

## **DRAFT**

### **Summary Minutes and Record of Decisions**

#### **March 19 & 20, 2025 Board Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) convened at the Doubletree Hotel in Greeley and virtually on zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chair Nathan Coombs. 10 voting members were present at the call to order, so a quorum was present (at least 6 required). Voting members present were: Greg Felt, Brad Wind, Taylor Hawes, Barbara Vasquez, Mike Camblin, Lorelei Cloud, John McClow, Greg Johnson, and Nathan Coombs, and ex-officio voting member Dan Gibbs, Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources. Non-voting ex officio members present or represented were: Scott Steinbrecher, Attorney General's Office; Matt Nicholl, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Robert Sakata, Department of Agriculture; Jason Ullmann, State Engineer, Becky Mitchell, IBCC Director, and Lauren Ris, Colorado Water Conservation Board Director. Counsel to the Board, Jen Mele, was also in attendance.

On the second day, the meeting was called to order by Chair Nathan Coombs. 9 voting members were present at the call to order, so a quorum was present (at least 6 required). The voting members present were: Taylor Hawes, Greg Johnson, Mike Camblin, John McClow, Barbara Vasquez, Brad Wind, Greg Felt, Lorelei Cloud, and Nathan Coombs. Non-voting ex officio members present or represented were: Nate Pearson, Department of Natural Resources, Matt Nicholl, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Robert Sakata, Department of Agriculture; Jason Ullmann, State Engineer, and Lauren Ris, Colorado Water Conservation Board Director. Counsel to the Board, Jen Mele was also in attendance.

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025**

**1 Review and Approve Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Barbara Vasquez. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**2 Review and Approve January 27 & 28, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the January 2025 Board minutes was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Barbara Vasquez. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**3 Approve and/or Remove Consent Agenda Items**

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items was made by John McCLOW, which was seconded by Barbara Vasquez. Greg Felt recused himself from the vote, the motion was approved unanimously (8-0).

**1. Statements of Opposition**

*Stream & Lake Protection Section*

*Staff recommends the Board ratify CWCB's filing of the following Statements of Opposition:*

- a. Case No. 24CW3055 (Water Division 2): Application of Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District
- b. Case No. 24CW3011 (Water Division 3): Application of John H. Wagner, III and Carol J. Wagner
- c. Case No. 24CW3047 (Water Division 4): Application of Cimarron Mountain Club, Inc.
- d. Case No. 24CW3056 (Water Division 4): Application of 1700 Trout Lake LLC
- e. Case No. 24CW3171 (Water Division 5): Application of Casteel Creek Ranch Property Owners Association
- f. Case No. 24CW3177 (Water Division 5): Application of Winter Park Recreational Association
- g. Case No. 24CW3049 (Water Division 6): Application of Westlands, LLC

**2. Instream Flow Acquisition Fund Requests**

*Stream & Lake Protection Section*

- a. Poudre River Instream Flow Augmentation Plan
- b. Larimer County Boxelder Creek

### **3. Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants**

#### *Grants Section*

**a. Basin - Yampa/White/Green**

**Applicant - Yampatika**

**Name of Water Activity - Yampatika Youth & Community Water Education**

### **4. Water Plan Grants**

#### *Grants Section*

**a. Category - Agriculture**

**Applicant - Town of Berthoud**

**Project - Little Thompson River Corridor Conservation Inventory**

**b. Category - Agriculture**

**Applicant - Corriente**

**Project - Software for Improved Delivery Efficiency**

**c. Category - Agriculture**

**Applicant - Colorado Trout Unlimited**

**Project - Elk Creek: Roseman Ditch Company Water Supply/Delivery Improvements-Design and Planning**

**d. Category - Agriculture**

**Applicant - Trout Unlimited**

**Project - The Camblin Ranch Project: An Innovative Approach to Agriculture**

**e. Category - Agriculture**

**Applicant - Colorado State University**

**Project - Opportunities for Enhancing the Water Productivity of Alfalfa Based Production Systems in Western Colorado**

**f. Category - Conservation & Land Use**

**Applicant - City of Lafayette**

**Project - Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Response Plan**

**g. Category - Conservation & Land Use**

**Applicant - Alliance for Water Efficiency**

**Project - Colorado River Basin Water Efficiency Network**

- h. Category - Conservation & Land Use**  
**Applicant** - Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Association  
**Project** - Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Association Water Meter Installation
- i. Category - Engagement & Innovation**  
**Applicant** - City of Aspen  
**Project** - Commercial Water Efficiency Challenge, Rebate, and Awards Program
- j. Category - Engagement & Innovation**  
**Applicant** - University of Colorado Boulder  
**Project** - GameOn for Drought Resilience: Youth Led Rural Engagement
- k. Category - Water Storage & Supply**  
**Applicant** - Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA)  
**Project** - West Side Intra-System Storage Project - Feasibility Study
- l. Category - Water Storage & Supply**  
**Applicant** - Deutsch Domestic Water Company, Inc.  
**Project** - Water Source Development and Conservation Measures
- m. Category - Watershed Health & Recreation**  
**Applicant** - Ducks Unlimited  
**Project** - Loveland East Big Thompson Corridor Planning
- n. Category - Watershed Health & Recreation**  
**Applicant** - The Watershed Center  
**Project** - Plans to Actions for Emerging Priorities
- o. Category - Watershed Health & Recreation**  
**Applicant** - Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District  
**Project** - Southmoor Drive Channel and Floodplain Restoration Phase II

## **5. Floodplain Designation**

### *Watershed and Flood Protection Section*

- a. “Santa Fe Park South, Dad Clark Gulch FHAD Floodplain Development Permit, Littleton, Colorado”, by Westwood Professional Services, dated December 2024**

	<p><b>6. Water Plan Grant - Change of Grantee</b>  <i>Grants Section</i></p> <p><b>a. Chaffee County Fourmile Creek Restoration</b></p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Directors' Reports</b>
<b>4a.</b>	DNR Executive Director - Dan Gibbs
<b>4b.</b>	CWCB Director – Lauren Ris
<b>4c.</b>	IBCC Director – Becky Mitchell
<b>4d.</b>	Agriculture Commissioner – Robert Sakata
<b>4e.</b>	State Engineer – Jason Ullmann
<b>4f.</b>	Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director – Matt Nicholl
<b>4g.</b>	Water Resource and Power Development Authority – Jim Griffiths
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Instream Flow Appropriations</b>  <i>Stream and Lake Protection Section</i></p>
<b>5a</b>	<p><b>Public Notice of 2026 Instream Flow and Natural Lake Level Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Report by CWCB staff member Marielle Sidell.</p> <p><i>This is an informational item with no Board action required.</i></p>
<b>5b</b>	<p><b>Public Comment on 2025 Instream Flow and Natural Level Appropriations Water Division 4, 5, and 6</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Report by CWCB staff member Marielle Sidell.</p> <p><i>This is an informational item with no Board action required.</i></p>

## Request to Form Intent to Appropriate Instream Flow Water Rights in Water Divisions 4, 6, and 7

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Rob Viehl and Roy Weisman with the BLM. Laura Belanger made a public comment to the Board. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Barbara Vasquez, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that, pursuant to ISF Rule 5d., the Board declare its intent to appropriate an instream flow (ISF) water right on each stream segment listed in Table 1, direct staff to publicly notice the Board's declaration of its intent to appropriate and establish the following initial schedule for the notice and comment procedure pursuant to ISF Rule 5c.:

Date	Action
March 19, 2025	Board declares its intent to appropriate and hears public comment
May 21-22, 2025	Public comment at CWCB Meeting
June 2, 2025	Notice to Contest due
June 6, 2025	Deadline for notification to the ISF Subscription Mailing List of Notices to Contest (no notification if none received)
July 1, 2025	Notices of Party Status and Contested Hearing Participant Status due
July 16-17, 2025	Staff informs Board of Parties and Participants; Board appoints a Hearing Officer and sets hearing date, Alternatively, if no Notices to Contest are filed staff may seek final action at CWCB Meeting
November 2025	ISF Contested Hearing conducted in conjunction with CWCB Meeting

**Table 1: Instream Flow Recommendations**

Water Div	Stream	Watershed	County	Length (miles)	Upper Terminus	Lower Terminus	Flow Rate (CFS)
4	East Muddy Creek	North Fork Gunnison	Gunnison	6.32	confluence Lee Creek	confluence Muddy Creek	11.2 (11/01 - 02/28) 20 (03/01 - 03/31) 23 (04/01 - 07/31) 14.5 (08/01 - 10/31)
4	West Muddy Creek	North Fork Gunnison	Gunnison	8.78	confluence Sheep Creek	confluence Muddy Creek	5.5 (10/01 - 03/31) 12.9 (04/01 - 07/15) 5.5 (07/16 - 07/31) 2 (08/01 - 09/30)
6	Milk Creek	Lower Yampa	Moffat	4.11	confluence Wilson Creek	confluence Yampa River	7.8 (01/01 - 02/29) 18 (03/01 - 03/31) 40 (04/01 - 06/30) 8 (07/01 - 07/31) 4.5 (08/01 - 09/30) 5.2 (10/01 - 12/31)
6	Vermillion Creek	Vermillion	Moffat	18.6	confluence Talamantes Creek	confluence USGS Vermillion Creek gage at Ink Springs	1 (10/01 - 04/15) 2.6 (04/16 - 09/30)

6	Vermillion Creek	Vermillion	Moffat	10.1	confluence USGS Vermillion Creek gage at Ink Springs	Vermillion Ditch headgate	1.4 (08/01 - 04/30) 2.4 (05/01 - 07/31)
7	Burrows Creek	Animas	San Juan	1.33	headwaters	confluence North Fork Animas River	0.19 (11/01 - 03/31) 1.3 (04/01 - 04/30) 3.75 (05/01 - 06/15) 1.6 (06/16 - 07/15) 0.58 (07/16 - 10/31)

6	<b>Instream Flow Acquisitions</b> <i>Stream and Lake Protection Section</i>
6a	<b>Request for Approval of a Water Conservation Program for Larimer County on Boxelder Creek – Water Division 1</b>  <b>Action:</b> Report by CWCB staff member Lisa Bright-Unger. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Brad Wind, which was seconded by Barbara Vasquez. The motion was approved unanimously (8-0).  <b>Staff Recommendation:</b> Staff recommends that the Board approve the CWT and Larimer proposal as a Water Conservation Program, subject to sections 37-92-305(3)(c)(II)(A) C.R.S. and 37-92-103(2)(b)(I) C.R.S.
6b	<b>Proposed Water Use Agreement with Garfield County to Lease Ruedi Reservoir Water for Instream Flow Use on the 15-Mile Reach, Water Division 5 (1<sup>st</sup> meeting)</b>  <b>Action:</b> Report by CWCB staff member Lisa Bright-Unger.  <i>This is an informational item with no Board action required.</i>
7	<b>Request for Authorization to Proceed to Trial in Active Opposition Case:</b> <i>Stream and Lake Protection Section</i>
7a	<b>Case No. 20CW3208 (Water Division 1): Application of Montava Partners, LLC (fka HF2M, Inc.)</b>  <b>Action:</b> Report by CWCB staff member Colin Watson. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Greg Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously (8-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Pursuant to ISF Rule 8.j., Staff recommends that the Board authorize Staff to proceed to trial in the case identified in Table 1 to protect CWCB's instream flow water rights in the event that Staff and the Attorney General's office are unable to reach a settlement with Applicants before trial, or if CWCB settles before trial, to defend its stipulation at trial if necessary.

**Table 1:**

Item	Case No.	Applicant	Trial Date (No. of Days)	CWCB Statement of Opposition Date
7.a	20CW3208 (Division 1)	Montava Partners, LLC (fka HF2M, Inc.)	April 21, 2025 (15 days)	February 19, 2021

**8 Request for Authorization to Proceed to Trial in Stipulated Opposition Cases**  
*Stream and Lake Protection Section*

**8a Case Nos. 21CW3029 and 21CW3030 (Water Division 5): Application of Eagle River Water & Sanitation District and Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority**

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Colin Watson. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by John McClow, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (8-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Pursuant to ISF Rule 8.j., Staff recommends that the Board authorize Staff to proceed to trial in the case identified in Table 1 to protect CWCB's instream flow water rights in the event that Staff and the Attorney General's office are unable to reach a settlement with Applicants before trial, or if CWCB settles before trial, to defend its stipulation at trial if necessary.

