



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
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: Cole Bedford, P.E
Finance Section

DATE: September 15-16, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 25 a-d. Colorado Water Plan Grants - Agriculture

Introduction

On July 1, 2021, the CWCB received six applications requesting funding of \$100,000 or greater for the Agriculture and Water-Sharing Agreements categories totaling \$1,835,709. Staff is recommending approval of four grants totaling \$1,541,294. The two requests not recommended for funding are included in the Consent Agenda. See attached Data Sheets for locations and project summaries.

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. Colorado Department of Agriculture	Advancing Soil Health through Technical Assistance and Producer Incentives in the Republican River Watershed	\$298,467	Approve \$298,467
b. Colorado State University	Developing Irrigation Infrastructure at CSU-ARDEC to Support Innovative Research in Irrigation Efficiency, Water Use, & Re-Use	\$588,246	Approve \$588,246
c. Colorado Master Irrigator	Colorado Master Irrigator - Statewide Expansion & Coordination	\$418,575	Approve \$418,575
d. Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Educational and Charitable Foundation	Drought Advisors Capacity and Research Project	\$236,006	Approve \$236,006
Total Recommended for Approval		\$1,541,294	



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.

