



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: Chris Sturm, Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: January 25-26, 2021 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda #2 a-j, Colorado Watershed Restoration Program, Grant Funding Recommendations

Introduction

The Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (CWRP) is designed to provide planning and project implementation funding for watershed and stream restoration and protection efforts. The program supports stakeholder driven collaboratives committed to restoring and protecting the ecological processes that connect land and water. The CWRP guidance document and application was approved by the Board in September 2008. The Board approved revisions to the program in May 2012 and July 2015. The Board considers funding recommendations for applications requesting greater than or equal to \$100,000. The 2020 guidance document is attached.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board Approve the projects/activities listed in the following table for Colorado Watershed Restoration Program funding contingent upon the applicants' abilities to resolve issues and additional needs discussed below.

Applicant	Project	Grant Request Amount	Staff Recommendation
a. Spanish Peaks - Purgatoire River Conservation District	Purgatoire River Watershed Riparian Rehabilitation Project, Phase V	\$200,000	Approve \$125,000
b. Town of Carbondale	Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project	\$225,000	No Funding Recommended
c. Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Ecosystem Restoration of Select Sites Kawuneeche Valley	\$105,444	Approve \$73,550
d. Trout Unlimited	Stewart Mesa Canal Diversion Modification and Restoration Project	\$135,000	Approve \$22,000
e. Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	Upper Gunnison Water, Forest, and Range Resiliency	\$180,000	Approve \$180,000



f. Adams County	South Platte River Vision and Implementation Plan	\$200,000	Approve \$200,000
g. Fourmile Watershed Coalition	Forested Headwaters: A Landscapes and Communities Assessment	\$175,000	Approve \$28,500
h. Conservation Legacy	Animas River Invasive Phreatophyte Removal, Stewardship, and Continued Restoration	\$204,953	Approve \$136,635
i. Blue River Watershed Group	Blue River Integrated Water Management Plan, Phase II	\$100,000	Approve \$100,000
j. Middle Colorado Watershed Council	Middle Colorado Integrated Water Management Plan Implementation, Phase I	\$134,740	Approve \$114,500
Total		\$1,660,137	\$980,185

Staff Review and Comments

Staff received 23 applications by the November 5, 2020 deadline. Seven staff members (6 CWCB, 1 CPW) scored each application. Thirteen of those applications have funding requests less than \$100,000, and are therefore approved at the CWCB Deputy Director level per the CWRP guidance. See the Directors Report for more information related to project types and funding amounts. Ten applications are included in this consent agenda item. All 23 of the funding recommendations for the applications were based on the following:

- Staff scores according to the CWRP guidance
- Percent of the total funding request by Basin
- Frequency of CWCB funding for the specific project or applicant
- Ability to start the project in 2021

The total funding availability for CWRP in 2021 is approximately \$1,600,000. This is 40% of the \$4 million approved for the program in 2020. Staff has been advised that the \$4 million may not be refreshed for up to three years. The total funding request for 23 applications is \$2,452,144. The funding approval for the 13 applications approved by the Deputy Director is \$620,366. This leaves approximately \$980,000 for the ten projects included in the recommendation above.

Project Issues/Additional Needs

- All funding awards are contingent upon the applicants' ability to secure match funding

- Grantees should adequately address CWCB staff comments to scopes of work and engineering designs (when applicable). Staff will schedule meetings with each successful applicant to discuss comments and contracting procedures
- All grantees should adhere to their organizational procurement policies when hiring contractors and consultants. CWCB recommends that State procurement policies be used as a guide if an organization does not have procurement policies.
- Projects must comply with the CWCB's Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado when applicable.