualified professional. It should promote biological diversity.
 - Applicant should consult Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to confirm that the design will promote fish passage for species prioritized by CPW.
 - Project should comply with the CWCB's Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado.
- d. Ducks Unlimited - South Platte Basin Shallow Water Wetlands**
- Funding recommendation is one of the two projects proposed in their application. The applicant will work with CWCB staff to determine which project is a higher priority.
 - Applicant should demonstrate that it has a water right decreed for the proposed use.
 - Applicant should demonstrate that the Division of Water Resources can administer the water right.
- e. Mile High Youth Corps - John Griffin Regional Park - Tamarisk & Russian Olive Abatement**
- Applicant should produce a riparian re-vegetation plan prepared by a qualified professional. It should promote biological diversity.
 - Applicant should demonstrate that the re-vegetation budget is adequate to achieve re-vegetation objectives outlined in the plan.
 - Applicant should demonstrate that invasive species removal in this area is viable and not in an area where re-establishment is likely because of upstream, downstream, or surrounding populations.
- f. The Nature Conservancy - Wines Ditch Diversion and Conveyance Improvements**
- Project design should be subject to an independent engineering review.
 - Applicant should produce a riparian re-vegetation plan prepared by a qualified professional. It should promote biological diversity.
 - Applicant should consult Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to confirm that the design of the fish barrier is adequate and appropriately located.
 - Project should comply with the CWCB's Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado.