



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**
Department of Natural Resources

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 2025

Interstate Compact Compliance • Watershed Protection • Flood Planning & Mitigation • Stream & Lake Protection
Water Project Loans & Grants • Water Modeling • Conservation & Drought Planning • Water Supply Planning



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Lauren Ris
Rosie Major

DATE: March 19-20, 2025

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 4b, March 2025 CWCB Board Meeting Director's Report**

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STATEWIDE

Finance Section Director's Report Items – March 2025

CWCB SMALL FEASIBILITY STUDY GRANT FUND UPDATE:

New grant applications approved:

1. None

Previously approved grants in FY24/25:

1. None

Total funds approved for feasibility study grants in FY24/25: \$0

Federal Technical Assistance Grant Program Directors Report, March 2025

The Colorado Water Conservation Board's Federal Technical Assistance Program helps eligible entities review the many federal funding opportunities currently available for water projects, then prepare and submit federal grant applications. The Program can also help enhance projects prior to application with feasibility studies, planning, and partial design/engineering so that they stand out in the highly competitive federal grant process. The Program was established in spring 2022 via House Bill 22-1379, which appropriated CWCB \$2.5 million for Local Capacity Grants and an additional \$2.5 million for Technical Assistance Grants.

Local Capacity Grants: These are direct awards to grantees to secure the resources they need (contractors or otherwise) to develop projects and submit competitive federal grant applications.

Technical Assistance Grants: These are awards to grantees who want to utilize a contractor hired by the Colorado Water Conservation Board. This contractor can provide a wide variety of water project services, including researching federal grant opportunities, project design, partial engineering, cost estimation and federal application development/grant writing.

The 2024 Projects Bill contains language that allows CWCB to redistribute funds between the original Local Capacity and Technical Assistance appropriations in H.B. 22-1379. To meet demand and ensure that as much funding as possible is awarded to grantees, in fall 2024 program staff reappropriated \$1.2 million from the Technical Assistance side of the program to the Local Capacity side.

Local Capacity Grants

As of March 2025, the Federal Technical Assistance Program has awarded about \$3.6 million in Local Capacity Grants. The following table summarizes Local Capacity Grant awards through March 2025:

<u>Approved Applications</u>			
Applicant	Project	Total Project Budget	Grant Award
Owl Creek Lateral	Improved Storage and Operations	\$42,400	\$31,625
Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	Capacity for Federally Funded Conservation Projects in the Rio Grande Basin	\$194,750	\$145,000
Grand County Learning by Doing	Federal Funding for LBD Stream Restoration and Improvement Projects	\$237,531	\$169,775
Ute Mountain Utes Farm and Ranch Enterprise	Pre-Development Work (PL-566)	\$70,000	\$52,500
American Rivers	Wetland/Riparian Projects in the San Luis Valley	\$241,000	\$152,210
Colorado River Water Conservation District	Colorado River Drought Response Project	\$578,840	\$434,130
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	Rio Grande Basin Capacity to Secure Federal Project Funding	\$268,800	\$195,000
Collbran Water Conservation District	Plateau Valley Pre-Development Work (PL-566)	\$70,000	\$52,500
Sangre de Christo Acequia Association	Federal Funding to Improve Water Management	\$83,975	\$44,975
West Divide Water Conservancy District	Martin Reservoir Enlargement and Reconfiguration	\$315,906	\$118,464
Farmers Conservation Alliance	White River Ditches Modernization Strategy	\$564,690	\$188,186
Estes Valley Watershed Coalition	Fish Creek/Beaver Meadow Restoration Project	\$203,953	\$150,005
Southwestern Water Conservation District	Capacity Gaps in the Southwestern Water Conservation District	\$278,706	\$156,706
Farmers Conservation Alliance	Collbran Conservancy District Modernization Strategy	\$375,375	\$187,688
Trout Unlimited (Montrose)	Securing Federal Funding for Southwest Colorado Projects	\$168,496	\$129,836
Farmers Conservation Alliance	Pre-Development Work, Orchard Mesa Irrigation District	\$98,250	\$73,250
Farmers Conservation Alliance	Pre-Development Work, Montezuma Valley Irrigation Co	\$98,250	\$73,090
Farmers Conservation Alliance	Pre-Development Work, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District	\$23,625	\$17,625
Trout Unlimited/Gunnison Gorge Anglers	Uncompahgre River Fisheries Improvement Project	\$80,486	\$46,308

Big Thompson Watershed Coalition	Advancing the Big Thompson River Envisioning Project	\$216,033	\$162,027
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	Alamosa Riverfront Project - Planning, Design, Engineering Phase 2	\$88,457	\$57,599
Farmers Conservation Alliance	Modernization Efforts for King Ditch, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and RCCP	\$252,500	\$189,375
St. Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District	Knoth Reservoir Rehabilitation and Enlargement Feasibility Study	\$115,633	\$76,608
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Improve Measurement on the Fryingpan-Arkansas Collection System	\$29,890	\$22,418
Norwood Water Commission	NWC Water Storage and Supply Planning and Design	\$193,028	\$144,771
Farmers Conservation Alliance	Orchard Mesa Irrigation Modernization Strategy	\$240,000	\$180,000
Farmers Conservation Alliance	New Community Engagement	\$449,000	\$336,750
Total:		\$5,579,574	\$3,588,421

Technical Assistance Grants

H.B. 22-1379 established \$2.5 million for Technical Assistance Grants. CWCB has contracted with Abt Associates to provide wide-ranging assistance to communities and water managers across Colorado as they develop federal grant applications for projects with a nexus to the Colorado Water Plan.

As of March 2025, the Program has funded five Technical Assistance projects that are either completed or in process:

- City of Grand Junction, Juniata Ditch WaterSMART Grant Support (project complete)
- San Miguel Watershed Coalition, Reed-Chatfield Ditch and Diversion Project (contracting complete, project in process)
- Fountain Creek Watershed District, Fountain Creek Watershed District Technical Support (contracting complete, project in process)
- Trout Unlimited/National, Gunnison Basin EQIP Projects (contracting complete, project in process)
- Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, Minnequa Diversion Dam Removal and Replacement (contracting complete, project in process)

COLORADO RIVER BASIN

COLORADO RIVER WATER USE—

2025 Colorado River Storage as of January 13, 2025			
	Elevation (feet above mean sea level)	Storage (MAF)	Percent of Capacity
Lake Mead	1,068.24	9.060	35%
Lake Powell	3,562.47	7.963	34%
Total System Active Storage		24.175	41%
2024 Total Active Storage		24.866	43%
		Flow (MAF)	Percent of Average
Forecasted Unregulated Inflow into Powell (Forecasted Water Year 2025)		6.934	72%

*Note MAF = million acre-feet

Wild and Scenic Updates

Currently, two different stakeholder groups in the state are working on plans that are an alternative to Wild and Scenic eligibility or suitability. Two additional groups are considering pursuing Wild and Scenic River designations. The following provides updates on both types of stakeholder efforts.

Wild and Scenic Alternative Stakeholder Groups

Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group

Background: The Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group (UCRW&S or SG) was formed to protect the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) identified in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Wild and Scenic Eligibility Reports for river segments that start below the confluence with the Blue River and end near No Name in Glenwood Canyon. The SG includes water users from both the West Slope and East Slope, environmental interests, anglers, recreational interests, and local and state government representatives. The Amended and Restated Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group Management Plan (Plan) was completed in June 2020 and includes long-term protective measures, cooperative efforts to address issues, and monitoring of the ORVs and other important environmental factors related to recreational fishing and floatboating. The effective date of the Plan commenced June 12, 2015, upon issuance of records of decision by BLM and USFS. The federal entities accepted the SG Plan and deferred making suitability determinations as part of their resource planning efforts. More information about this group is available at: <https://www.upcowildandscenic.com/>

Updates: The SG continues to hold regular meetings, and subcommittees continue to meet to fulfill the SG Plan. The full SG met on January 17th, 2025 to discuss the federal agencies' effectiveness review of the SG, potential projects to improve facilities or education, and to hear committee updates. The SG met again on January 23rd to evaluate ORV Indicators and Resource Guides used to determine the health of the river and recreational opportunities. One fishing ORV Indicator was not achieved in one reach. This is the second occurrence that could result in an ORV failure if it occurs again before 2027. The SG is working to

better understand potential causes and to identify actions to try to prevent a failure of the Indicator. The SG will hold a stakeholder meeting on March 31st to elect new chairs and approve the 2024-2025 monitoring plan and budget for the group. Wild and Scenic Funds are supporting this group, the most recent request for \$99,999 was approved and issued in June 2024. The SG will likely make a new request this summer for continued support.

Lower Dolores Plan Working Group

Background: The Lower Dolores Plan Working Group has been meeting since 2008 to develop alternative protections for a section of the Dolores River between McPhee Dam and Bedrock. The stakeholder group includes water districts, conservation and recreation groups, local landowners, counties, and others. This group proposed to 1) create a National Conservation Area and 2) continue to understand and improve native fish habitats through the Dolores River Native Fish Monitoring and Recommendations Team (M&R Team). The BLM has agreed to not find portions of the Lower Dolores River eligible for Wild and Scenic designation if those actions occur. The legislation was first introduced to Congress in 2022 and reintroduced in both the House and Senate in 2023. The NCA legislation had a markup in December of 2023 in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee and passed unanimously. A hearing in the House ENR Committee is the next procedural step.

Fort Lewis College is assisting the M&R Team to conduct a number of monitoring efforts on the Dolores River. This group secured a WSRF Grant in 2020 for \$165,617 for a 5-year project. In addition, Fort Lewis College applied for Wild and Scenic funding in 2023 on behalf of the group for \$73,565.04 for a 2-yr project that will end in September 2025.

Updates: There are no updates on the legislation. The group plans to meet in April to further refine monitoring efforts for the 2025 field season; however, snowpack is low which will limit opportunities.

Potential Wild and Scenic Designations

Deep Creek Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group

Background: On July 8, 2015, the USFS White River National Forest and the BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office issued RODs finding three reaches of Deep Creek suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system. Deep Creek is a tributary to the Colorado River just upstream from the confluence with the Eagle River. That year, American Rivers convened CWCB staff, the Colorado River Water Conservation District (River District), BLM, USFS, and members of Colorado's congressional delegation to discuss issues related to a potential Wild and Scenic designation on Deep Creek. A stakeholder group (SG) was formed in 2016 to develop the boundaries, legislation, and flow protection with a state-held ISF water right. ORVs include ecologic, scenic, and geologic. The SG includes the USFS, BLM, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), local landowners, American Rivers, Eagle River Coalition, River District, and various recreation and environment-based groups among others. The group has been drafting and refining the legislation, evaluating flow needs, and working through SG concerns for several years. The SG approved an update to the proposed legislation in April 2024.

Updates: CWCB staff have been meeting internally to address concerns related to the legislation and need to protect the State's exclusive authority to administer waters within the State. CWCB staff plans to meet with the primary project proponents (American Rivers and the Eagle River Coalition) and Colorado River District Staff to discuss potential changes to the legislation. CWCB staff may ask the board to form intent on a Deep Creek ISF later in 2025.

