



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Jeannine Shaw, Grants Section Chief

CC: Andrea Harbin Monahan, Ben Wade

DATE: May 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda Item #4a

Staff Recommendation

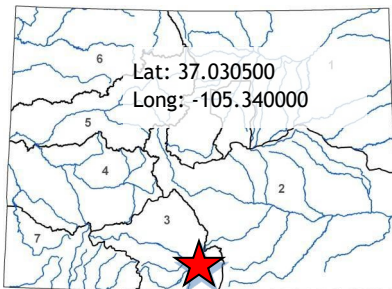
Staff recommends that the Board approve changes to the grant as described below. The updated summary sheet is also attached for reference.

Background

4a: The grant for the Culebra Watershed Partnership Project was originally awarded to the Costilla County Conservation District (CCCD) at the July 2023 Board meeting (Agenda Item 8f). The grantee's Watershed Coordinator, who was managing the grant, has recently left the organization. CCCD is not looking to rehire the position and will no longer have capacity to manage the grant. However, one of the current project partners who is experienced in grant and project management, the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, has both interest and capacity to hire and manage a Watershed Coordinator position and the associated project and grant. Both parties are in agreement with changing the grant award from CCCD to CRGRF. As such, staff are recommending the Board approve this change.



Water Supply Reserve Grant Application



LOCATION
County: Costilla
Drainage Basin: Rio Grande

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$329,500
Total WSRF Grant Request:	\$204,500
Rio Grande Basin Account Request:	\$204,500
Recommended Amount:	\$204,500
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$70,000
Applicant Match:	\$55,000
Project Type: Other – Capacity Building	
Major Water Use Type: Environmental	
Measurable Result: 6,000 linear feet of stream restored or protected; 5,780 acres of restored or preserved habitat; 1,500 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity; 500 acres of fire mitigation planning.	

The Culebra Watershed Partnership Project was born out of the Upper Culebra Watershed Assessment, a project funded with a Watershed Restoration & Water Plan grants awarded by the CWCB Board in March 2021. The project assessed watershed health through measuring indicators of riparian health, aquatic habitat, water quality, flow regimes, geomorphology, infrastructure, forest health, rangeland health, and safety and emergency management. Through the Assessment, priority projects and initiatives were identified.

If approved, WSRF funds will help begin the implementation of the Assessment by tackling priority projects, which include the development of a demonstration watershed project and the installation of new stream gages on two tributaries of the Culebra watershed to improve streamflow monitoring and water administration. Through this effort, a watershed coordinator will be hired to manage the projects, coordinate with stakeholders, and obtain additional funding for priority projects in the Assessment.

Project partners include the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, Colorado Open Lands, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Tailwater Limited, private landowners, and other local stakeholders.

The project aligns with the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan by meeting four of five goals and aligns with the Water Plan goals and criteria by improving watershed and stream health and meeting agricultural water needs.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board approve a change of grantee from the Costilla County Conservation District to the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation for the Culebra Watershed Partnership Project.