



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
 Rebecca Mitchell, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Alexander Funk
 Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section

DATE: July 15th, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 21 a-e Colorado Water Plan Grants - Agriculture

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the following Board action for activities listed in the following table regarding Colorado’s Water Plan Grant Program funding. Project approval is contingent on awardees implementing the project consistent with any public health orders and executive orders in the effect at the time of implementation.

Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request Amount	Staff Recommendation
a. Cedar Mesa Ditch Company	Assistance with Piping Lower Cedar Mesa Ditch	\$35,000	Approve \$35,000
b. Grand River Ditch Company	Davis Point Pipeline	\$62,500	Approve \$62,500
c. Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District	Soil Health Demonstration Plots	\$100,000	Approve \$100,000
d. Trout Unlimited	Applying Technology to Monitor Grass Consumptive Use at Scale	\$29,394	Approve \$29,394
e. Trout Unlimited	Upper Gunnison Multiple Diversion Improvement Project	\$52,731	Approve \$52,731
Total Recommended for Approval			\$279,625

Background:

For fiscal year 2020, the Agricultural Project category received \$1.75 million in funding. The unreserved balance in the agriculture category is \$1,752,598, including carryover funds from fiscal year 2019. In the first round of fiscal year 2020 applications, the CWCB approved 7 applications totaling \$1,162,084. In the second round of fiscal year 2020 applications, CWCB received six applications totaling \$533,375. One application was withdrawn by the applicant. Staff is recommending five projects totaling \$279,625 leaving \$310,889 in carryover funds.

CWCB staff, with assistance from a review committee, review all agricultural viability applications according the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program criteria and guidelines and

category specific criteria. The grant review committee consists of Colorado Water Conservation Board staff in consultation with Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff where appropriate. The review committee evaluates agricultural grants on several criteria including whether the project furthers critical action items identified in the Colorado Water Plan, whether the project promotes collaboration, and whether the project provides an innovative, multi-benefit approach to solving water resource challenges affecting Colorado's agricultural industry.

Project Issues/Additional Needs

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