Crystal River Wild and Scenic Collaborative

Background: A portion of the Crystal River from the headwaters to the Sweet Jessup canal headgate was determined to be eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic program in the 1980s and again in 2002. This local stakeholder group met numerous times in 2023 and 2024, with the assistance of a facilitator, to discuss flow and land use protection options. After the facilitator's contract, the stakeholder group formed a recommendation to further consider the three options, including a Wild and Scenic designation, an instream flow, and an intergovernmental agreement. The group has designated members of the steering committee into sub-groups to further gain understanding and explore all three of these options. More information about this group can be found on their website: <https://thecrystalvalleyecho.com/wild-scenic-stakeholder>.

Updates: The sub-groups will continue to meet to further explore what protections could be achieved through each of the three options. CWCB staff recently met with a representative from the group to discuss their interests in applying for a grant through the Wild and Scenic Rivers Fund to assist in the facilitation of the stakeholder group.

WATERSHED AND FLOOD UPDATES

Aquatic Connectivity Workgroup

Colorado Water Conservation Board staff is participating in an Aquatic Connectivity Workgroup, let by American Rivers. This group is focused on factors that influence the scale and success of aquatic connectivity restoration projects. There is significant work being done in this realm, on a mostly local scale with state funding to improve aquatic connectivity on Colorado's rivers and streams. The Aquatic Connectivity Group is not interested in being redundant to these efforts, rather the group has identified ways that a statewide aquatic connectivity team could support and encourage projects currently identified and expand capacity for watershed groups to work on these projects throughout the state. This group is just getting off the ground and has a lot of work to do, but an initial next step includes creating an inclusive forum that encourages broad participation, notably from Tribes, state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and watershed groups. It's also understood that there are many identified and vetted projects from Stream Management Plans and Integrated Water Management Plans, among other stakeholder-driven processes, and this group would like to fill gaps created by capacity, expertise, and funding that may be preventing these projects from moving forward. Initial ideas to manage this is by creating sub-groups focused on prioritization, funding, and project management, each of which will tailor recommendations for groups to move these projects forward.

(Andrea Harbin Monahan)

Colorado Water Plan Action Item 3.9 Update.

Action item 3.9 of the 2023 Colorado Water Plan calls for the creation of a framework for prioritizing stream health with local stakeholders. The CWCB Watershed and Flood Protection section is working closely with the Water Supply Section to implement Action Item 3.9. Staff have determined that the fastest path towards implementable actions in this realm is to begin watershed planning in gap areas.

Colorado has many watershed plans, e.g. stream assessments, watershed master plans, integrated watershed management plans, wildfire ready action plans, and others. They are typically put together at the HUC-8 or Sub-basin scale, e.g. Blue River or Big Thompson River. Many of these sub-basins have multiple watershed plans and assessments put together by stakeholder groups led by watershed coalitions, water conservancy districts, and local government. These plans use detailed data and local knowledge to prioritize areas that will restore or enhance stream health (and often other objectives). Not all sub-basins have such groups working together collaboratively to plan for projects that impart resiliency with the watershed. Some of these sub-basins have good potential to improve or enhance watershed health while protecting critical water supplies.

Staff have engaged the River Network to identify high priority watersheds that lack watershed plans. Existing datasets have been employed to identify these areas in detail (HUC-12 watershed scale). The River Network used data from the CWCB's Wildfire Ready Watersheds Program, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Colorado Natural Heritage Program together with data representing ecosystem conservation values and existence of an existing watershed group or other community-based organization. The analysis of this data has identified high priority areas for watershed planning.

CWCB staff are now evaluating opportunities to educate basin roundtables and watershed groups about gap planning areas. Staff are also developing strategies to guide interested parties in the towards planning paths that satisfy local objectives and identify actions. The [River Network's Prioritization Tool](#) is now available for stakeholders interested in learning more about the high priority areas and data.

-Chris Sturm

Colorado's River Health Assessment Framework (CoRHAF) – Update

The 2023 Colorado Water Plan unveiled a strategy encompassing 50 core agency actions. The recently released Colorado Water Plan Progress Report showcased 20% progress on all these actions. Agency Action 3.1, in Thriving Watersheds, is the development of Colorado's River Health Assessment Framework (CoRHAF). CoRHAF was not included in the 20% progress report, however our team has been working on developing this framework.

A river health assessment is a scientific evaluation of a river's condition, examining factors like water quality, physical habitat, and biological life to determine its overall ecological integrity. Essentially, it's a process that measures how well a river is functioning as a healthy ecosystem. To develop, complete and make continued assessments of a river's health, it is often necessary to develop and follow a framework. On the surface, it may seem easy to complete a river health assessment, but without a framework it quickly becomes very cumbersome to collect scientifically sound data, repeated on a proper temporal and spatial scale, in order to assess trends through time.

The CWCB Watershed team is working with several leading experts in this field to produce a highly relevant, user-friendly protocol and tool set that guide users from an initial concern or desire into the development of a fully functional framework to guide the assessment of a river's health. We are working with the River Network and their Peer Learning Network to have a draft roll-out of CoRHAF in early May 2025. This initial deployment will facilitate user feedback and inform subsequent revisions, leading to a finalized, user-friendly tool hosted on the [CWCB Watershed webpage](#).

(Steven Reeves)

**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
Community Assistance Program-State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE)
Colorado Floodplain Development Management Program**

Participating Communities

Congratulations to the Town of Hugo as we welcome it as Colorado's newest NFIP participating community. With a population of approximately 790 and located just southeast of Limon, the community rests in the South Platte Basin and has been working with CWCB and FEMA since 2020 on the program participation process joining officially on February 12, 2025. In joining the NFIP, Hugo hopes to convey the town's commitment to protecting residents and property from flood events and attract additional investment and opportunities to their community. We wish to thank the community's elected officials & staff and our FEMA partners for getting the town across the finish line.

A Letter of Final Determination related to updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) was issued on January 8, 2025, for Mineral County and the City of Creede. The new FIRMs go effective on July 8, 2025, and will replace the current maps which date from 1986. This office is working closely with the communities to ensure their floodplain development management rules are compliant and adoption of the new maps take place prior to the July 8th deadline.

Association of Montana Floodplain Managers Annual (AMFM) Conference

This office attended Montana's annual conference of floodplain managers in Missoula, MT, February 25-28. The conference was an opportunity to connect with flood and watershed professionals from around the country and learn best practices in flood mitigation and development management. Workshop and seminar topics from this year's conference included Letters of Map Change, irrigation challenges/hazards, bank stabilization, emergency floodplain permitting, and channel migration of the Yellowstone River following the 2022 flood event. Chad Berginnis, Executive Director of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), gave the keynote address which was focused on no adverse impacts and resilience.

NFIP CAP-SSSE Grant

We bade farewell to our NFIP specialist, Willem Lensink, on January 3rd, 2025, as he departed his position with CWCB to join FEMA's disaster recovery team. Willem joined CWCB in May of 2023 and was a great asset for the program, assisting communities with everything from regulatory guidance to NFIP compliance. We wish him the best of luck at FEMA and know that he will be missed.

2nd Quarter reporting of the CAP-SSSE grant was completed and submitted on January 30, 2025. We continue to work towards completing the activities outlined in our approved scope of work.

With the new Presidential administration taking office on January 20 this office continues to work with CWCB & DNR leadership, the CO Attorney General's Office, the CO Governor's Office, and our FEMA partners to address the administration's national priorities.

(Doug Mahan)

March 2025 Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) Review Partners Program Update

The CWCB LOMR Review Partners (LRP) Program continues to work with applicants, communities, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to answer questions, provide guidance, and work through complex issues for both ongoing and upcoming map revision requests. In February, the task order for ICON Engineering Inc. to provide program management support was executed.

Currently there are 57 ongoing cases in Arapahoe, Boulder, Delta, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Grand, Gunnison, Larimer, Mesa, Montrose, Pitkin, Prowers, Teller, Weld, and Yuma Counties. CWCB has begun the processing of Boulder County LOMRs that were based on CHAMP data and closed with Special Response Letters (SRLs). These cases will be opened in the order SRLs were dated, and draft exhibits and final documents completed and sent to FEMA for final processing. Once these LOMRs have been issued they will have a 90-day mandatory appeal period and become effective approximately 4.5 months later. Currently, the first three SRL LOMRs have been reopened and are in processing.

March 2025 Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) Project Updates

CWCB is FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) for the state while Mile High Flood District (MHFD) is the CTP within their service area (Denver Metropolitan Area). CWCB provides support for and coordination with MHFD on projects and data sharing for communities that extend across common boundaries. This past November, CWCB executed master task order contracts with four engineering companies, CDM Smith Inc., Dewberry Inc., Michael Baker International Inc., and WSP USA Inc., to provide technical expertise for Risk MAP projects. There is only one outstanding master task order contract for AECOM Inc., which is currently still in processing. Key updates by major water basins are detailed below.

1. South Platte River Basin

- Boulder County PMR - FEMA's Production and Technical Services (PTS) team is finalizing their restudy efforts for Lefthand Creek on FIRM Panels 08013C0245J and 08013C0385J, which was required by the Scientific Review Panel (SRP) after the latest round of appeals was settled in early 2023. FEMA has directed these panels to move forward as a Physical Map Revision (PMR) with a revised preliminary and additional appeals process to allow for due process. Another round of public meetings will be scheduled in the coming months.

- Larimer County PMR - The Drake Levee LOMR, which has been the primary delay for the Larimer County PMR obtaining a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) for map issuance, is expected to be provided to CWCB for incorporation in the coming weeks. Currently, CWCB estimates that Larimer County will obtain a LFD by July 2025, with the maps going effective in January 2026.
 - Phillips Countywide - CWCB has obtained signed memorandums of agreement (MOAs) from all impacted communities to finalize the Phase 2 study scope. CWCB is finalizing the corresponding task order and expects Phase 2 work to continue by the end of the month.
 - Sedgwick Countywide – The BLE Phase 1 (Discovery) study is anticipated to be complete and closed out by the end of March. Phase 2 is anticipated to begin soon after.
- 2. Colorado Basin**
- Eagle County PMR – The Physical Map Revision (PMR) Phase 3 appeals period started on 12/12/24 and will end 3/12/25.
 - Grand Countywide – The BLE Phase 1 Kickoff Meeting (virtual) was held on 1/21/2025.
 - Summit Countywide – Two virtual Phase 2 Flood Risk Review meetings were held on 2/19/25 and 2/21/25 to accommodate community schedules. Comments from the attendees are being reviewed and will be incorporated as appropriate.
- 3. Gunnison Basin**
- Delta Countywide – Phase 3 due process period is underway. The appeal period began 1/30/2025 and will end 4/30/2025.
- 4. Rio Grande Basin**
- Mineral County PMR - The Mineral County PMR obtained a Letter of Final Determination from FEMA on 1/08/2025, and is anticipated to go effective on 7/08/2025.
- 5. Arkansas Basin**
- Custer Countywide – The Phase 2 study (Data Development) task order is currently being prepared.
 - Las Animas Levee - CWCB met with the Las Animas Conservancy District on 1/31/2025 and 2/19/2025 to discuss certification efforts and potential funding opportunities to support this work.
 - Crowley Countywide – The BLE Phase 1 Discovery meeting (virtual) was held on 3/04/2025.
- 6. Multi-Basin Projects**
- Elbert County - The Phase 2 Flood Risk Review Meeting is anticipated for late March.
 - Lincoln County – The BLE Phase 1 study was fully approved on 12/9/24. This phase of the project is wrapped up and we are ready to begin scoping Phase 2 (Data Development).