**Table 1:**

Item	Case No.	Applicant	Trial Date (No. of Days)	CWCB Stipulation Date	CWCB Statement of Opposition Date
8.a	21CW3029 (Division 5)	Eagle River Water & Sanitation District and Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority	April 14, 2025 (10 days)	March 26, 2024	May 26, 2021
8.a	21CW3030 (Division 5)	Eagle River Water & Sanitation District and Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority	April 14, 2025 (10 days)	March 29, 2024	May 26, 2021



**9 Request for Authorization to Initiate Formal Rulemaking to Revise Instream Flow Rules to Implement Section 2 SB24-197**

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff members Rob Viehl and Kaylea White. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Taylor Hawes, which was seconded by John McClow. The motion was approved unanimously (8-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** 1. Authorize staff to coordinate with the Attorney General’s Office to initiate the formal rulemaking process for revisions to the Rules Concerning the Colorado Instream Flow and Natural Lake Level Program (“ISF Rules”) that would address the requirements of Senate Bill 24-197. The formal rulemaking process will include a hearing on the ISF Rules revisions that likely will be scheduled during the July 2025 CWCB Board meeting; and  
2. Designate counsel from the Attorney General’s Office (conflicts counsel for the Board) as the Hearing Officer for the rulemaking hearing to oversee procedural matters, such as setting deadlines and submission of documents.

**10 Spring Drought and Flood Update**  
*Water Supply Planning & Watershed and Flood Protection Sections*

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff members Emily Adrid and Kevin Houck.

*This is an informational item with no Board action required.*

**11 Transformative Landscape Change Action Updates**  
*Water Supply Planning*

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff members Kathryn Weismiller and Jenna Battson.

*This is an informational item with no Board action required.*

**12 Agriculture Action Updates**  
*Water Supply Planning*

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Nora Flynn.

*This is an informational item with no Board action required.*

**13 Attorney General’s Report, Legal Briefing, and Executive Session**

**Action:** Report by Scott Steinbrecher and Attorney General Counsel to the Board, Jen Mele. A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Greg Felt. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**14 Executive Session**

**14a** Colorado River Post-2026 Negotiations

**15**

**Report from Executive Session**

**Action:** Report by Counsel to the Board, Jen Mele. A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Barbara Vasquez, which was seconded by Greg Felt. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**16**

**Water Plan Grants**

*Grants Section*

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Jeannine Shaw.

**16a**

**Category** – Agriculture

**Applicant** – Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

**Project** – Integrated Physical and Geochemical Estimation of Agricultural Return Flows East River Basin

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Nora Flynn. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. John McClow recused himself from the vote, the motion was approved unanimously (8-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$345,347.00 to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District for integrated physical and geochemical estimation of agricultural return flows in the East River Basin.

**16b**

**Category** – Agriculture

**Applicant** – Community Agriculture Alliance, Inc.

**Project** – Bear River Automation Phase 1

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Nora Flynn. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$122,057.00 to the Community Agriculture Alliance for Bear River Automation Phase 1.

**16c**      **Category** – Agriculture  
**Applicant** – Dolores Water Conservancy District  
**Project** – Dolores Operations Model Modernization

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Nora Flynn. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$182,369.20 to the Dolores Water Conservancy District for the Dolores Operations Model Modernization.

**16d**      **Category** – Agriculture  
**Applicant** – Center Conservation District  
**Project** – San Luis Valley Wool Pellet Project

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Nora Flynn. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$223,089.20 to the Center Conservation District for the San Luis Valley Wool Pellet Project.

