



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
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:** Lauren Ris, CWCB Deputy Director

**DATE:** November 18-19, 2020

**AGENDA ITEM:** #12 Grant Evaluation Review

---

**Background:**

This informational agenda item will provide an update on the Grant Evaluation Work Plan presented to the CWCB Finance Committee in September 2020. In accordance with that work plan, this update will include information gathered on grants provided to assist with planning efforts, studies, and drought. This includes the following grant programs:

- Water Efficiency Grants
- Technical Assistance for Federal Cost Share Grants
- Operational Account Grants
- Feasibility Study Grants
- Weather Modification Grants
- Agricultural Emergency Drought Response Grants

Information collected on each of these grant programs is provided in Table 1. and includes:

- Eligible project types
- Grant approval process
- Where the grant program is authorized (statute, policy, or bill)
- Match requirements
- Funding Source
- Annual funding available
- Average Grant award
- Number of applications considered by the Board over the last 3 fiscal years
- Approval timeline
- When the criteria and guidelines were last reviewed

Grant managers for each of the programs have reviewed criteria and guidelines (Attachments A-D) where applicable, and have made suggested edits to correct or update language to be consistent with current program and agency operations. Grant managers have also highlighted areas that address match requirements, approval processes, and other requirements that may benefit from overarching changes across CWCB grant programs.



The review of the remainder of CWCB's grant programs will be presented to the Board in January and any recommendations will be made at the March Board meeting.

#### **Discussion:**

Of the grants reviewed, there are a few observations worth highlighting related to the approval processes, match requirements, and criteria and guidelines.

#### *Approval Processes*

Three grant programs have a Board approval threshold:

1. Water Efficiency Grant recommendations over \$50,000 must receive board approval while staff has discretion to approve awards below that amount.
2. Feasibility Study Grant awards over \$50,000 must be approved by the Board and the Director approves awards below that amount.
3. The Technical Assistance for Federal Cost Share Grants are approved by the Board if they are over \$25,000 and the CWCB Director approves awards below that amount.

Two grant programs ultimately must receive Legislative approval:

1. Operational Account Grants are approved by the Board for inclusion in the Long Bill.
2. The funding amount available for Weather Modification Grants is approved by the Board for inclusion in the annual Projects Bill; however individual grant awards are determined by staff.

Finally, per statute, the Agricultural Emergency Drought Response Grants are only authorized when a drought disaster emergency is declared, and are approved by a committee comprised of the CWCB Director, the State Engineer, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the DNR Director.

#### *Match Requirement*

Of the programs reviewed, two programs have a match requirement: the Water Efficiency Grant Program requires a 25% minimum match which can be either cash, in-kind or a combination and the Feasibility Study Grant Program has a 50% match requirement. Neither of these match requirements are in statute. The other programs reviewed do not have a specific match requirement.

#### *Criteria and Guidelines or Policy*

The Board approved criteria and guidelines for the Water Efficiency Grant Program, the Technical Assistance for Federal Cost Share Grant Program, and the Agricultural Emergency Drought Response are attached to this memorandum. Staff has reviewed these and made suggested updates and have highlighted areas that may benefit from overarching changes to make grant programs consistent across the agency. The Feasibility Study Grant Program is governed by CWCB Policy 17 which is also attached.

Two of the grant programs reviewed do not have criteria and guidelines or a policy approved by the Board. The Operational Account Grant Program is the CWCB's Core Program that receives a portion of funding from the DNR Operational Account. CWCB has used this funding to provide grants for studies or demonstration projects that will have multiple benefits or provide benefits for a large geographic area. CWCB typically



accepts applications by January 31st and after approval from the General Assembly, funding is available on July 1st and must be completed within the same fiscal year (by June 30th of the following year). The Weather Modification Grant Program also does not have criteria and guidelines. Eligibility and the application process are specified on CWCB's grant [web page](#). The program is only available to existing permitted cloud seeding programs, with the exception of ski areas which are not eligible.