- Saguache County PMR - The PMR Phase 3 appeals process is anticipated to begin in the coming weeks, after the documentation is published in the Federal Register mid-March.

(Caitlin McDaniel and Marta Blanco Castano)

Federal Issues Affecting Flood Section in Regard to Ongoing Federal Funding

The last two months have been very impactful to the flood section – arguably the tensest two-month period in my entire 22 year history with the Flood Section. There has been a great deal of chaos affecting the section since the arrival of the new presidential administration, with most of it relating to the status of funding for programs administered by the flood section, but also new anxieties involving federally funded positions and the long-term outlook for the programs themselves.

Since the last board meeting, the flood section has been daily navigating numerous issues involving the section and its federal nexus. Specifically, there have been freezes associated with federally funded programs (floodplain mapping and floodplain management) that have been implemented and rescinded and, in some cases, implemented again. There have been threats to cut future funding for the programs (more on that below). There have been rumors about employees of federal partners being fired (although to our knowledge, as of the date of this writing, none have been impacted yet). There have been demands to amend all federal grants and remove any mention of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and climate change associated tasks (more on that below). Several meetings with federal agencies have been cancelled without explanation. Federal grants that fund cost shares for a few of our watershed grants have been frozen, in some cases for projects that have already started and have costs already on the books.

This has triggered numerous processes at the state level. Staff have been asked by our federal partners to comb through our federal grants and identify all mentions of a few key phrases, a task we have complied with. Following that, the floodplain mapping and floodplain regulations groups have been ordered to amend their federal grants to remove tasks associated with and any mention of these phrases, mostly dealing with DEI and climate change issues. This remains a fluid process as of this writing with significant coordination with the DNR Executive Director's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and the Governor's Office.

Regarding the floodplain mapping program, our staff has been informed to expect significant cuts in federal funding for the next couple years, something which is certain to impact the program down the road unless this is reversed. There has been no threat yet to revoke already issued funding, and it is important to note that the program has a significant backlog that is expected to keep it busy for the next 2-3 years in the absence of further changes. There are three positions within the floodplain mapping program that are 100% federally funded by these grants, and all this uncertainty has led to tangible anxiety among these staff members. Further exacerbating this on a personal level, multiple section staff members have family members who are employed by the federal government in positions that are feared to potentially be in conflict with the current administration.

All of this work has been funded (as it has in some cases, for almost 50 years) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As has been stated in the news, there has been a lot of discussion in federal circles about the future of FEMA. I will leave it at that.

Finally, there has been some difficulties with some of the grants administered by the Watershed group within the section. A few of the grants incorporate cost shares that are funded by separate federal grants, many of which have been frozen. In many cases, these are for projects that have not yet begun,

but in some cases, costs have already been incurred, leaving it unclear how these projects will be able to move forward and be invoiced for completed work. Staff is working with grantees on a case-by-case basis. This has resulted in some on-the-ground problems beyond the obvious funding issues. First, staff has been made aware of certain local watershed coalition staff that have already been laid off due to the federal funding freeze. Second, our own staff are keenly aware of the upcoming deadline for funds to be fully spent in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the Wildfire Ready Watersheds (WRW) program. The ARPA funding must be fully spent out by December 2026. A significant start delay could cause some projects to run up against this deadline.

I will sum it up by saying that this has been a period of heavy turmoil for all groups within the flood section. I am hopeful for some stability developing in the coming months. My thanks to our own agency administration, the DNR Executive Director's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and the Governor's Office for their continuous and ongoing support throughout this period.

(Kevin Houck)

WATER SUPPLY PLANNING SECTION UPDATES

Water Plan Agency Action Updates:

- *Transformative Landscape Change State-of-the-Science Report*: This report, part of Agency Action 1.7, explores turf replacement and transformative landscape change to reduce outdoor municipal water use, while supporting vibrant communities. It emphasizes collaborative efforts to maximize water savings and avoid negative impacts on resilient landscapes. The report analyzes systems thinking, land-use planning, ecosystem benefits, and targeting water inefficiencies. It also provides lessons from ongoing turf replacement initiatives in Colorado.
- *DIY Landscape Transformation Guide*: Another deliverable under Agency Action 1.7, this guide helps Colorado residents transform their yards into water-efficient, multi-beneficial landscapes by replacing traditional turf. Developed through a partnership with CWCB, Denver Water, Resource Central, and other stakeholders, the guide empowers residents with step-by-step instructions for landscaping.
- *Collaborative Water Sharing Agreements (CWSAs) - 2025 Update Report*: For over 20 years, CWCB has supported voluntary, compensated water-sharing projects, now called CWSAs (formerly Alternative Water Transfer Methods or ATMs). The 2023 Water Plan continues to prioritize these efforts. The 2025 update includes an overview of the shift from ATMs to CWSAs, an updated inventory of current agreements, and progress metrics. It also highlights how the 2023 Water Plan builds on past efforts and provides recommendations for advancing CWSAs across Colorado.
- *Climate and Water Workshops*: Water Plan Agency Action 4.5 directs CWCB to host two workshops that support the forthcoming Climate Impacts Report, a collaborative effort with CSU. The workshops will help assess climate hazards and their impact on water resources in Colorado, alongside local resilience efforts. The workshops will engage water industry professionals and community organizations, particularly those representing populations disproportionately impacted by climate change.
 - Workshop 1: April 3, 2025, at CSU Pueblo Occhiato Conference Center (Pueblo, CO)
 - Workshop 2: April 23, 2025, at Clifton Community Center (Clifton, CO)
 - Both workshops are free to attend but require RSVP. Visit <https://engagecwcb.org/climate-water-workshops> for more information or contact Emily Adrid.

Water Supply Planning Program Updates:

- *Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) – February 26th, 2025 Meeting*: The IBCC meeting covered several important topics, including a legislative update on water-related bills for the 2025 session and a recap of the 2024 C9 Summit with feedback for 2025. The IBCC discussed the Drought Resilience Action Plan and created a subcommittee to advance the initiative. Basin members shared challenges such as participation issues and funding constraints. Updates on Colorado River negotiations were also provided. The next IBCC meeting is scheduled for June 2025, where topics like the Colorado River update and Drought Resilience subcommittee progress will be discussed.
- *Turf Replacement Grant Program (TRGP)*: The latest funding cycle closed on February 28, 2025, with 13 applications submitted. CWCB staff will review the applications and make recommendations for the remaining \$470,000 in grant funding. After this cycle, all available

funding will be obligated. A review committee will present recommendations to the Board in May.

- *CO Water Loss Initiative*: Phase II of the initiative concludes in March-April 2025, with Phase III starting in April. The program includes core training and the development of a new data validator program to improve the accuracy of water loss audits. The CO Water Loss Control Committee met in January to establish goals for 2025 and submitted abstracts to professional conferences, including the Rocky Mountain Water Conference. Kevin is also involved in planning the 2025 North American Water Loss Conference in Louisville, KY.
- *Land/Water Planning Nexus*: Kevin continues to participate in the implementation phase of the Denver One Water Plan, focusing on urban water management and sustainability. One Water Day 2025 will coincide with the SHED Summit on June 20, 2025.
- *Growing Water Smart Workshop*: The next workshop will be held in Montrose, April 28-30, 2025, targeting participants from the Colorado River and Southwestern Water Conservation Districts. The workshop will focus on water planning and will be supported by several Water Supply Planning staff who will serve as facilitators.
- *Agriculture Emergency Drought Program*: The Agriculture Emergency Drought Program provides up to \$1 million annually in loans or grants for drought-related water augmentation for agricultural water users. Eligible entities include agricultural organizations, ditch and reservoir companies, conservancy districts, and conservation districts in counties designated for emergency drought or disaster relief. Applications are due by April 15, 2025. Contact Nora Flynn for more information.

GRANTS SECTION

Grants Section Board Update March 2025

Tracking and Evaluating Federal Funding Issues

- While Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants and Water Plan Grants have state funding sources and do not rely on federal funds, applicants and grantees may be relying on federal match for their projects. Staff have been working to understand which projects are impacted, or may be impacted, and the risk to project success if the federal funds do not come through.

Water Funding Outreach and Media Coverage

- In partnership with Colorado Water Congress and Water Education Colorado, CWCB/DNR staff gave a *Water Funding 101* education presentation at the Capitol February 5, geared towards legislators, their staff, and other interested parties.
- Fox31 Denver KDVR interviewed Grants Section Chief, Jeannine Shaw about sports betting tax revenue supporting water projects in Colorado. The interview aired after the Super Bowl and can be viewed here: <https://kdvr.com/video/how-sports-betting-in-colorado-is-helping-preserve-a-precious-resource/10442155/>
- CWCB contributed a byline article for the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association's publication highlighting a Water Plan Grant the City of Westminster received to convert non-functional turf at City Hall to a water efficient landscape with educational opportunities. The article is on page 25 here: https://issuu.com/designertp/docs/cpra_byline_winter_2025
- Outreach highlights from Regional Water Plan Grant managers:
 - Participated in the Western Colorado Soil Health, Food and Farm Forum in Montrose January 23
 - Attended the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District 2025 Water Symposium in Longmont February 27.
 - Presented at the Arkansas Basin Water Forum in Pueblo March 4.
 - Tabling at the AgriSummit in Salida March 7th.
 - Attended the 10th Anniversary Poudre River Forum in Greeley March 10.
 - Tabling at the Southwest Water Seminar in Ignacio on March 28 in and Rio Grande Basin Symposium on March 29 in Alamosa.
 - Presenting at the Upper Gunnison Grant workshop, Gunnison March 24-26.
 - Presenting at the Beyond Grants Fundraising Training in Grand Junction April 2-4.

Staffing

Dean Johnson, Jr. who supported contracting for Water Plan Grants for the last two years, departed the CWCB March 7 to take a promotion opportunity with another state agency. Leadership is working to fill the position.



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

March 19, 2025

Re: Water Plan Grant Approvals \$50,000 or less

To: Jeannine Shaw, CWCB Grants Section Chief

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved staff recommendations for the second award cycle for Water Plan Grants for fiscal year 2024/2025 that are \$50,000 or less, as listed in Table 1 on the next page.