**16e**      **Category** – Conservation & Land Use  
**Applicant** – Thompson School District  
**Project** – Elementary School Landscaping Upgrade

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Kevin Reidy. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$133,519.80 to Thompson School District for the Elementary School Landscaping Upgrade.

**16f**      **Category** – Conservation & Land Use  
**Applicant** – Multiplier  
**Project** – Advancing High Impact Water Efficiency Solutions in Colorado Communities – Phase 3

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Kevin Reidy. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$698,610.00 to Multiplier for Advancing High Impact Water Efficiency Solutions in Colorado Communities-Phase 3.

**16g**

**Category** – Conservation & Land Use

**Applicant** – Urban Land Institute

**Project** – Phase 2 of Water Wise Development Initiative

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Kevin Reidy. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$384,605.80 to Urban Land Institute for Phase 2 of the Water Wise Development Initiative.

**16h**

**Category** – Engagement & Innovation

**Applicant** – Moxiecran Media LLC

**Project** – Thirsting for a Future

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$56,250.00 to Moxiecran Media LLC for the *Thirsting for a Future* project.

**16i**

**Category** – Water Storage & Supply

**Applicant** – Town of Crested Butte

**Project** – Town of Crested Butte Slate River Alternative Water Supply Feasibility Project

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Matt Stearns. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$342,000.00 to the Town of Crested Butte for the Slate River Alternative Water Supply Feasibility Project.

**16j**

**Category** – Water Storage & Supply

**Applicant** – Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

**Project** – Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Federal Reserved Water Rights Options Study

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Matt Stearns, Letisha Yazzie made a public comment to the Board. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by, which was seconded by. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$395,080.00 to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe for the Federal Reserved Water Rights Options Study. Furthermore, in accordance with SB24-197, staff recommends waiving fund matching requirements to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

**16k**      **Category** – Water Storage & Supply  
**Applicant** – City of Pueblo  
**Project** – Lake Minnequa Restoration Feasibility Study

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Matt Stearns. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by, which was seconded by. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$112,500.00 to the City of Pueblo for the Lake Minnequa Restoration Feasibility Study.

**16l**      **Category** – Watershed Health & Recreation  
**Applicant** – Jefferson Conservation District  
**Project** – Lower North Fork Sediment Stabilization

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Chris Sturm. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Barbara Vasquez, which was seconded by Lorelei Cloud. Greg Johnson recused himself from the vote, the motion was approved unanimously (8-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$368,150.19 to the Jefferson Conservation District for the Lower North Fork Sediment Stabilization project.

**16m**      **Category** – Watershed Health & Recreation  
**Applicant** – Ducks Unlimited  
**Project** – San Luis Creek Watershed Restoration Project

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Chris Sturm. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$184,995.00 to Ducks Unlimited for the San Luis Creek Watershed Restoration Project.

**16n**      **Category** – Watershed Health & Recreation  
**Applicant** – Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District  
**Project** – Mount Werner Water

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Chris Sturm. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$403,620.00 to the Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District for River Streambank Restoration Project

**16o**      **Category** – Watershed Health & Recreation  
**Applicant** – San Luis Valley Irrigation District  
**Project** – Rio Grande Reservoir Low-Flow Pipe Design

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Chris Sturm. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$134,290.00 to the San Luis Valley Irrigation District for the Rio Grande Reservoir Low-Flow Pipe Design.

**16p**      **Category** – Watershed Health & Recreation  
**Applicant** – Town of Pagosa Springs  
**Project** – Pagosa Gateway Project: San Juan River Recreational and Ecological Enhancements

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Christ Sturm. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:**  
Staff recommends full funding of \$292,222.17 to the Town of Pagosa Springs for the Pagosa Gateway Project: San Juan River Recreational and Ecological Enhancements.

**16q**      **Category** – Watershed Health & Recreation  
**Applicant** – Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation  
**Project** – Wildfire Ready Action Planning – Conejos and Costilla Counties Project

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Chris Sturm. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$567,320.00 to the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation for the Wildfire Ready Action Planning - Conejos and Costilla Counties Project.