Table 1. November Grant Review Data

| Grant Program                                      | Eligible project types   | Approval  | Authorization                               | Match Requirements                         | Funding Source   | Annual Funding Available | Average Grant Award | # Applications considered by Board last 3 FY                            | Approval Timeline | C&G or policy last reviewed   |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--------------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Planning and studies                               |  |   |   |  |  |                          |                     |   |                   |   |
| Water Efficiency Grants                            | Develop Water Efficiency & Drought Management Plans, Implementation of WE & DM Plans, & Water Efficiency focused Public Education Outreach   | Board approves awards >\$50K, staff approves awards < \$50k       | <a href="#">37-60-126(12)(a)(I), C.R.S.</a> | 25% match; can be in-kind or cash (in C&G) | "Tier 2" severance tax, Construction Fund via Projects Bill  | \$550,000                | \$32,929            | FY 17/18 - 1 (staff approved 12)<br>FY 18/19 - 0 (8)<br>FY 19/20 -1 (8) | Rolling           | Board approved an addition (for implementation/ public education projects) in 2014. |
| Technical Assistance for Federal Cost Share Grants | Project planning and technical support such as ditch inventories/stakeholder engagement, early project design and feasibility analysis, Federal grant-writing and management, environmental compliance/permitting for projects | Board approves awards > \$25K; Director approves < 25K            | Annual projects bill                        | Currently, no match requirement            | Construction Fund- Non-reimbursable Project Investment Grant | \$200,000                | \$10,000-25,000     | FY 17/18 - 6 (staff approved 3)<br>FY 18/19 - 1 (5)<br>FY 19/20 - 2 (5) | Rolling           | 2017  |
| Operational Account Grants                         | Studies or demonstration projects that will benefit a wide range of people and organizations, or a large geographic area within Colorado.  | Final Board approval for inclusion in the Long Bill (Legislature) | <a href="#">39-29-109.3 (2) (g), C.R.S.</a> |  | Severance Tax (Core Programs)                                | \$1.275 million          | \$45,085            | 17/18 - 30<br>18/19 - 30<br>19/20 - 35                                  | March             | N/A   |
| Feasibility Study Grants                           | Loan feasibility studies for storage projects. (Up to \$5K available for all other types of loan feasibility studies.)   | Board approves awards > \$50K; Director approves < \$50K          | <a href="#">37-60-122.7 C.R.S.</a>          | 50% (in <a href="#">Policy 17</a> )        | Construction Fund  | \$500,000                | \$35,000            | 0 (Average of 7 approved annually by Division Director)                 | Rolling           | <a href="#">Policy 17</a> revised 2016  |

Table 1. November Grant Review Data

| Grant Program                           | Eligible project types   | Approval  | Authorization   | Match Requirements                          | Funding Source                                       | Annual Funding Available | Average Grant Award | # Applications considered by Board last 3 FY | Approval Timeline                                  | C&G or policy last reviewed |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--------------------------|---------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Drought                                 |  |   |   |   |  |                          |                     |  |  |                             |
| Weather Modification Grants             | Weather Modification projects  | Staff approval  | Permits authorized by <a href="#">36-20-103 C.R.S.</a> and <a href="#">2 CCR 401-1</a> . Grants authorized in annual Projects Bill. | No match required, but frequently provided. | Construction Fund (& General Fund) via Projects Bill | \$350,000                | 25,000-35,000       | FY 17/18 - 6<br>FY 18/19 - 7<br>FY 19/20 - 7 | July   | N/A                         |
| Agricultural Emergency Drought Response | Securing augmentation water through leasing for emergency drought purposes | Approved by CWCB Director, State Engineer, Commissioner of Agriculture and DNR Director | <a href="#">37-60-123.5 C.R.S.</a>  | No match required                           | Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund                    | \$1 million              | \$175,000           | FY 17/18 - 0<br>FY 18/19 - 0<br>FY 19/20 - 0 | As needed when drought disaster emergency declared | 2020                        |

ATTACHMENT A

POLICY NUMBER: 17

SUBJECT: **APPLICATION APPROVAL AND USE OF GRANTS FROM  
THE FEASIBILITY STUDY SMALL GRANT FUND**

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 24, 1998

REVISED DATE: January 27, 2004, November 16, 2016

POLICY: The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC) will accept applications for grants from the Feasibility Study Small Grant Fund (~~the~~ Fund) at any time during the year.