Sincerely,

Lauren Ris
CWCB Director



Conservation & Land Use						
Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
East Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District	ECCV Water Conservation Plan 2025 Update	\$35,984.42	\$35,984.42	\$48,068.72	25%	Metro
Town of Frisco	Town of Frisco Water Rate and Connection Fee Study	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$115,170.00	57%	Colorado
	Total	\$85,984.42	\$85,984.42			
Engagement & Innovation						
Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
South Metro Water Supply Authority	Water Ambassador Outreach	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$40,000.00	25%	Metro
	Total	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00			

Table 1: Water Plan Grants recommended by staff for CWCB Director approval



INSTREAM FLOW

Shoshone Permanency Project Update:

CWCB staff has been working with the Colorado River Water Conservation District (River District) and Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCO) on a potential acquisition of the Shoshone Power Plant water rights with the intention to add instream flow (ISF) as a decreed use. The River District plans to submit a formal offer letter regarding this acquisition in April. If that occurs CWCB staff will bring an agenda item for the Board's consideration at the May 21-22, 2025, CWCB meeting. This will initiate the formal acquisition process, which is a 120-day period for the Board to determine whether to accept a contract or agreement for the acquisition as defined by Rule 6 of the [Rules Concerning the Colorado Instream Flow and Natural Lake Level Program](#). The first meeting considering an ISF acquisition requires no formal action from the Board but provides an opportunity for CWCB staff to present relevant information that will allow the Board to evaluate the appropriateness of the acquisition. Any person may request the Board to hold a hearing on a proposed acquisition and such a request must be submitted to the Board in writing within 20 days after the first Board meeting the acquisition is first considered. If a hearing is requested on the proposed acquisition, it must be held within 120 days after the first board meeting the acquisition is considered unless the Person requesting the Board to consider the proposed acquisition agrees to an extension of time. Based on this schedule that is outlined in the Rule 6, unless an extension of time is agreed upon a hearing and final board decision about the proposed Shoshone Power Plant water rights acquisition must occur no later than the scheduled CWCB September 17-18, 2025, meeting.

March 19-20, 2025 CWCB Board Meeting Instream Flow and Natural Lake Level Program Summary of Resolved Legal Protection Cases

The Board's Instream Flow ("ISF") Rule 8i(1) states:

In the event the pretrial resolution includes terms and conditions preventing injury or interference and does not involve a modification, or acceptance of injury or interference with mitigation, the Board is not required to review and ratify the pretrial resolution. Staff may authorize its counsel to sign any court documents necessary to finalize this type of pretrial resolution without Board ratification.

Staff has resolved issues of potential injury in the following water court cases. Staff had (A) filed Statements of Opposition in the several cases listed below; and (B) obtained an agreement via a Letter-in-Lieu of filing a Statement of Opposition in three other cases.

A. Statements of Opposition

1. Case No. 22CW3042 (Water Division 1) - Application of City of Greeley

The Board ratified this Statement of Opposition at its July 2022 meeting. Applicant requested "Change of Water Rights, Appropriation of Return Flows, Conditional Water Right, and Plan for Augmentation Including Water Exchange Project." Staff, in cooperation with the Attorney General's Office, has negotiated a settlement to ensure that the CWCB's instream flow water rights will not be injured. CWCB signed the Stipulation on December 23, 2024. The Stipulation was accepted by the Court on January 13, 2025. This case remains pending before the Water Court Referee.

The CWCB holds instream flow ("ISF") water rights, including the following, in Water Division 1 in the Cache La Poudre watershed that could have been injured by this application:

Case Number	Stream	Upper Terminus	Lower Terminus	CFS Rate (Dates)	Approp. Date
W-9261 (1978)	South Fork Cache la Poudre River	Confl of Little Beaver Creek	Confluence of Cache la Poudre	15 (1/1 - 12/31)	01/19/1978
85CW0419	Cache la Poudre River	Confluence of Joe Wright Ck	Confluence of Sheep Creek	20 (1/1 - 12/31)	11/08/1985
85CW0422	Cache la Poudre River	Confluence of Sheep Creek	Confluence of South Fork Cache la Poudre	38 (1/1 - 12/31)	11/08/1985
85CW0425	Cache la Poudre River	Confluence of South Fork Cache la Poudre	Wild & Scenic terminus	55 (1/1 - 12/31)	11/08/1985
87CW0270	Cache la Poudre River	Confluence of La Poudre Pass Ck	Confluence of Joe Wright Creek	16 (11/1 - 3/31) 32 (4/1 - 10/31)	12/11/1987

In addition to standard terms regarding measuring devices, accounting and retained jurisdiction, the Applicant has agreed to the following additional protective terms and conditions:

- Applicant clarified its junior water right claim, which is intended as an appropriation of return flows, using the defined term "Return Flow Replacement Right."
- Applicant clarified that it intends to replace historical return flows "in time, at the location required to prevent injury, and amount as described in this Decree."

2. Case No. 23CW3000 (Water Division 3) - Application of Forbes Park Land Owners Association

The Board ratified this Statement of Opposition at its May 2023 meeting. Applicant requested "Absolute Water Storage Rights and Approval of Plan for Augmentation, Including by Exchange or Substitution." Staff, in cooperation with the Attorney General's Office, has negotiated a settlement to ensure that the CWCB's instream flow water right will not be injured. CWCB signed the Stipulation on February 21, 2025. The Stipulation was accepted by the Court on February 24, 2025. This case remains pending before the Water Court Judge.

The CWCB holds instream flow ("ISF") water rights, including the following, in Water Division 3 in the Alamosa-Trinchera watershed that could have been injured by this application:

Case Number	Stream	Upper Terminus	Lower Terminus	CFS Rate (Dates)	Approp. Date
82CW0230	Sangre de Cristo Creek	headwaters in vicinity	confl Ute Creek	2 (1/1 - 12/31)	10/07/1982

In addition to standard terms regarding measuring devices, accounting and retained jurisdiction, the Applicant has agreed to the following additional protective terms and conditions:

- “CWCB’s Water Right: Pursuant to § 37-92-102(3), C.R.S., the CWCB holds an instream flow water right on Sangre de Cristo Creek decreed in Case No. 82CW0230, Water Division 3 (“CWCB’s Right”). The Forbes Park Ponds were constructed by 1979 and since their initial fill have been kept full by refilling evaporative losses. Therefore, pursuant to § 37-92-102(3)(b), C.R.S., and in recognition of Applicants’ water uses pursuant to practices that existed as of the date of the appropriation of the CWCB’s Right, refill of the Forbes Park Ponds for the limited purpose of replacing evaporative losses from the ponds for their current surface areas and further limited to the evaporative losses augmented herein up to the annual amounts of 50.40 acre-feet (Forbes Park Lake), 4.40 acre-feet (McCarty Pond), 2.43 acre-feet (Petito Pond), 1.90 acre-feet (Hayden Pond), 0.99 acre-feet (Burgoyne Pond), 0.25 acre-feet (Upper Chimney Pond), and 1.69 acre-feet (Lower Chimney Pond), shall not be subject to administration during an administered call by the CWCB’s Right. Any refill of the Forbes Park Ponds above these amounts and for any operation besides the replacement of evaporative losses shall be subject to administration during an administered call by the CWCB’s Right. This operation of § 37-92-102(3)(b), C.R.S., shall not interfere with the administration of the Forbes Park Ponds in priority as against other water rights, and shall not result in general subordination of the CWCB’s Right to any other water rights. The CWCB’s Right is not subject to § 37-92-102(3)(b), C.R.S., with respect to any fill or refill of stored water in McCarty Pond or Forbes Park Pond to replace releases from those ponds for their augmentation and replacement uses.”

3. Case Nos. 22CW3128 (Water Division 5) - Application of Mainland Ranch P3 LLC

The Board ratified this Statement of Opposition at its March 2023 meeting. Applicant requested “Simple Change in Surface Point of Diversion.” Staff, in cooperation with the Attorney General’s Office, has negotiated a settlement to ensure that the CWCB’s instream flow water rights will not be injured. CWCB signed the Stipulation on February 18, 2025. The Stipulation was accepted by the Court on February 25, 2025. This case remains pending before the Water Court Referee.

The CWCB holds instream flow (“ISF”) water rights, including the following, in Water Division 5 in the Roaring Fork watershed that could have been injured by this application:

Case Number	Stream	Upper Terminus	Lower Terminus	CFS Rate (Dates)	Approp. Date
W-2938 (1976)	Woody Creek	headwaters	confl Roaring Fork River	6 (1/1 - 12/31)	01/14/1976
85CW0639	Roaring Fork River	confl Fryingpan River	confl Crystal River	75 (10/1 - 3/31) 145 (4/1 - 9/30)	11/08/1985
85CW0646	Roaring Fork River	confl Maroon Creek	confl Fryingpan River	30 (10/1 - 3/31) 55 (4/1 - 9/30)	11/08/1985

In addition to standard terms regarding measuring devices, accounting and retained jurisdiction, the Applicant has agreed to the following additional protective terms and conditions:

- “Applicant will not increase the diversion rate or volume of water diverted by this change.”

- “Applicant shall limit diversions at the changed point of diversion to the amount of water physically and legally available at the original point of diversion to avoid any expansion of use and to avoid injury to other water rights.”
- “Applicant is restricted to irrigation of the same acreage as was historically irrigated by the subject water rights. A map showing the irrigated acreage is attached as Exhibit B.”

4. Case No. 22CW3130 (Water Division 5) - Application of Mainland Ranch P1 LLC

The Board ratified this Statement of Opposition at its March 2023 meeting. Applicant requested “Storage Water Rights and Plan of Augmentation Including Exchange.” Staff, in cooperation with the Attorney General’s Office, has negotiated a settlement to ensure that the CWCB’s instream flow water rights will not be injured. CWCB signed the Stipulation on February 18, 2025. The Stipulation was accepted by the Court on February 25, 2025. This case remains pending before the Water Court Referee.

The CWCB holds instream flow ("ISF") water rights, including the following, in Water Division 5 in the Roaring Fork watershed that could have been injured by this application:

Case Number	Stream	Upper Terminus	Lower Terminus	CFS Rate (Dates)	Approp. Date
W-2938 (1976)	Woody Creek	headwaters	confl Roaring Fork River	6 (1/1 - 12/31)	01/14/1976
85CW0639	Roaring Fork River	confl Fryingpan River	confl Crystal River	75 (10/1 - 3/31) 145 (4/1 - 9/30)	11/08/1985
85CW0646	Roaring Fork River	confl Maroon Creek	confl Fryingpan River	30 (10/1 - 3/31) 55 (4/1 - 9/30)	11/08/1985

In addition to standard terms regarding measuring devices, accounting and retained jurisdiction, the Applicant has agreed to the following additional protective terms and conditions:

- In the event of a call on Collins Creek, Woody Creek, or the Roaring Fork River above the confluence with the Fryingpan River, Applicant will curtail all diversions into the Four Suns Augmentation Pond Nos. 1 and 2 by shutting the headgate at the Four Suns Pond System Diversion. Applicant will release water from Four Suns Augmentation Pond Nos. 1 and 2 via a low-level outlet in Pond No. 2 that replaces water directly back to Collins Creek. When Applicant is using the Four Suns Augmentation Pond Nos. 1 and 2 for augmentation use, pond levels will drop commensurate with evaporation and augmentation releases.
- No flow through or freshening flow water right is decreed in this case. However, Applicant may divert water at the Four Suns Pond System Diversion, Collins Creek Sprinkler Diversion, or Four Suns Dewatering Well Nos. 1-2 through the Fishery Ponds to serve as freshening flows to the extent these diversions do not cause additional stream depletions beyond evaporative losses in the ponds and channels. Such operation is augmented through the plan for augmentation decreed herein. In the event Applicant does not have sufficient augmentation water in the required time, place, and amount to replace depletions, Applicant will cease all freshening flows and divert all water from the Four Suns Dewatering Well Nos. 1-2 directly back to Collins Creek using the proposed pipeline return

pathways shown on Exhibit A. In this scenario, Applicant would also curtail all pond diversions at the Four Suns Pond System Diversion or Collins Creek Sprinkler Diversion, as described in paragraph 9.C.iv.

