



TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Alexander Funk, Agricultural Water Resources Specialist, Interstate & Federal

DATE: May 15-16, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: 29 a-l. Water Plan Grants – Agriculture

Introduction

For fiscal year 2019, the Agricultural Project category received \$1 million in funding. The unreserved balance in the agriculture category is \$1,116,042, including carryover funds from fiscal year 2018. In the first round of fiscal year 2019 applications, the CWCB received 11 applications totaling \$1,240,919. The Board, at the November 2018 Board meeting, approved five grants totaling \$514,250 leaving \$601,792 available for future rounds of grant funding. In the second round of fiscal year 2019, the CWCB received 12 applications totaling \$1,772,956. Staff is recommending six projects totaling \$599,194 leaving \$2,598 available.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the following Board action for activities listed in the following table regarding Colorado's Water Plan Grant Program funding.

Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request Amount	Staff Recommendation
a. Colorado Open Lands	San Luis Valley River & Aquifer Recovery & Enhancement	\$35,500	Approve \$35,500
b. Julesburg Irrigation District	Petersen Ditch Diversion Integrated Rehabilitation Project	\$500,000 (\$200,000 AG) (\$150,000 Storage) (\$100,000 Env/Rec)	Approve \$450,000
c. The Nature Conservancy	Maybell Ditch Diversion Structure and Headgate Modernization	\$75,000	Approve \$75,000
d. San Miguel County	Expansion of Payment for Ecosystem Services Program	\$34,646	Approve \$34,646
e. Turner Ditch Company	Turner and Lone Cabin Ditch Salinity Reduction Project	\$200,000	Approve \$200,000
f. Trout Unlimited	Innovative Irrigation Efficiency for Mountain Meadows	\$54,048	Approve \$54,048



g. Lake Fork Ditch Company	Lake Fork Ditch Piping and Salinity Reduction Project	\$150,000	Not recommending
h. Overland Ditch and Reservoir Company	Overland Ditch Cal Poly ITRC Flap Gates	\$11,506	Not Recommending
i. Schneider Ditch Company	Schneider Diversion Structure Replacement	\$270,710 (\$150,000 AG) (\$120,710 Env/Rec)	Not Recommending
j. Upper Platte and Beaver Canal Company	Upper Platte and Beaver Canal Rehabilitation	\$1,098,095 (\$598,095 Ag) (\$500,000 Env/Rec)	Not Recommending
k. Mancos Water Conservancy District	Jackson Gulch Inlet Improvement	\$151,000	Not Recommending
l. Short Ditch Extension Company	Short Ditch Piping and Salinity Reduction Project	\$113,161	Not Recommending
Total Recommended for Approval			\$599,194

Staff Review and Comments

Staff reviewed the applications as a committee with the intent of expending remaining fiscal year 2018-2019 funds equitably on eligible projects among the basins that applied. Projects that did not receive recommendations for funding scored consistently low by the entire committee.

Project Issues/Additional Needs

- All funding awards are contingent upon the applicants' ability to secure match funding
- Grantees should adequately address CWCB staff comments to scopes of work and engineering designs (when applicable). This may result in changes, especially in the case of partial funding awards. Staff will schedule meetings with each successful applicant to discuss comments and contracting procedures