



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members
FROM: Chris Sturm, Watershed and Flood Protection Section
DATE: February 25, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda #3 cc-jj, March 10-11, 2021 Board Meeting
Water Plan Grants - Environment and Recreation Category

Staff Recommendation:

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

Applicant	Project	Grant Request Amount	Staff Recommendation
Adams County Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Arts	Clear Creek Whitewater Park	\$100,000	\$100,000
American Whitewater	Economic Impact of River Restoration	\$83,458	\$83,458
Boulder County	Watershed Health Toolkit and Planning Guide	\$61,500	\$0
Costilla County Conservancy District	Upper Culebra Watershed Assessment	\$107,224	\$107,224
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	Conejos River Partnership Project - Phase 2	\$272,000	\$272,000
Left Hand Watershed Center	Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan	\$131,542	\$122,916
Middle Colorado Watershed Council	Middle Colorado Integrated Water Management Plan - Implementation Phase	\$27,400	\$27,400
Town of Naturita	Naturita Town Park Revitalization Project	\$40,000	\$40,000
	Total	\$823,124	\$752,998



Introduction:

For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the CWCB received nine Colorado Water Plan Environment and Recreation applications, totaling **\$1,023,124** in requests. A committee of five people reviewed these requests and staff is recommending funding for eight applications, one at a reduced amount, totaling **\$852,998**. The table below only shows eight of the nine applications. The ninth application, Grand Valley Users Association, is a joint Agriculture and Environment & Recreation recommendation. The Environment and Recreation category is contributing \$100,000 and the Agriculture category is contributing the other \$100,000 requested. This grant is being presented with the Agriculture category.

See the attached data sheets for locations, project summaries, and applications for the eight applicants listed in the table below. The total requested is **\$823,124**, and the amount recommended for funding is **\$752,998**.

Staff Review and Comments:

Staff reviewed the applications as a committee (four CWCB staff and one CPW staff). The funding recommendation for the Left Hand Watershed Center application is reduced by \$8,626 because that amount was identified for 2020 Calwood Fire recovery activities. CWCB staff anticipates a dedicated funding source for 2020 fire recovery projects. The Boulder County application was not recommended for funding. The application ranking among the review committee members did not favor a recommendation (see data sheet for more information).

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 scope of work and engineering designs (when applicable). Staff will contact 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 should comply with the CWCB's Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado, when applicable.
- Projects will be implemented consistent with existing public health and executive orders related to the pandemic.