5. Case No. 22CW3131 (Water Division 5) - Application of Mainland Ranch P2 LLC

The Board ratified this Statement of Opposition at its March 2023 meeting. Applicant requested "Change in Point of Diversion." Staff, in cooperation with the Attorney General's Office, has negotiated a settlement to ensure that the CWCB's instream flow water rights will not be injured. CWCB signed the Stipulation on February 18, 2025. The Stipulation was accepted by the Court on February 25, 2025. This case remains pending before the Water Court Referee.

The CWCB holds instream flow ("ISF") water rights, including the following, in Water Division 5 in the Roaring Fork watershed that could have been injured by this application:

Case Number	Stream	Upper Terminus	Lower Terminus	CFS Rate (Dates)	Approp. Date
W-2938 (1976)	Woody Creek	headwaters	confl Roaring Fork River	6 (1/1 - 12/31)	01/14/1976
85CW0639	Roaring Fork River	confl Fryingpan River	confl Crystal River	75 (10/1 - 3/31) 145 (4/1 - 9/30)	11/08/1985
85CW0646	Roaring Fork River	confl Maroon Creek	confl Fryingpan River	30 (10/1 - 3/31) 55 (4/1 - 9/30)	11/08/1985

In addition to standard terms regarding measuring devices, accounting and retained jurisdiction, the Applicant has agreed to the following additional protective terms and conditions:

- Applicant is restricted to irrigation of the same acreage as was historically irrigated with its Bionaz Ditch water rights.
- Because the place of use will not change, all irrigation return flows will accrue to the stream in accordance with their historical patterns.
- Applicant shall not increase the diversion rate or volume of water diverted by this change.
- Applicant shall limit diversions at the changed point of diversion to the amount of water physically and legally available at the original point of diversion to avoid any expansion of use and to avoid injury to other water rights.

B. Letters-in-Lieu

The following case was resolved by Staff through a negotiated letter in lieu of filing a water court Statement of Opposition. This method of settlement is preferred when facts and time allow such negotiation before the Statement of Opposition period ends. In this case, CWCB staff will continue to monitor the proposed rulings and decrees. In this case, Applicant has agreed to not oppose a motion to intervene if the agreed upon terms are not included. The following was negotiated to resolution:

1. Case No. 24CW3055 (Water Division 4) - Application of GPS Land, LLC

During the December 2024 Water Court Resume Review, CWCB staff identified concerns regarding potential injury to CWCB's instream flow water rights decreed in Case No. 06CW0228 on Smith Fork. This case was resolved with CWCB by a letter agreement, February 24, 2025, by which CWCB agreed not to file a Statement of Opposition, provided Applicant incorporates the following terms and conditions into any draft and final decrees and Applicant agrees to not oppose a Motion to Intervene by CWCB if such terms and conditions are not included.

- "Applicant recognizes that the Colorado Water Conservation Board's instream flow water right on the Smith Fork Gunnison River, decreed in Case No. 06CW228, is senior to the Crawford Reservoir Exchange decreed herein."
- "At times when the Smith Fork is being administered and the instream flow water right is not satisfied, the Crawford Reservoir Exchange shall be curtailed to the extent necessary to prevent injury."

2. Case No. 24CW3175 (Water Division 5) - Application of Mark Knauer 2002 Declaration of Trust and Jane Brenton-Knauer 2002 Declaration of Trust

During the December 2024 Water Court Resume Review, CWCB staff identified concerns regarding potential injury to CWCB's instream flow water rights decreed in Case Nos. 80CW0124 and 80CW0126 on the Eagle River. This case was resolved with CWCB by a letter agreement, dated February 21, 2025, by which CWCB agreed not to file a Statement of Opposition, provided Applicant incorporates the following terms and conditions into any draft and final decrees and Applicant agrees to not oppose a Motion to Intervene by CWCB if such terms and conditions are not included.

- "Applicant recognizes that the Colorado Water Conservation Board's instream flow water rights on the Eagle River, decreed in Case Nos. 80CW124 & 80CW126, were decreed prior to the filing of this water court application."
- "At times when the Augmentation plan decreed herein is being operated and the instream flow water rights on the Eagle River are not satisfied and being administered, the replacement water shall be released to the Eagle River, at or upstream of Colorow Creek a.k.a. Squaw Creek."

3. Case No. 24CW3178 (Water Division 5) - Application of WarDen LLC

During the December 2024 Water Court Resume Review, CWCB staff identified concerns regarding potential injury to CWCB's instream flow water rights decreed in Case Nos. 85CW0639 and 85CW0646 on the Roaring Fork River. This case was resolved with CWCB by a letter agreement, dated February 25, 2025, by which CWCB agreed not to file a Statement of Opposition, provided Applicant incorporates the following terms and conditions into any draft and final decrees and Applicant agrees to not oppose a Motion to Intervene by CWCB if such terms and conditions are not included.

- “Applicant recognizes that the Colorado Water Conservation Board’s instream flow water rights on the Roaring Fork River, decreed in Case Nos. 85CW639 & 85CW646, were decreed prior to the filing of this water court application.”
- “At times when the augmentation plan decreed herein is being operated and the instream flow water right on the Roaring Fork River above its confluence with the Frying Pan River, decreed in Case No. 85CW646, is not satisfied and being administered, the WarDen Fryingpan, Robinson Ditch, and Colorado Exchange Project Rights will be out-of-priority. At such time, the diversions decreed herein shall be curtailed to the extent necessary to prevent injury.”

FINANCE

Two Rivers Water & Farming Company / Two Rivers Farms F-2, Inc. – Loan Default

Background: The annual loan payment for loan contract #C150328A (CT2015-0164) that was due on March 1, 2023. The Board assessed a late fee of 5% of the annual payment (\$3,800.34). That fee increased the amount due to \$79,807.12. The borrower failed to cure the delinquency which resulted in the entire balance declared in default in December of 2023. This also resulted in the loan bearing an interest rate of 7% per annum.

Update: The Two Rivers case continues to be in a holding pattern. Counsel for Two Rivers has not withdrawn. John McKowen continues to file pleadings that have no basis.

The assets are still under bankruptcy protection. The Debtor has not sought approval to sell the assets or to obtain financing to support a plan of reorganization. There are no critical deadlines approaching.



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441
F (303) 866-4474

Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kirk Russell, P.E., Finance Section Chief

Board Meeting: March 19-20, 2025 Board Meeting

Directors Report: Water Project Loans
Interest Rates

Introduction

The CWCB establishes interest rates bi-monthly for the Water Project Loan Program (per Financial Policy #7).

The current rates for a 30-year term are as follows:

- 2.10% - Agricultural
- 2.95% - Low-income Municipal
- 3.40% - Middle-income Municipal
- 3.80% - High-income Municipal
- 6.00% - Commercial
- 2.00% - Hydroelectric

The standard loan term is 30 years. Rates are reduced by 0.25% for 20-year loans, and by 0.80% for 10-year loans. Rates are increased by 0.25% for 40-year loans.

The rates can also be found on the CWCB web site under the "Loans and Grants" tab. These rates will be applicable for loans presented at this Board meeting.





COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441
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Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Matthew Stearns, P.E., Project Development

DATE: March 19-20, 2025 Board Meeting

DIRECTORS REPORT: Water Project Loan Program
Prequalified Project List and Loan Prospect Summary

The Finance Section compiles a list of prequalified projects for the Water Project Loan Program. In order to be included on this list, potential borrowers must submit a Loan Application and three years of financial statements to the CWCB staff. In addition, Borrowers requesting to be placed on the Prequalification Project List have a defined project, have performed preliminary engineering, and have a reasonable estimate of the project costs.

Projects on this list fit the initial criteria of the Water Project Loan Program; however, the list does not constitute loan approval. In order to receive a loan, borrowers must additionally submit a completed Loan Feasibility Study for review by CWCB staff. Staff will then prepare a recommendation to the Board for approval at a future CWCB meeting. Projects will remain on this list for one year from the date of the application or until Board approval of a loan.



Prequalified Project List

BORROWER	PROJECT NAME	APPLICATION DATE	BASIN	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT COST/LOAN AMOUNT
Previously Approved Applications					
Sustainable Water Augmentation Group, Inc.	Water Rights Purchase	July 1, 2022	Rio Grande	The Corporation is purchasing two irrigated farm/ranch properties where 39 center pivot irrigation circles will be retired, and surface water rights will be used to replace stream depletions to the Rio Grande caused by groundwater withdrawals of member wells.	\$39,200,000
Total					\$39,200,000



The Finance Section also compiles a list of potential borrowers/projects for the Water Project Loan Program. This list represents borrowers that have contacted the CWCB about a potential need for funding but have not submitted a loan application and loan feasibility study.