**16r**      **Category** – Watershed Health & Recreation  
**Applicant** – Trout Unlimited  
**Project** – Forest Hill Mill Site Reclamation

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Chris Sturm. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$337,563.12 to Trout Unlimited for the Forest Hill Mill Site Reclamation project.

**16s**      **Category** – Watershed Health & Recreation  
**Applicant** – Trout Unlimited  
**Project** – Enhancing River Stewardship and Recreation

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Chris Sturm. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$150,000.00 to Trout Unlimited for the Enhancing River Stewardship and Recreation project.

**16t**      **Category** – Watershed Health & Recreation  
**Applicant** – RiversEdge West  
**Project** – Grand Valley River Corridor Initiative – Master Planning and Floodplain Restoration Project

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Chris Sturm. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Taylor Hawes. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$315,228.00 to RiversEdge West for the Grand Valley River Corridor Initiative – Master Planning and Floodplain Restoration Project.

**Thursday, March 20, 2025**

**17      Basin Directors' Reports**

**17a**      Colorado River (Mainstem) Basin Director's Report – *Taylor Hawes*

**17b**      San Juan/San Miguel-Dolores River Basin Director's Report – *Lorelei Cloud*

**17c**      Gunnison River Basin Director's Report – *John McClow*

**17d**      North Platte River Basin Director's Report – *Barbara Vasquez*

**17e**      South Platte River Basin Director's Report – *Brad Wind*

**17f**      Arkansas River Basin Director's Report – *Greg Felt*

**17g**      City and County of Denver Director's Report – *Greg Johnson*

**17h** Rio Grande River Basin Director's Report – *Nathan Coombs*

**17i** Yampa-White River Basin Director's Report – *Mike Camblin*

**18 Financial Matters – Construction Fund and Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund**  
*Finance Section*

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Kirk Russell.

**b. Financial Projections and Cash Management Report**

*This is an informational item with no Board action required.*

**19 Water Project Loans**  
*Finance Section*

**a. Fort Bent Ditch Company – Willow Creek Siphon Repair**

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Joshua Godwin, Chris Henderson with Fort Bent Ditch Co. addressed the Board. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Greg Felt, which was seconded by Lorelei Cloud. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Board approve a loan not to exceed \$869,610 (\$861,000 for project costs and \$8,610 for the 1% service fee) to the Fort Bent Ditch Company for costs related to the Willow Creek Siphon Repair, from the Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund. The loan term will be 30 years at an interest rate of 2.40% per annum. Security for the loan shall be in compliance with CWCB Financial Policy #5.

**b. Rio Grande Water Conservation District – Special Improvement District No. 2 – Williams Creek Water Rights Purchase**

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Zach Salin. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Greg Felt. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Board approve a loan not to exceed \$723,160 (\$716,000 for project costs and \$7,160 for the 1% service fee) to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District - Special Improvement District No. 2, acting by and through its water activity enterprise, for costs related to the Saguache Augmentation Project, from the Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund. The loan term will be 30 years at an interest rate of 2.25% per annum. Security for the loan shall be in compliance with CWCB Financial Policy #5.



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## **Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District – Dry Gulch Reservoir Loan**

### *Finance Section*

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Kirk Russell, Candace Jones addressed the Board for public comment. A motion to approve the amended staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Barbara Vasquez. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** The Board declined Staff's recommendation, and instead, the Board directed staff to respond to PAWSD with a letter stating as follows: "The CWCB is in receipt of its January 17, 2025 letter informing the CWCB and SJWCD of its decision to sell the Running Iron Ranch (RIR). The CWCB is not at this time making a decision as to whether to purchase the RIR under paragraph 5.1 of the Amended Agreement. The CWCB reserves its right to exercise or not exercise the right of first refusal if it is determined in Case No. 24CV30069 that PAWSD is able to sell the RIR, or PAWSD otherwise is able to move forward with a sale of the RIR." The letter should also summarize the requirements of repayment of the loan under the Amended Agreement upon any sale.

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## **Water Supply Reserve Fund Applications**

### *Grants Section*

#### **a. Basin – Gunnison**

**Applicant** – Terror Ditch & Reservoir Company

**Name of Water Activity** – Terror Ditch Pipeline Project

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Brad Wind. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$50,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account and up to \$215,120 from the Statewide Account.