The CWCBC will review grant applications from the Fund for water project feasibility studies that meet the established goals and loan program needs of the CWCBC Construction Fund and Severance Tax Trust Fund Perpetual Base Fund and potential projects that align with the goals of the Colorado Water Plan.

All grants from the Fund will be limited to fifty percent of the total study cost. The CWCBC Director has the authority to approve grants up to \$5,000 without prior Board authorization for feasibility studies for projects related to construction or rehabilitation of ditches and canals, pipelines, diversion structures, water rights purchases, flood control projects, and hydroelectric projects. The CWCBC Director has the authority to approve grants up to \$50,000 without prior Board authorization for projects that address storage needs, including: removing a storage restriction, reservoir enlargement, or new storage projects. The applicant must complete the project feasibility study within one year of the approval date.

Eligible study costs will include:

- a. Study preparation costs.
- b. Engineering costs including surveying, preliminary design, geo-technical analysis of foundation conditions, and the design report.
- c. Appraisal costs when an appraisal is required for the loan.
- d. Financial audit costs when no financial information currently exists.

PURPOSE: To establish an application and approval process for grants from the Feasibility Study Small Grant Fund.

APPLICABILITY: This policy and procedure apply to grant applications from the Feasibility Study Small Grant Fund.

PROCEDURE: A grant applicant will submit the following to the CWCB staff for review:

- a. A letter of request for the grant. The letter must state that the feasibility study will be in the CWCB format, and that the applicant plans to apply for a loan from the CWCB and has selected an engineer to complete the study.
- b. Scope of work and cost estimate for the study from the engineer.
- c. Loan Application (preliminary).
- d. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (or equivalent documentation.)
- e. Financial Statements for the 2 most recent years (Income/expense and balance sheet)
- f. The applicant's current W-9 form.

Staff will review the grant application for compliance with the above criteria and, in their professional opinion, likelihood of successful project development. Applications greater than \$50,000 will be referred to the Board for consideration at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Applications for \$50,000 or less will be referred to the CWCB Director.

Approved by the CWCB  
January 27, 2004 Board Meeting  
Agenda Item #12





Applications will be accepted at the Colorado Water Conservation Board at any time during the year and the approval process will be completed within sixty days following the application.

Grant funds will be disbursed following the execution of a State funding contract by the applicant. The disbursements will be made based on the grantee's request that will include all applicable receipts and documentation of the water lease or purchase.

Applications for grants from the Program must include at least the following information:

1. A cover letter detailing the amount of funds requested for the drought period. The person ultimately responsible for signing grant and loan contracts on behalf of the applicant must sign the letter.
2. The name, title, address, telephone number, and e-mail of the primary contact person.
3. A detailed description of the purpose of the grant as it pertains to an emergency drought related water augmentation purpose.
4. A copy of the official drought declaration for the affected Counties by the Governor, Federal Government or other official source (available at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/disaster-designation-information/index>).
5. A detailed line item budget for the project/purchase, showing all projected and actual expenditures including in-kind support.
6. The organization's current annual budget, along with a copy of the organization's annual report and financial statements.
7. Information about the organization seeking funds, including institutional and historical background, a list of the board of directors, the legal classification of the organization and a copy of your current determination letter indicating tax-exempt status.

All applications shall be prepared following the above guidelines and emailed to Alexander Funk ([alexander.funk@state.co.us](mailto:alexander.funk@state.co.us)) and Anna Mauss ([anna.mauss@state.co.us](mailto:anna.mauss@state.co.us)) with the subject line Agricultural Emergency Drought Response Grant Application Request.