BORROWER	PROJECT NAME	POTENTIAL LOAN AMOUNT
South Platte		
NISP Participants	NISP	\$750,000,000
Woods Lake Mutual Ditch Company	Culvert Replacement	\$150,000
Town of Kersey	Water Line Project	TBD
Riverside Reservoir and Land Company	Ditch Rehabilitation	\$250,000
Town of Bennett	Raw Water Tank	\$500,000
Evergreen Metro District	Evergreen Dam Enlargement	TBD
Left Hand Water District	Dry Creek Reservoir	TBD
Shawnee Water Consumers Association	Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$200,000
Boulder and White Rock Ditch & Res. Co.	Reservoir Dredging	TBD
Western Mutual Ditch Company	Reservoir Dredging	TBD
Louviers Water and Sanitation District	Regional Connection	TBD
City of Fort Collins	Irrigation Ditch Piping	\$20,000,000
City of Fort Collins	Halligan Reservoir Enlargement	\$100,000,000
SPROWG Participants	SPROWG	\$1,800,000,000
City of Milliken	Hillsboro Dam Rehabilitation	\$15,000,000
Standley Lake Operating Committee	Reservoir Expansion	TBD
Danna Ortiz	Knouth Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$3,000,000
Loup Reservoir Company	Loup Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Arthur Irrigation Company	Ditch Rehabilitation	TBD
Handy Ditch Company	Welch Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$1,000,000
Glacier Lake Property Owners	Glacier Lake Outlet Rehabilitation	TBD
Central, City of	Raw Water Pipeline	TBD
Denver, City of	Floodplain Improvement	TBD
Consolidated Mutual Water Company	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Wadley Farms 3 HOA	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Loveland Lake and Ditch Company	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Inverness Water and Sanitation District	Reservoir Improvements	\$2,000,000
Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District	Reservoir Improvements	\$1,600,000
Arapahoe County W/WW Authority	Reservoir Improvements	TBD
Highland Ditch Company	Raw Water Pipeline	TBD
Water Storage and Supply Company	Ditch Rehabilitation	TBD
Lower Latham Reservoir Company	New Reservoir	\$15,000,000
Subtotal		\$2,708,700,000



BORROWER	PROJECT NAME	POTENTIAL LOAN AMOUNT
Arkansas		
Town of Manitou Springs	Raw Water Pipeline	\$3,000,000
City of Woodland Park	Storage Project	\$1,000,000
Holbrook Ditch Company	Reservoir Enlargement	TBD
Lake County	New Reservoir	TBD
Catlin Canal Company	Canal System Improvement	\$1,500,000
Donala Water and Sanitation District	Ditch Construction	TBD
Fort Lyons Canal Company	Diversion Structure Repair	\$500,000
Aguilar, Town of	New Augmentation Reservoir	TBD
Huerfano County	Water Rights Purchase	\$1,200,000
Lincoln Park Crooked Ditch Company	Ditch Rehabilitation	TBD
Huerfano Cucharas Irrigation Company	Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$200,000
Fruitland Water Company	Ditch Piping Project	\$400,000
Walsh, Town of	Water Rights Purchase	\$560,000
Deweese Dye Ditch Company	Outlet Pipe Rehabilitation	\$100,000
Triview Metropolitan District	New Reservoir	\$8,000,000
Subtotal		\$16,460,000
San Miguel/Juan		
Town of Bayfield	Ditch Piping Project	\$500,000
Redmesa Reservoir and Ditch Company	Redmesa Reservoir Enlargement	\$11,500,000
City of Cortez	Distribution System (Loss Prevention)	\$10,000,000
Webber Ditch Company (‡)	Ditch Piping Project	TBD
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation Dist.	Raw Water Pipeline Rehabilitation	TBD
Sellers McClane Reservoir and Ditch Co.	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Forest Lakes Metropolitan District	Dam Rehabilitation	TBD
Subtotal		\$22,000,000
Colorado		
Orchard Mesa Irrigation District	Lateral Piping	\$300,000
Silt Water Conservancy District	Harvey Gap Reservoir	\$300,000
Middle Ditch	Ditch Piping Project	TBD
Gunther Covers	Christenson Dam	TBD
Town of Minturn	New Well Field	\$5,220,000
Fruita, City of	Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Circle C Ranch	King Dam Rehabilitation	\$9,900,000
Royal Elk Ranch	Ditch Rehabilitation	\$2,000,000
Clifton Water District	New Reservoir	\$8,000,000
Grand County Mutual Ditch & Reservoir Co.	Water Rights Purchase	\$150,000
Subtotal		\$25,870,000



BORROWER	PROJECT NAME	POTENTIAL LOAN AMOUNT
Gunnison		
Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District	Dam Construction	TBD
Ouray, City of	Water Supply Pipeline	\$750,000
Grand Mesa Water Users Association	Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$600,000
Crested Butte, Town of	Dam Outlet Rehabilitation	TBD
Lone Cabin Ditch Company	Ditch Rehabilitation	TBD
Otter Pond HOA	Dam Rehabilitation	\$650,000
Project 7 Water Authority	Raw Water Pipeline	TBD
Subtotal		\$2,000,000
North Platte		
Walden, Town of	New Well	TBD
Subtotal		\$6,000,000
Rio Grande		
Manassa Land & Irrigation Co.	Ditch Rehabilitation	\$6,000,000
Baca Grande WSD	Water Rights Purchase	\$1,000,000
Sanchez Ditch and Reservoir Co.	Dam Rehabilitation	\$15,000,000
Rio Grande WCD - Subdistrict #1	Water Rights Purchase	\$5,000,000
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Alberta Park Dam Rehabilitation	\$4,000,000
La Jara, Town of	System Rehabilitation	TBD
Crestone, Town of	Water Rights Purchase	\$200,000
San Luis Valley WCD	Water Rights Purchase	\$500,000
Rio Grande WCD	Water Rights Purchase	\$3,000,000
Rio Grande WCD - Subdistrict 6	Water Rights Purchase	\$5,000,000
San Luis Valley Irrigation District	Diversion Dam Rehabilitation	\$180,000
Subtotal		\$39,880,000
Yampa		
Town of Oak Creek	Reservoir Rehabilitation	\$5,600,000
Rio Blanco WCD	Wolf Creek Reservoir	\$100,000,000
Bear River Reservoir Company	Stillwater #1 Dam Rehabilitation	TBD
Marc Etchart	Procter Reservoir Rehabilitation	TBD
Subtotal		\$105,600,000





COLORADO
**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203
P (303) 866-3441
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Jared Polis, Governor
Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director
Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

To: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

From: Kirk Russell, P.E., Finance Section Chief
Jessica Halvorsen, Program Assistant

Board Meeting: March 19-20, 2025 Board Meeting

Directors Report: Water Project Loan Program, Design & Construction Status Report

The CWCB Loan Program has Substantially Completed (10) projects in Fiscal Year 24/25 as shown in the Table. There are currently (45) projects authorized to receive loan funding totaling \$492M. There are (36) projects currently under contract and in the Design/Construction phase totaling \$281M. The attached spreadsheet summarizes the status of all loans. A detailed description about each project is provided on the CWCB website under Water Project Loan Program. www.cwcb.colorado.gov/loans-grants/water-project-loan-program

	Borrower	Project	County	Loan Amount	Complete
1	Fort Morgan Res. & Irr. Co	Augmentation Pump Replacement	Fort Morgan	\$1,644,076	8/1/24
2	Last Chance Ditch Company	Measurement Structure Reconstruction	Weld	\$191,691	9/1/24
3	Ogilvy Irrigating and Land Co	Seely Reservoir Dredging	Weld	\$3,029,791	9/1/24 (a)
4	Orchard City Irrigation District	Fruitgrowers Res. Gates Replacement	Delta	\$505,000	9/1/24
5	Montezuma Valley Irrigation Co	Beaver Creek Ditch Repairs	Dolores	\$689,366	11/1/24
6	Lookout Mountain Water District	Upper and Lower Beaver Brook Dam Rehabilitation	Jefferson	\$3,353,920	12/1/24 (b)
7	Inverness W&SD	WISE - Phase 2 Infrastructure	Douglas/Arap.	\$2,126,050	12/1/24
8*	Silver Lake Ditch & Reservoir Company	Elephant Buttruss Tunnel Rehabilitation Project	Boulder	\$151,500	2/1/25
9*	Board of Water Works of Pueblo	Southside Diversion Dam Improvements	Pueblo	\$9,847,500	2/1/25
10*	Town of Breckenridge	Goose Pasture Tarn Dam Rehabilitation	Summit	\$13,130,000	2/1/25 (c)
	* included in Director's Report		Total	\$34,538,894	

Fiscal Year 24/25 has added and preserved 1,596 acre-feet of reservoir storage; (a) 356; (b) 428; (c) 812





Elephant Butress Tunnel Rehabilitation Project

Silver Lake Ditch & Reservoir Company
Substantially Complete February 1, 2025

The Silver Lake Ditch & Reservoir Company Elephant Butress Tunnel Rehabilitation Project is shown in the pictures below. The Project installed a new arched liner plate, entry and exit headwalls, and other reinforcements which will protect the ditch and its ability to provide water to shareholders.



Project Description

The Silver Lake Ditch & Reservoir Company provides water from Boulder Creek to nearby residents and commercial entities and is used for irrigation on approximately 247 acres of land.

The Silver Lake Ditch & Reservoir Company's Elephant Butress Tunnel Rehabilitation Project focused on rehabilitating the existing tunnel structure, which was initially damaged during the 2013 floods and has deteriorated since. The Project work included replacing the existing western portal headwall with a more substantial headwall across the width of the tunnel, installation of a modular arched liner plate system with geotechnical foam used to fill in voids between the tunnel and liner plate to protect portions of the tunnel, installation of a new rock deflector, and new liner plate and a new cast-in-place headwall at the eastern tunnel portal.

P R O J E C T D A T A		
<i>Sponsor:</i> Silver Lake Ditch & Reservoir Company	<i>County:</i> Boulder	<i>Water Source:</i> Boulder Creek
<i>Type of Project:</i> Ditch Rehabilitation		<i>Board Approval Date:</i> September 2024
<i>Loan Terms:</i> 20 years @ 2.95% (Principal) \$151,500		
<i>Design Engineer:</i> Harrison Western Construction Corporation		
<i>Contractor:</i> Harrison Western Construction Corporation		



Southside Diversion Dam Improvements

Board of Water Works of Pueblo
Substantially Complete February 1, 2025

The Southside Diversion Dam, originally built after the 1921 Arkansas River flood, was a low-head dam located downstream of Pueblo Reservoir that provided a backup water supply for the Whitlock Water Treatment Plant.



Project Description

The Southside Diversion Dam is located about 3.5 miles below Pueblo Reservoir and 0.5 miles above the Whitlock Water Treatment Plant. The Dam was a monolithic, concrete low-head dam featuring a 200-foot-long weir with a vertical drop of about 10 feet. Low-head dams are extremely hazardous to recreators because of recirculating currents on their downstream sides.

The Board of Water Works of Pueblo elected to remove the low-head diversion dam and replace it with a series of drops that would allow for fish and recreational passage. This was accomplished by lengthening the slope of the downstream side of the dam weir so that recreators may pass safely over it and by making improvements to the intake infrastructure. A bypass channel with several pools was constructed adjacent to the dam to allow for boat travel. Other improvements included bank stabilization, installation of new vegetation, and stream continuity for the first time in over 100 years. Two pedestrian bridges were also installed to provide easier and safer access for recreators. Construction began in the fall of 2023 and was complete at the end of 2024.

P R O J E C T D A T A		
<i>Sponsor:</i> Board of Water Works of Pueblo	<i>County:</i> Pueblo	<i>Water Source:</i> Arkansas River
<i>Type of Project:</i> Diversion Rehabilitation		<i>Board Approval Date:</i> March 2023
<i>Loan Terms:</i> 20yr @ 2.25% (Original) \$9,847,500.00 (Final) \$9,847,500.00		
<i>Design Engineer:</i> BGC Engineering USA Inc.		
<i>Contractor:</i> Holcim WCR Inc.		



Goose Pasture Tarn Dam Rehabilitation

Town of Breckenridge
Substantially Complete February 1, 2025



Project Description

The Town of Breckenridge is a municipality incorporated in 1880. It serves 5,014 water taps comprised of residential, commercial, governmental and irrigation customers. The Town has a diverse water rights portfolio made up of direct flow rights, storage rights, and augmentation water. Storage rights are primarily within Goose Pasture Tarn Reservoir (Reservoir), Green Mountain Reservoir, Clinton Reservoir, and Windy Gap Reservoir.