#### **b. Basin – Metro**

**Applicant** – City of Aurora

**Name of Water Activity** – Inaugural Airborne Snow Observatories Surveys in the Upper South Platte Basin

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Taylor Hawes, which was seconded by Barbara Vasquez. Greg Johnson recused himself from the vote, the motion was approved unanimously (8-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$120,167.50 from the Metro Basin Account and up to \$294,168 from the Statewide Account.

**c. Basin – Metro & South Platte**

**Applicant** – Republican River Water Conservation District

**Name of Water Activity** – South Fork Republican Rive Bonny Dam Subsurface Sediment Drainage

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Brad Wind. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$41,250 from the Metro Basin Account, up to \$41,250 from the South Platte Basin Account and up to \$198,000 from the Statewide Account.

**d. Basin – Rio Grande**

**Applicant** – Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

**Name of Water Activity** – Rio Grande Basin ASO Project

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Brad Wind. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommendations approval of up to \$116,800 from the Rio Grande Basin Account and up to \$676,596 from the Statewide Account.

**e. Basin – Rio Grande**

**Applicant** – Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

**Name of Water Activity** – Waterwise Landscaping Partnership

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Brad Wind. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$37,900 from the Rio Grande Basin Account and up to \$284,250 from the Statewide Account.

**f. Basin – Rio Grande**

**Applicant** – San Luis Valley Irrigation District

**Name of Water Activity** – Farmers Union Canal 1-D Bay Bridge

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Brad Wind. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$35,777 from the Rio Grande Basin Account and up to \$261,528 from the Statewide Account.

**g. Basin – South Platte**

**Applicant** – Sterling Irrigation Company

**Name of Water Activity** – Sterling No 1 Ditch Bypass Structure Replacement

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Brad Wind. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$50,000 from the South Platte Basin Account and up to \$350,000 from the Statewide Account.

**h. Basin – Southwest**

**Applicant** – Lone Cone Ditch & Reservoir Company

**Name of Water Activity** – Lone Cone Reservoir Rehabilitation Phase 2: Construction

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Brad Wind. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$46,548 from the Southwest Basin Account and up to \$323,452 from the Statewide Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.

**i. Basin – Southwest**

**Applicant** – Farmers Water Development Company

**Name of Water Activity** – Gurley Dam 2<sup>nd</sup> Slip Repair

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Brad Wind. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$32,401 from the Southwest Basin Account and up to \$111,640 from the Statewide Account.

**j. Basin – Yampa/White/Green**

**Applicant** – White River Conservation District

**Name of Water Activity** – Oak Ridge Park Ditch Stream Crossings

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Brad Wind. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Yampa-White-Green Basin Account and up to \$134,500 from the Statewide Account. Project approval is contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs identified by staff.

**k. Basin – Yampa/White/Green**

**Applicant** – Town of Oak Creek

**Name of Water Activity** – Sheriff Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation Spillway and Embankment Improvements Phase

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Ben Wade. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Lorelei Cloud, which was seconded by Brad Wind. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of up to \$67,333 from the Yampa/White/Green Basin Account and up to \$437,665 from the Statewide Account.

**22 PEPO Application for Consideration March 2025**

*Water Supply Planning Section*

**a. Basin – Statewide**

**Applicant** – Colorado Water Center

**Name of Water Activity** – Colorado Project WET

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Elizabeth Schoder. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Taylor Hawes, which was seconded by Barbara Vasquez. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$149,772 to CSU Colorado Water Center.

**23 Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation – Sale of Orphan Shares**

*Finance Section*

**Action:** Report by CWCB staff member Kirk Russell. A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made by Barbara Vasquez, which was seconded by Greg Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Board approve the sale of up to 1000 acre-feet of Orphan Shares in the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project to the Ground Water Management Subdistrict of the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District by and through its Water Activity Enterprise.

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn the March 2025 Board meeting was made by Barbara Vasquez, which was seconded by Mike Camblin. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