Adopted by the CWCB May 25, 2005  
Revised by the Board January 24, 2006  
Revised by the Board November 14, 2006  
Revised by the Board November 20, 2008

## **WATER EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM FUND**

### **GRANT GUIDELINES FOR WATER EFFICIENCY PLANNING PROJECTS**

#### **1. Introduction & Purpose**

The Water Efficiency Grant Program Fund provides financial assistance for the following purposes:

- Developing Water Efficiency plans
- Implementing CWCB-approved Water Efficiency plans
- Promoting the benefits of water resource efficiency through public education and outreach projects.
- Developing Drought Management plans

**These guidelines address the application requirements and process for water efficiency planning projects.**

These grants may be distributed to the following:

- Covered entities and state and local governmental entities

#### **GRANT AWARDS ARE CONTINGENT ON PROGRAM FUND AVAILABILITY**

#### **2. Intent of the Board**

It is the explicit intent of the Board to work with water users and local entities to increase meaningful water efficiency in the state by:

- Increasing the number of local entities with CWCB approved water efficiency plans;
- Improving the nature and breadth of water efficiency practices at the local level; and
- Increasing the amount of technical assistance that the CWCB provides to local entities.

With these objectives in mind, the Board intends to administer the Water Efficiency Grant program for purposes of providing assistance to the following:

- Covered entities that require Water Efficiency Plans to qualify for water project funding under Board and CWRPA programs;
- Covered entities that need to update and/or amend existing Water Efficiency Plans currently on file with the Office to maintain funding from the Board or the CWRPA in adherence with § 37-60-126;
- Covered entities that desire to improve, update, and/or create Water Efficiency Plans

#### **3. Definitions**

**Adopted by the CWCB May 25, 2005**  
**Revised by the Board January 24, 2006**  
**Revised by the Board November 14, 2006**  
**Revised by the Board November 20, 2008**

**Acre Foot:** The amount of water it would take to cover an acre of land to a depth of 1 foot, approximately 325,851 gallons.

**Agency:** A public or private entity whose primary purpose includes the promotion of water resource efficiency.

**Board:** The Colorado Water Conservation Board as defined in §§37-60-101, 103 and 104, C.R.S.

**Board Office:** The Colorado Water Conservation Board's office is located at 1313 Sherman Street, 7th Floor, Denver, CO 80203. The phone number is (303) 866-3441. The facsimile number is (303) 866-4474. The Board's website is <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/>

**Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB):** A division of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, created in 1937. The Board's authority and role is defined in §37-60-101, et seq., CRS. The Mission Statement of the CWCB is to conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations.

**Covered entity:** municipality, agency, utility, including any privately owned utility, or other publicly owned entity with a legal obligation to supply, distribute, or otherwise provide water at retail to domestic, commercial, industrial, or public facility customers, and that has a total demand for such customers of two thousand acre-feet or more.

**Grant Program:** the Water Efficiency Grant Program established through HB 05-1254 and revised through SB07-008.

**Individual with the Authority to Commit Resources:** Any individual within the submitting entity that has the authority to commit the organization's resources for the development and implementation of a water efficiency plan. Examples include the City, County or District Manager, Mayor, Executive Director of a Special District, City, Councilperson, etc.

**Local Governmental Entity:** a county, municipality, city and county, water district, water and sanitation district, metropolitan district that provides water services, water conservation district, water conservancy district, or water authority.

**Office:** means the Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning created in section §37-60-124.

**Project:** the proposed scope of work, activities and tasks that the applicant will perform using the monies awarded by the Board under the Water Efficiency Grant Program.

**Public facility:** any facility operated by an instrument of government for the benefit of the public, including, but not limited to, a government building, park or other recreational facility, school, college, university, or other educational institution, highway, hospital, or stadium.

**Retail Water Delivery:** means all water sales, except wholesale water sales, made by the covered or planning entity except wholesale water sales through installments, credit sales, or the exchange of

property, as well as, thereof for money; every such transactions for a consideration, condition or otherwise, constituting a sale; and/or the sale or furnishing of water.

**Treated Metered Water Use:** The total treated demand or total amount of treated water that is metered and used by end users (customers) indoors and outdoors.

**Treated Water Delivery:** The total amount of treated water provided to end users (customers) through distribution system(s), based on water production records. This also may be referred to as “water production” data (i.e. amounts of treated water pumped or conveyed into the distribution system).

**Water Efficiency:** The objective of water efficiency is a long-term increase in the productive use of water supply in order to satisfy water demand without compromising desired water services. Water efficiency is inclusive of water conservation and captures the essential objective to improve the efficiency of a municipal water supply system through demand reduction and conserving of water.

