



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Ben Wade, Water Supply Planning Section

**DATE:** March 10-11, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consent Agenda 3(v-bb) Colorado Water Plan Grants - Engagement and Innovation

**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
v. Colorado Cattlemen’s Association	Agriculture Water User 2021 Priorities: Outreach, Technical Assistance, Infrastructure Inventory	\$124,000	No Funding Recommended
w. Independence Water & Sanitation District	Regulation 84 Edible Crop Irrigation Public Education & Outreach	\$32,600	Approve \$32,600
x. Montezuma School to Farm Project	Montezuma CWP Education Initiative	\$147,000	Approve \$95,000
y. Open Water Foundation	River Basin Information Websites	\$25,000	No Funding Recommended
z. The Water Connection (Greenway Foundation)	Clean River Design Challenge	\$45,655	Approve \$45,655
aa. Trout Unlimited	Supporting Outreach & Engagement for the "Evaluating Conserved Consumptive Use in the Upper Colorado River" Project	\$50,000	Approve \$50,000
bb. Water Education Colorado	Statewide Water Education Action Plan Phase II & Water '22	\$124,631	No Funding Recommended
Total Recommended for Approval			\$223,255



### **Staff Review and Comments:**

Staff received seven applications by the December 1, 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.

Following the initial red-flag review, CWCB Staff scored all Engagement/Innovation applications according to the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program criteria and guidelines and Engagement/Innovation category-specific criteria, with input from a grant review committee. The grant review committee consisted of Colorado Water Conservation Board staff.

The review committee evaluates engagement/innovation grants on several criteria, including:

- whether the project achieves education, outreach and engagement measurable objectives or critical actions identified in the Colorado Water Plan
- whether the project measures and evaluates the overall success and impact of the project
- whether the project is identified in a Basin Implementation Plan or Basin Education Action Plan;
- Concerning state budget challenges, staff also considers whether the proposed project is financially and technically feasible
- 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.