The Reservoir has an earthen dam classified as high hazard. In 2015, safety issues were identified with the concrete service spillway during high flows. Subsequently, the Colorado Dam Safety Branch issued a storage restriction in 2016 lowering the safe water level by four feet and reducing storage capacity by approximately 244 AF. This Project rehabilitated the dam and removed the storage restriction thereby reducing the risks of damage to property and public infrastructure, and potential loss of life up to 10 miles below the Reservoir. The Project was funded, in part, by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for \$10,000,000. Construction began in April of 2021 and had a ribbon cutting ceremony the Spring of 2024.

Final substantial completion processes took place through the remainder of 2024 with final loan closeout occurring on February 1, 2025.

P R O J E C T D A T A		
<i>Sponsor:</i> Town of Breckenridge	<i>County:</i> Summit	<i>Water Source:</i> Blue River
<i>Type of Project:</i> Reservoir Rehabilitation		<i>Board Approval Date:</i> November 2021
<i>Loan Terms:</i> 30yrs @ 2.00% (Original) \$13,130,000.00 (Final) \$13,130,000.00		
<i>Design Engineer:</i> WW Wheeler & Associates		
<i>Contractor:</i> Moltz Constructors, Inc.		

PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT

PROJECT		PROJECT						STATUS		
Borrower	Project Name	Borrower	Project Name	Basin	Contract #	Amount	Manager	Design	Construction	Update
PROJECT		PROJECT						STATUS		
Borrower	Project Name	Borrower	Project Name	Basin	Contract #	Amount	Manager	Design	Construction	Update
1	Amity Mutual Irrigation Company	Queen Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation Company	Queen Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation	Arkansas	CT2021-2224	\$2,600,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	95%	Construction ongoing. Some delays due to concrete contractor. Construction completion expected in early 2025.
2	Crawford Clipper Ditch Company	Crawford Clipper Ditch Improvements	Crawford Clipper Ditch Improvements	Gunnison	CT2024-2009	\$750,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	98%	Construction complete. Substantial completion expected in Apr or May.
3	Crawford Water Conservancy District	Feeder Canal Stabilization	Feeder Canal Stabilization	Gunnison	CT2025-0767	\$297,030	Joshua Godwin	100%	0%	Contractor selected. Construction expected to begin by early Apr.
4	Dove Creek, Town of	Reservoir No. 2	Reservoir No. 2	Southwest	CT2022-3321	\$800,000	Joshua Godwin	90%	0%	Dam Safety review initial design and has sent comments back.
5	Florida Consolidated Ditch Company	Hess Lateral Improvement	Hess Lateral Improvement	Southwest	CT2019-2034	\$1,075,000	Kirk Russell	100%	0%	Company received a Water Smart Grant in April 2023. This \$2M will help cover the increase of construction costs since the original bid in 2020. Project will be rebid fall 2024.
6	Florida Consolidated Ditch Company	Florida Canal Diversion Replacement	Florida Canal Diversion Replacement	Southwest	CT2021-2890	\$750,000	Matt Stearns	100%	99%	This project is the replacement of a low head dam diversion structure with multibeneficial outcomes. Construction began October 2023 and the contractor demobilized in December 2023. Contractor revegetated in spring 2024 and construction is complete. Loan will be closed out in April 2025.
7	Fort Morgan Farms, LLC	Delta Water Storage Phase 1	Delta Water Storage Phase 1	South Platte	CT2021-2222	\$8,982,000	Zach Salin	80%	66%	NPH classification granted by Dam Safety. New spillway design and test plug design approved. Gravel mining continuing.
8	Fruitland Irrigation Company	Tunnel and Canal Renovation	Tunnel and Canal Renovation	Gunnison	CT2019-2848	\$1,729,000	Kirk Russell	100%	80%	Company may need to request additional loan funds. Grant contracts have been extended.
9	Grand Junction, City of	Purdy Mesa Flowline Replacement	Purdy Mesa Flowline Replacement	Gunnison	CT2021-2857	\$7,000,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	100%	Construction restarted in May. Completion expected in November and SC by Spring of 2025.
10	Grand View Canal Irrigation Company	Grandview Canal Improvements	Grandview Canal Improvements	Gunnison	CT2024-4203	\$500,000	Joshua Godwin	90%	80%	Diversion structure complete.
11	Grand View Irrigation Company	Siphon Repair Project	Siphon Repair Project	Arkansas	CT2023-2058	\$350,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	98%	Project complete. Waiting to set date for substantial completion.
12	Groundwater Management Subdistrict of CCWCD	Hokestra Reservoir Purchase	Hokestra Reservoir Purchase	South Platte	CT2020-3348	\$5,390,500	Zach Salin	100%	85%	Starting 1-year extension to April 2026. \$982k undispensed on loan. Will likely seek to install pumpstation and crossing and close out.
13	Groundwater Management Subdistrict of CCWCD	Pioneer Reservoir	Pioneer Reservoir	South Platte	CT2019-3687	\$8,611,000	Zach Salin	100%	98%	Poudre Valley REA completed power supply to pump 3/4. Anticipate final PR shortly, SC of project May 1 2025.
14	Hidden Valley Water District	Master Water Meter Connection	Master Water Meter Connection	South Platte	CT2020-2244	\$1,720,000	Kirk Russell	100%	95%	Assets and operations are all to the District. District signed and approved EMD IGA. EMD connect 7/2020. Construction complete, final walk thru Aug 2020. Water court work is complete. Loan increase may be required for water storage.
15	Keensburg, Town of	Alluvial Water Rights Extension Project	Alluvial Water Rights Extension Project	South Platte	CT2024-2007	\$2,100,000	Joshua Godwin	0%	0%	Water rights purchase is complete. Construction of pipeline from wells to town expected late 2024/early 2025.
16	North Poudre Irrigation Company	Park Creek Expansion Project	Park Creek Expansion Project	South Platte	CT2023-2593	\$9,900,000	Zach Salin	100%	75%	Project completed riprap and bedding for upstream crest wall and toe drain headwall, emplaced clay backfill ontop of Z3, and backfilled sand chimney. Dam construction topped out. Workingon spillway diversion grading and backfill.
17	Platte Valley Irrigation Company	Platte Valley Reservoir No. 1	Platte Valley Reservoir No. 1	South Platte	CT2024-2005	\$4,500,000	Zach Salin	80%	0%	Project negotiations with FRICO are ongoing. Due to delays and PVIC accepting use of FRICO specs for construction and total cost to construct has increased to around \$11m. PVIC may try to self fund or request a loan increase.
18	Redmesa Reservoir and Ditch Company	Redmesa Reservoir Rehabilitation Engineering	Redmesa Reservoir Rehabilitation Engineering	Southwest	CT2022-0498	\$183,000	Matt Stearns	60%	0%	This project is to engineer a financially feasible dam rehabilitation, including a potential enlargement. Work began on March 8, 2021. The Company has secured a local governmental sponsor and has been approved to proceed in the NRCS PL-566 program which will cover 100% of design and 75% of construction.
19	Ridgway, Town of	Beaver Creek Diversion Restoration (DIL)	Beaver Creek Diversion Restoration (DIL)	Gunnison	CT2025-1336	\$8,000,000	Joshua Godwin	20%	0%	Consultant selected.
20	Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District	Taylor Draw Hydroelectric Turbine Refurbishment	Taylor Draw Hydroelectric Turbine Refurbishment	Yampa/White /Green	CT2025-0768	\$2,125,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	30%	Turbine has been removed and transported to facility for refurbishment.
21	Rio Grande Water Conservation District Subdistrict No. 5	Saguache Pipeline	Saguache Pipeline	Rio Grande	CT2021-3846	\$6,020,000	Zach Salin	100%	98%	ZCS beginning SC paperwork, Project will SC as of April 1, 2025 per Chris Ivers request.
22	Smith and Emmons Ditch Company	Diversion Structures Replacement Project	Diversion Structures Replacement Project	South Platte	CT2023-2473	\$410,000	Zach Salin	100%	30%	Construction ongoing. Project had an approved CO due to winter conditions (site flooded and iced over). Dewatering continues for excavation of headgate and other structures. Complications from Rural Ditch running water. .
23	Special Improvement District No. 3 of the RGWCD	Alpha Hay Farms Augmentation	Alpha Hay Farms Augmentation	Rio Grande	CT2023-2843	\$2,555,000	Zach Salin	100%	95%	Project is rehabbing well/pump, repairs will be complete prior to start of irrigation season. Project may seek to complete their Aug Station which will allow direct augmentation tot eh Conejos. 4/8 parcels have been sold, proceeds will be used to pay off loan.
24	Special Improvement District No. 4 of the Rio Grande WCD	Peachwood Farms Augmentation & Sustainability	Peachwood Farms Augmentation & Sustainability	Rio Grande	CT2023-3361	\$3,456,000	Zach Salin	100%	50%	Closed on property. New hole for aug well planned in Winter 2024 to Spring 2025. Drill job will be put out to bid. RGWCD continuing non-loan scope work like revegetation.
25	Trinchera Conservancy District - Groundwater Management Subdistrict	Augmentation Pipeline	Augmentation Pipeline	Rio Grande	CT2022-3040	\$977,000	Kirk Russell	100%	99%	Project is complete. Substantial completion date TBD.
26	Trinchera Conservancy District - Groundwater Management Subdistrict	Water Rights Purchase	Water Rights Purchase	Rio Grande	CT2025-0288	\$3,050,000	Joshua Godwin	100%	0%	Borrower received an increase to purchase additional water rights.

PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT

PROJECT		PROJECT						STATUS			
Borrower	Project Name	Borrower	Project Name	Basin	Contract #	Amount	Manager	Design	Construction	Update	
7	Tunnel Water Company	West Half Laramie-Poudre Tunnel Rehabilitation	Tunnel Water Company	West Half Laramie-Poudre Tunnel Rehabilitation	North Platte/South Platte	CT2019-3706	\$18,730,000	Kirk Russell	100%	99%	Construction was completed in spring of 2022 after delays due to Cameron Peak wildfire. Warranty review found tunnel lining caved in. Repair was made winter of 22/23. Loan increased by Board March '24. SC is scheduled for Nov 2025.
8	Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Company	Grizzly Reservoir Rehabilitation	Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Company	Grizzly Reservoir Rehabilitation	Colorado	CT2024-2006	\$9,833,000	Joshua Godwin	95%	60%	Dam faced lining complete. Site closed out for the season. Construction expected to resume Summer of 2025 or 2026.
9	Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association	Taylor Park Hydro Powerplant Project	Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association	Taylor Park Hydro Powerplant Project	Gunnison	CT2023-2565	\$1,685,000	Kirk Russell	100%	99%	This project is complete. Substantial Completion will be set for the spring of 2025 after power generation revenue begins.
0	Victor, City of	Victor Reservoir No. 2 Dam Rehabilitation	Victor, City of	Victor Reservoir No. 2 Dam Rehabilitation	Arkansas	CT2021-3873	\$900,000	Kirk Russell	100%	99%	Town replaced the outlet tower per DWR/Dam Safety. Project is complete. City is determining amount of cash funds they will use. Increase to loan funds requested Nov '24.
1	West Divide Water Conservancy District	Flannery Reservoir Purchase	West Divide Water Conservancy District	Flannery Reservoir Purchase	Colorado	CT2025-0769	\$2,029,000	Joshua Godwin	75%	0%	Money disbursed to cover bridge loan on Flannery Reservoir purchase. Need to select contractor for reservoir improvements.
2	Wiggins, Town of	Wiggins Recharge Facility at Glassey Farms	Wiggins, Town of	Wiggins Recharge Facility at Glassey Farms	South Platte	CT2018-0892	\$2,385,000	Kirk Russell	100%	0%	The purpose of this project is to develop an augmentation water source for the Town. In August 2017 the Town purchased Glassey Farms and its associated water rights and 52% of funds were disbursed at that time. The project is back underway and an extension was granted.
3	Windy Gap Farming Project Water Activity Enterprise	Windy Gap Project (Chimney Hollow Reservoir)	Windy Gap Farming Project Water Activity Enterprise	Windy Gap Project (Chimney Hollow Reservoir)	South Platte	CT2021-2039	\$154,108,911	Zach Salin	100%	92%	Project activities include grouting in the downstream tunnel, utility work in the valve house and tunnel, and grouting riprap in the outlet channel. Project is continuing to pour reinforced concrete in both the inlet/outlet tower and tunnel. Project is working with BOR for startup and commissioning efforts.
4	Grand Valley Water Users Association	Grand Valley Water Users Association			CT2022-2084	\$1,066,000	Matt Stearns	100%	98%	This project will replace the existing 2.75 MW hydroelectric powerplant with a new 4.5 MW facility. Contractor mobilized November of 2021, and construction of the power generation facility completed in November 2022. The powerplant is producing power (up to 3.2 MW as of July 2023) via a temporary interconnect with Xcel Energy, and will be fully operational in May 2024 via a permanent interconnect.	
	Orchard Mesa Irrigation District	Vineland Power Plant	Orchard Mesa Irrigation District	Vineland Power Plant	Colorado	CT2022-2057					\$1,066,000
5	Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District	WISE - Phase 2 Infrastructure	Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District	WISE - Phase 2 Infrastructure	South Platte	CT2015-0105	\$1,674,000	Kirk Russell	100%	100%	Binney Connection Pipeline of Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency project will increase WISE flow capacity to 30MGD and provide infrastructure from Aurora Binney Facility to SMWSA. Pumps/Treatment-Glacier, Pipeline/Infrastructure-T.Lowell, Jacobs is Engineer. Vault excavation began 9/2020. Construction trailer onsite through project duration. Glacier complete foundation work, pump cans have been delivered and installed, pump motors have arrived at the pump manufacture, preliminary SCADA meetings begun, Glacier starting to form rebar for the flow control building, start laying pipe. Precast concrete walls for pump station complete.
	Pinery (Denver SE Water and Sanitation District)		Pinery (Denver SE Water and Sanitation District)			CT2015-0086	\$1,413,130				
6	Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District	WISE - Denver International Airport Connection	Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District	WISE - Denver International Airport Connection	South Platte	CT2015-0104	\$363,600	Kirk Russell	98%	60%	Annual disbursement to be made on this loan through 2021.Design Status indicates percent of funds disbursed to date. WISE WDA negotiations between parties continue with the goal of having an amended Water Delivery Agreement ready to be brought to the respective Boards and Council for review and approval by April 1, 2021. Group discussion continues focused on the DIA Connection.
	Inverness Water and Sanitation District		Inverness Water and Sanitation District			CT2015-0120	\$450,000				
	Parker Water and Sanitation District		Parker Water and Sanitation District			CT2015-0110	\$1,089,000				

TOTAL UNDER

TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

\$280,623,171

APPROVED PROJECTS - NOT CONTRACTED

PROJECT		PROJECT						STATUS			
Borrower	Project Name	Borrower	Project Name	Basin	Contract #	Amount	Manager	Design	Construction	Update	
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Arkansas Valley Conduit	Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Arkansas Valley Conduit	Arkansas	CT2025-XXXX	\$90,000,000	Kirk Russell	0%	0%	Federal Funding will control the scheduled use of these funds	
Colorado City Metropolitan District	Lake Beckwith Dam Modifications	Colorado City Metropolitan District	Lake Beckwith Dam Modifications	Arkansas	CT2025-XXXX	\$3,333,000	Joshua Godwin	0%	0%		
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District - Northern Integrated Supply Project Water Activity Enterprise	Northern Integrated Supply Project	Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District - Northern Integrated Supply Project Water Activity Enterprise	Northern Integrated Supply Project	South Platte	CT2025-XXXX	\$101,000,000	Zach Salin	15%	0%	2024 Projects Bill Lawsuit settled. CWC8 may fund \$70M in pipeline work in 25/26. Road is \$200M. Dam final design near complete	
Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company	Lower Arickaree and Garrett Ridge Canal Piping	Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company	Lower Arickaree and Garrett Ridge Canal Piping	Montezuma	CT2025-XXXX	\$3,004,000	Joshua Godwin		0%		
High Line Canal Company	Rocky Ford High Line Canal Diversion	High Line Canal Company	Rocky Ford High Line Canal Diversion	Pueblo	CT2025-XXXX	\$4,119,000	Zach Salin		0%		
Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company	Cache La Poudre River Diversion Rehabilitation	Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company	Cache La Poudre River Diversion Rehabilitation	Cache La Poudre	CT2025-XXXX	\$2,872,000	Zach Salin		0%		
Bergen Ditch and Reservoir Company	Rehabilitation of Polly Deane Reservoir	Bergen Ditch and Reservoir Company	Rehabilitation of Polly Deane Reservoir	Metro	CT2025-XXXX	\$302,000	Zach Salin			Discussed likely need for Loan increase due to FEMA HHPD issues. Bob thinks he may be able to get Foothills to pay cash for increased cost/cover budget hole. Likely coming in for increase at the July Board Meeting.	
Sterling Irrigation Company	Sterling #1 Ditch Bypass Structure Replacement	Sterling Irrigation Company	Sterling #1 Ditch Bypass Structure Replacement	South Platte	CT2025-XXXX	\$1,135,000	Zach Salin				
Rio Grande Water Conservation District - Special Improvement District No. 5	Saguache Augmentation Project	Rio Grande Water Conservation District - Special Improvement District No. 5	Saguache Augmentation Project	Rio Grande	CT2025-XXXX	\$6,033,000	Zach Salin				

NOT UNDER CONTRACT :

NOT UNDER CONTRACT SUB TOTAL

\$211,798,000

PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT

PROJECT		PROJECT						STATUS		
Borrower	Project Name	Borrower	Project Name	Basin	Contract #	Amount	Manager	Design	Construction	Update
GR		GRAND TOTAL						\$492,421,171		

**WATER PROJECT CONSTRUCTION LOAN PROGRAM
LOAN REPAYMENT DELINQUENCY REPORT
LOAN FINANCIAL ACTIVITY REPORT
March 2025**

LOAN REPAYMENT DELINQUENCY

Loan repayments received relative to the Water Project Construction Loan Program have been reviewed for the period covering July 2024 through February 2025 to date of report. The effective due date of the payment is inclusive of the Board's current 60 day late policy. Hence, the date the payment was received was compared to the last day allowable prior to the payment being considered late.

Repayments due for Fiscal Year 2025 total 308. Two Rivers is currently delinquent and is in foreclosure. All other payments are current.

LOAN FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

Loan financial activity relative to the Water Project Construction Loan Program for Fiscal Year 2025 is summarized as follows:

Funds received relative to loans in repayment totaled \$28.0M for this year.

Funds disbursed relative to new project loans totaled \$92.3M for this year.

Net activity resulted in \$64.3M disbursed by the CWCBC Construction Fund and the Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund (STPBF) over the total received.

Further breakdown is summarized as follows:

The Construction Fund portion consists of \$12.7M in receipts and \$70.5M in disbursements for a total net activity of \$57.8M disbursed over received.

The STPBF consists of \$15.3M in receipts and \$21.8M in disbursements for a total net activity of \$6.5M disbursed over received.

CONSTRUCTION FUND

Period	Principal	Interest	Total Received	Disbursements	Net Activity
July 2024	\$ 366,225	\$ 153,487	\$ 519,712	\$ 2,469,000	\$ (1,949,288)
August 2024	\$ 1,871,552	\$ 1,081,695	\$ 2,953,247	\$ 15,441,097	\$ (12,487,850)
September 2024	\$ 1,331,112	\$ 517,814	\$ 1,848,926	\$ 47,886	\$ 1,801,040
October 2024	\$ 188,310	\$ 65,664	\$ 253,974	\$ 20,601,890	\$ (20,347,916)
November 2024	\$ 652,042	\$ 523,412	\$ 1,175,454	\$ 2,398,521	\$ (1,223,067)
December 2024	\$ 1,076,765	\$ 578,552	\$ 1,655,317	\$ 18,742,680	\$ (17,087,363)
January 2025	\$ 2,418,846	\$ 890,455	\$ 3,309,301	\$ 6,599,238	\$ (3,289,937)
February 2025	\$ 313,089	\$ 679,271	\$ 992,360	\$ 4,186,517	\$ (3,194,157)
March 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
April 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
May 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
June 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2025 Totals	\$ 8,217,940	\$ 4,490,351	\$ 12,708,292	\$ 70,486,830	\$ (57,778,538)

SEVERANCE TAX TRUST FUND PERPETUAL BASE ACCOUNT

Period	Principal	Interest	Total Received	Disbursements	Net Activity
July 2024	\$ 162,610	\$ 82,859	\$ 245,469	\$ 3,480,139	\$ (3,234,670)
August 2024	\$ 4,721,884	\$ 1,467,187	\$ 6,189,071	\$ 1,867,800	\$ 4,321,271
September 2024	\$ 289,235	\$ 140,480	\$ 429,714	\$ 939,894	\$ (510,180)
October 2024	\$ 1,772,512	\$ 2,063,015	\$ 3,835,527	\$ 6,564,257	\$ (2,728,730)
November 2024	\$ 348,125	\$ 37,584	\$ 385,708	\$ 2,146,026	\$ (1,760,318)
December 2024	\$ 1,657,021	\$ 556,728	\$ 2,213,749	\$ 1,129,892	\$ 1,083,857
January 2025	\$ 518,419	\$ 251,475	\$ 769,894	\$ 2,804,429	\$ (2,034,535)
February 2025	\$ 758,215	\$ 504,584	\$ 1,262,799	\$ 2,924,601	\$ (1,661,802)
March 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
April 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
May 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
June 2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2025 Totals	\$ 10,228,021	\$ 5,103,911	\$ 15,331,931	\$ 21,857,038	\$ (6,525,106)

GRAND TOTAL	\$ 18,445,961	\$ 9,594,262	\$ 28,040,223	\$ 92,343,867	\$ (64,303,644)
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