**“Water Efficiency Plan,” or “Plan”:** A Plan adopted in accordance with §37-60-126 CRS.

**Water Reuse:** Use of reclaimed water for a beneficial use constitutes water reuse. Direct potable reuse includes treating wastewater and piping it directly into a water system without intervening dilution in natural water bodies. Indirect reuse includes an intermediate step between the generation of reclaimed water and reuse, which may be through discharge, retention, and mixing with another water supply.

**Water Efficient Measures and Programs (Activities):** includes any fixture, practice, hardware, or equipment that reduces water demands and a program that uses a combination of measures, incentives, and regulations that provides for an increase in the productive use of a local water supply.

#### **4. Fund Application Process**

##### **a) Eligibility Requirements**

i) Financial assistance may be provided to a covered entity and state and local governmental entities.

##### **b) Application Submittal Requirements**

To apply for financial assistance for development of a water efficiency plan, any eligible entity may submit an application to the Office for consideration through the CWCB grant portal. Applicants should complete the application, a detailed scope of work, and budget & schedule. These documents and instructions are in the CWCB’s grant portal. **LINK**

##### **Application:**

1. Applicants should state what type of project the entity is seeking funding for, the amount requested and the contact person for the entity including an email address and phone number & an electronic signature of an individual with the authority to commit the resources of the entity
2. A list of the organizations and/or individuals including those hired or otherwise retained by the entity that will assist in preparation of the Plan, and a written statement of their role and contributions.
3. The identification of annual treated water delivery by the entity for each of the past five years (in acre-feet) and additional information characterizing past water use by customer categories (e.g., residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, irrigation, public/municipal and water loss) and source (e.g., surface water, groundwater, etc.).

4. A reasonable estimate must be submitted with detailed projections of future annual treated metered water use for the next five years based on predicted service area population (provide source of data), building permits, expected new taps, and/or some other credible information.
5. Background characterizing the water system, potential growth and any other pertinent issues provided in 4. Information provided must include:
  - a. Current and past system wide and single family residential per capita water use for the last five years, and the basis for those calculations.
  - b. Service Area Population for the past five years, current year and 10 year population projection served by the entity and the source of this information
  - c. Estimated water savings goals to be achieved through implementation of the Plan in acre-feet and as a percentage.
6. Adequacy, stability, and reliability of the entity's water system and provide the entities location with respect to areas of current and future water needs as identified by the [Analysis and Technical Update to the Water Plan, the Basin Implementation Plan, or](#)~~and~~ other regional planning efforts. The signature of an individual with the authority to commit the resources of the entity seeking the grant.

#### **Scope of Work:**

1. The scope of work shall state the purpose and primary features of the Water Efficiency Plan development project, end products to be delivered, clear timelines and provide a detailed narrative of all tasks to be performed for completion of plan. **Timelines must include 50 and 75% progress reports and final plan submission.**
2. Each task within the scope of work must:
  - Be numbered
  - Contain a detailed description of work to be performed
  - Identify those responsible for performing the task
  - Identify funding sources, such as; grant monies, entity funds, in-kind services, and cash contributions, necessary to complete the task.
3. Applicants should use the *Municipal Water Efficiency Plan Development Guidance Document* as a guide in preparing the scope of work portion of the application.

#### **Budget and Schedule:**

1. A detailed budget, broken down by tasks, schedule of tasks, identifying all costs associated with the Water Efficiency Plan development project, including but not limited to hours spent on plan development (in-kind and cash), hourly wages, materials, and resources needed.

#### **c) Project Deliverables**

**All funded projects will be required to provide progress reports to the Board, via the Board staff, at 50% and 75% completion of the Plan.** A locally adopted CWCB approved plan constitutes a final project report. A progress report is a 2-3 page document that communicates the status of the project at a point in time. The following are items to consider when developing a progress report:

- the success or accomplishments of meeting previously identified goals and objectives

- obstacles encountered
- preliminary findings (including graphs, charts, other data)
- potential need for revisions to the scope of work, timeline or budget

#### **d) Matching Funds**

Entities requesting funding under this program must demonstrate the ability to provide 25% or more of the total Water Efficiency Plan development project budget with matching funds, either as cash or in-kind services. Any project partner contributing to the matching fund requirement must provide documentation, such as a letter, detailing the amount and purpose of their commitment. The Board will consider applications with a reduced level of matching funds; however these applicants will need to demonstrate financial hardship to be eligible for a Board waiver of the matching fund requirement.

