



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Cole Bedford PE, Finance Section

**DATE:** March 15-16, 2022

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM: 4a-e Water Plan Grants - Agriculture Category**

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**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 applications for additional project details.

**Staff Recommendation**

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

Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request Amount	Staff Recommendation
a. Dave Miller Mutual Ditch Company	Dave Miller Ditch Piping Project	\$84,325	\$84,325
b. Drylands Agroecology Research	Dryland Research Expansion Phase II	\$340,000	Not Recommended
c. Brighton Ditch Company	South Platte River Bank Stabilization Project	\$372,133	Not Recommended
d. Brink, Inc.	Modeling the Effects of Conservation Practices on Salinity Discharges from Irrigated Fields	\$66,850	\$66,850
e. Fort Collins Conservation District	Cache la Poudre Nutrient Trading Pilot Project	\$125,000	\$38,645
Total Recommended for Approval			\$189,820



**Background:**

CWCB staff, with assistance from a review committee, review all agricultural 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.

