



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Anna Mauss, Chief Operating Officer

DATE: May 17-18, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 27. Diane Hoppe Memorial Scholarship

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve a \$2,000 scholarship to Student 2.

Introduction

The Colorado Water Conservation Board administers the Diane Hoppe Memorial Scholarship, which is a \$2,000 one-year scholarship for a Colorado high school student or college freshman interested in western water issues planning to attend a public institution of higher education in Colorado.

Diane Hoppe was appointed to the CWCB as the South Platte Basin representative in 2012 and elected chairwoman of the board in 2015. Diane passed away on February 27, 2016. Her family worked with the Colorado Water Conservation Board to establish this scholarship in her honor.

In addition to serving on the board, Diane Hoppe served in the Colorado House of Representatives from 1999-2006 and was the chairwoman of the House Agriculture, Livestock & Natural Resources Committee, the Water Interim Committee, and the Water Resources Review Committee. She also served as the minority whip. Diane was a founding member of the Colorado Foundation for Water Education and served as president from 2002-07.

Staff received six applications for the Diane Hoppe Memorial Scholarship. To protect the privacy of minors, the applicants are referred to as a student number for this memo.

Applicants

Student 1

Student 1 attends Del Norte Senior High School and plans to study Environmental Engineering with a watershed and ecosystem sustainability focus. She is very connected in the natural resource community and has worked with the Southwest Conservation Corps during her summers. She also interned at the Rio Grande Water Conservation Education and Initiative (an organization dedicated to educating children on how to take care of the environment and how important water is for everyday life). She is currently working on a community service project with the National Honor Society and plans to partner with either the Rio Grande Water Conservation Education & Initiative or a local water board that helps better their local river park, making it easily accessible and safe for the public.

Student 2

Student 2 will be a freshman at Colorado State University in the fall and plans to major in Environmental Engineering. He already has experience as a water professional: to save money to pay



for his education, he is currently working for the City of Brush as a certified water treatment operator. Through his work, he has learned about ground and surface water and the treatment cycle to tap. He helped design a GIS mapping system for the city to better understand the distribution system and optimize operations. Twice a month he teaches basic chemistry lessons to his coworkers to help them gain a better understanding of the science and how it connects to their work. He has demonstrated that he's a leader and is proud to be an example of what first generation students can achieve.

Student 3

Student 3 attends Palisade High School and plans to study Business Administration. He is passionate about the outdoors and hopes to incorporate that passion into an entrepreneurial endeavor in the future. He grew up on a ranch, studied native fish species, and understands water challenges. He is also a driven athlete with a focus on a healthy lifestyle and is very goal oriented.

Student 4

Student 4 attends Mancos High School and plans to attend Colorado State University to study Natural Resources Tourism with a Global Concentration. She has an impressive list of accomplishments including founding a business (raising KuneKune pigs for breeding and pork and raising cows), was dually enrolled in high school and college and took 33 college credits during her junior and senior years and did research around water and environmental science titled *Investigation of pH in Relation to Northern Leopard Frogs*. This research was used to support the Mancos Conservation District in pursuit of a federal grant. She is also working on a research project focused on fish as bioindicators in river ecosystems within the Mancos Valley and has been volunteering with the Mancos Conservation District to collect data that she hopes will help farmers and ranchers understand how they can potentially receive funds for expanding their conservation efforts.

Student 5

Student 5 attends Arapahoe High School and plans to study Environmental Engineering. She is an active member of Key Club where she leads efforts to support organizations dedicated to helping people in need. She has a long list of volunteer work with extra attention focused on an organization called Sweet Dream in a Bag to help underprivileged children. She excelled academically and recently earned a blue belt in Brazilian jiu jitsu.

Student 6

Student 6 attended Arvada West High School and is completing her senior year at Red Rocks Community College. She plans to study Agriculture Business at Colorado State University. She has a passion for horses and the agriculture industry and focused her AP research curriculum on equine colic. She hopes to have a career in city planning that creates a better environment for the agricultural and equine communities. She was her junior class president and successfully organized prom for over a thousand students.

Discussion

While all the applicants have impressive resumes, staff is recommending Student 2 because of his strong leadership skills, academic drive, commitment to a career in water, and the example he is setting for other students.

Attachments: Application Essay Responses and Letters of Recommendation