*NOTE: The match is not on the grant amount requested but rather on the total Water Efficiency Plan development project budget. (e.g. Total cost for Plan project = \$20,000. The minimum 25% match required for the Plan project = \$5,000. Therefore the maximum grant request for the Plan project = \$15,000.)*

#### **e) CWCB Application Evaluation Process**

~~The degree to which an application meets the above evaluation criteria will be determined by the CWCB evaluation checklist.~~

Applicant projects will be ranked based on the evaluation criteria for the purpose of determining which projects receive grant funds. The CWCB Board and CWCB staff has sole discretion in the determination of grant funding awards.

#### **f) Application Review**

CWCB staff will review applications to determine whether they meet eligibility requirements, satisfy evaluation criteria, and have complied with all application submittal requirements specified in these guidelines. Based on this review, the staff will approve recommended grant applications under \$50,000.. A recommended grant application for \$50,000 or more will be reviewed and approved by the CWCB Board as appropriate.

#### **g) Application and Award Timing**

Funds for the Grant Program will become available on July 1 of each year. Applications can be submitted at anytime during the fiscal year to the Office CWCB for consideration noting that a given application requesting \$50,000 or more must be received by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month prior to the Board meeting to be considered for award at that Board meeting (e.g., applications must be received by February 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered for award at the March Board meeting). Awards will be made at each of the Board's bi-monthly meetings (i.e., January, March, May, July, September, and November) as warranted by demand and quality of applications. Award of the available monies can be made for one fiscal year or multiple fiscal years depending upon the availability of funding, the needs of the Board and the merits of any given application.

#### **h) Grant Reimbursement**

**Adopted by the CWCB May 25, 2005**  
**Revised by the Board January 24, 2006**  
**Revised by the Board November 14, 2006**  
**Revised by the Board November 20, 2008**

The CWCB will make payments during the term of the project from the Water Efficiency Grant Program Cash Fund to the covered entity, state and local governmental entity that has been awarded funds, as requested by each applicant in their scope of work and grant budget. All awarded grants will be bound by a Colorado State contract or purchase order that is in accordance with State fiscal rules. An applicant shall not commence work on any portion of the project funded by CWCB grant monies prior to the CWCB generating a purchase order or contract for the project. All payments will be based on invoices for work already completed. All invoices submitted to the CWCB must list all tasks, hours and dollar amounts, including in-kind hours the grant recipient is billing for. Purchase Order or Contract number must be included on the invoice. Also, please note according to State fiscal rules the Office has 45 days to process an invoice and send payment to the entity once an invoice is received. The individual payments do not need to be equal. All payments will be based on invoices for work already completed. The final payment will be at least 10% of the total grant award, which will not be released until completion of the Project. Note that all monies awarded under this Grant Program must be expended before June 30, 2030.

**Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Share  
Programs  
(TAFC) Criteria and  
Procedures**  
*March  
2021ay 17,  
2017*

The purpose of the Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Share (TAFC) Program is to provide financial assistance to create or expand organizational capacity to develop competitive multi-benefit/multi-purpose water projects and activities for Federal funding. The TAFC program grants are designed to fill a strategic need or gap for project planning and design, grant-development, and project management.

**Eligible Applicants:** Units of local Colorado government (e.g. conservation districts, water conservancy districts, water conservation districts, county, and municipalities), 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, groundwater management districts, acequias, Tribes, institutes of higher education, mutual ditch and reservoir companies, and private companies.

