



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

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

DATE: March 11th, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda 3(a-o), 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 effect at the time of implementation.

Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request Amount	Staff Recommendation
a. Carson Pearson	Vouga Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation	\$75,000	No Funding Recommended
b. Colorado Open Lands	Acequia Conservation Initiative - Phase II	\$45,000	Approve \$45,000
c. Colorado State University	Irrigation Innovation Consortium Headquarters	\$157,384	Approve \$157,384
d. Dave Miller Ditch Company	Dave Miller Ditch Piping Project	\$157,864	No Funding Recommended
e. Florida Consolidated Ditch Company	Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000	\$125,000
f. Grand Valley Water Users Association	Vinelands Power Plant	\$200,000	Approve \$200,000 (\$100,000 Ag and \$100,000 Env/Rec)
g. Jack’s Solar Garden LLC	Jack’s Solar Garden Agrivoltaic Study	\$99,675	Approve \$99,675
h. Keep It Colorado	Colorado’s Private Land and Water Conservation Plan	\$75,000	Approve \$75,000
i. Onward! A Legacy Foundation dba Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project	Sustainable Infrastructure to Support Restoration of Southwest Colorado’s Orchard Culture and Economy	\$150,000	Approve \$150,000
j. River Network	Piloting Multi-Benefit Project Coordinators	\$133,170	Approve \$133,170

k. Root and Ratliff Ditch Company	Root and Ratliff Pipeline Project	\$250,000	No Funding Recommended
l. The Nature Conservancy	Maybell Headgate Replacement	\$168,114	Approve \$168,114
m. Trout Unlimited	Copeland Elk Creek Ditch Efficiency Improvement	\$35,000	No Funding Recommended
n. Trout Unlimited	Lawrence Ditch Diversion Improvement Project	\$20,000	No Funding Recommended
o. Upper Arkansas Conservation District	Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan - Phase I	\$27,500	Approve \$27,500
Total Recommended for Approval			\$1,085,843

Staff Review and Comments:

Staff received 14 applications by the December 1st, 2020 deadline. Staff initially conduct a red-flag review of each application to determine whether the grant complies with all current CWCB policies and guidelines concerning grant awards.

CWCB staff, following the initial red-flag review, score all agricultural viability applications according to the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program criteria and guidelines and agriculture category-specific criteria, with input from a grant review committee. The grant review committee consists of Colorado Water Conservation Board staff in consultation with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff.

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; the overall impact of the project on a regional or state-wide scale; whether the project is identified in a Basin Implementation Plan or other watershed plans; whether the project enhances resiliency and viability of agriculture and food systems; and whether the project provides an innovative, multi-benefit approach to solving critical water resource challenges affecting Colorado agriculture, food systems, and rural communities. In light of state budget challenges, staff also considers whether the proposed project will significantly leverage non-CWCB funding. Staff also considers all letters of support included with the application.

Project Issues/Additional Needs

- All funding awards are contingent upon the applicants' ability to secure match funding within a reasonable period, based on their continued efforts to secure match funding.
- Grantees should adequately address CWCB staff comments to scopes of work and engineering designs (when applicable) before 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.