



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Cole Bedford, P.E.
Finance Section

DATE: September 15-16, 2021

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM: 5 a-g. Colorado Water Plan Grants - Agriculture

Introduction

Per CWCB Policy #25, grants above \$50,000 but less than \$100,000 and grants not recommended for funding will be placed on the consent agenda for consideration by the Board. See attached Data Sheets and grant application for additional project details.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommended the following Board action for activities listed in the following table regarding Colorado's Water Plan Grant Program - Agriculture.

Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request Amount	Staff Recommendation
a. American Rivers	Engaging West Slope Agriculture in Headwaters Restoration to Improve Water Security - Outreach & Assessment Strategies	\$68,000	Approve \$68,000
b. American Whitewater	Low Head Dam Modification Prioritization Framework	\$61,350	Approve \$61,350
c. Brink, Inc.	Modeling the Effects of Conservation Practices on Carbon Sequestration and Salinity Discharges from Irrigated Fields	\$155,100	No Funding Recommended
d. Carson Pearson	Vouga Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation	\$95,077	No Funding Recommended
e. Colorado Cattlemen's Association	Catalyst Funding for Irrigation Infrastructure Demonstration Projects	\$83,427	Approve \$83,427
f. The Farmers Water Development Company	Gurley Dam Embankment Slip Reconstruction	\$139,315	No Funding Recommended
g. Trout Unlimited	Upper Gunnison Diversion Modernization	\$90,678	Approve \$90,678
Total Recommended for Approval		\$303,455	



Background:

CWCB staff, with assistance from a review committee, review all agricultural viability applications according to the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program criteria and guidelines and category specific criteria. The grant review committee consists of Colorado Water Conservation Board staff in consultation with Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff where appropriate. 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, and whether the project provides an innovating, multi-benefit approach to solving water resource challenges affecting Colorado's agricultural industry.

Project Issues/Additional Needs:

- All funding awards are contingent upon the applicants' ability to secure match funding within a reasonable time period; based on applicants continued efforts to secure match funding
- Grantees should adequately address CWCB staff comments to scopes of work and engineering designs (when applicable) prior to contracting. This may result in changes, especially in the case of partial funding awards. Staff will schedule meeting with each successful application to discuss comments and contracting procedures.