**Eligible Projects:**

- All TAFC applications shall (1) identify the relevant Federal grant program(s) that the applicant will apply for and (2) describe how the proposed scope of work will help secure Federal funding for the identified projects or projects.
- Any current Federal grant program is eligible. TAFC grantees may use funds to prepare projects and activities for other public or private financial assistance programs, but a Federal program(s) must be identified in the application.
- Project types or focus areas may include research and demonstration projects, agricultural water conservation and efficiency, municipal and industrial conservation and efficiency, land-use planning, watershed and forest health management, alternative transfer methods and other water-sharing strategies, natural hazard mitigation/adaptation, and other project types that may further state water and natural resource objectives.
- Eligible projects may also include the following:
  - Development and implementation of watershed plans required for Federal funding (e.g. United States Department of Agriculture PL-566 Watershed Program, nine-element watershed management plans);
  - Development of regional or ditch infrastructure inventories and assessments; or
  - Creating or expanding organizational capacity and technical assistance to perform feasibility level design and cost estimates, detailed design and cost estimates, environmental compliance and permitting, grant-development, and project management.
- Non-eligible projects include in-kind services, construction costs



## Criteria

All TAFC applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Does the project further Colorado Water Plan or Basin Implementation Plan goals, objectives, or actions? Priority will be given to applications seeking to secure financial and technical assistance for basin roundtable-identified projects or projects identified through collaborative watershed planning efforts such as stream/integrated watershed management plans.
- Does the project advance interstate, regional or watershed-scale water and natural resource management efforts and solutions?
- Does the project advance an innovative approach to water and natural resource management?
- Does the project have local community and diverse stakeholder support? Have relevant Federal, state and local government agencies provided input on the project?

## Match and Procedure:

- A 25% match is required (can be in-kind or cash)
- All applications must include a scope of work, budget, and project schedule
- All applications must identify the relevant Federal grants and estimated grant requests
- Rolling application process
- Director's discretion for grants \$50,000 or less
- Board approval required for grants exceeding \$50,000

### **~~A. Funds available for award in Calendar Year 2017 – \$200,000~~**

#### **~~B. Eligibility~~**

- ☐ ~~Units of Colorado local government: Conservation Districts, Water Conservancy Districts, Water Conservation Districts, Municipalities~~
- ☐ ~~Environmental and conservation organizations: non-profits and 501(c) groups~~
- ☐ ~~Incorporated ditch and irrigation companies selected by unit of local government~~
- ☐ ~~Must demonstrate eligibility for underlying federal program (WaterSMART, NRCS EQIP, Salinity Control Program)~~

#### **~~C. Federal Project types (activities must be located in Colorado)~~**

- ☐ ~~Water conservation, irrigation efficiency enhancement (infrastructure)~~
- ☐ ~~Encouraged to include elements of: Stream restoration, invasive phreatophyte control, water quality enhancement, aquatic/riparian endangered species habitat and mitigation, and soil health~~

#### **~~D. Technical assistance funds may be used as follows:~~**

- ☐ ~~No mandatory cost share percent, as significant funding will be leveraged if federal application is successful~~
- ☐ ~~Payment of reasonable administrative charges/fees~~
- ☐ ~~Pre-feasibility level design and cost estimates~~
- ☐ ~~Grant writing assistance~~

- ☐ ~~Capacity building and coordination with potential participants~~
- ☐ ~~Feasibility level design and cost estimates~~
- ☐ ~~Detailed design and cost estimates~~
- ☐ ~~Environmental compliance~~
- ☐ ~~No reimbursement for in-kind services allowed~~

#### **E. Procedure**

- ☐ ~~Availability announced on CWCB website~~
- ☐ ~~Rolling process timed to meet federal submittal deadlines~~
- ☐ ~~Director's discretion for grants less than \$25,000 to any single entity~~
- ☐ ~~Board approval for larger grants~~
- ☐ ~~If requests exceed available funds, applications evaluated on the following:~~
  - ☐ ~~The irrigation system is currently deemed a significant source of salinity loading;~~
  - ☐ ~~There exists potential to improve current system delivery efficiency;~~
  - ☐ ~~The number of irrigated acres in service area, and current average annual diversions;~~
  - ☐ ~~Additional on-farm irrigation system improvements can be made;~~
  - ☐ ~~The availability of storage to better utilize water saved through elimination of losses;~~
  - ☐ ~~There are opportunities to save water and support environmental benefits;~~
  - ☐ ~~The proposed project or program will increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in water management;~~
  - ☐ ~~Risk can be mitigated in areas at high risk of future water conflict.~~