

SPBRT WSRF Subcommittee Meeting Summary

October 28, 2022

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

In Attendance:

Garrett Varra, Diane Kielty, Richard Elsner, Scott Griebing, Dylan Figgs, Jim Hall, Scot Griebing, Lynda James, Joe Frank

1:00 – Introductions

There is \$1M in the SPBRT account. To receive full allocation for next year, SPBRT must spend \$550,000 by July 1, 2023. The Committee will ask CWCB their definition for “spent.” The assumption is that “spent” means funds approved as allocated.

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD						
Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Program and Public Education Participation & Outreach (PEPO) Grant Program Balance Summaries						
CURRENT WSRF GRANT BALANCE & PEPO CONTRACT BY BASIN						
Basin	Starting Balance October 1	Stimulus*	Native Funds	CWCB Approved	Spending Needed**	PEPO Contract***
Arkansas	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$550,000	Approved
Colorado	\$1,000,000	\$140,200	\$859,800	\$0	\$550,000	Available
Southwest	\$1,000,000	\$75,577	\$924,423	\$0	\$550,000	Approved
Gunnison	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$550,000	Approved
Metro	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$550,000	Approved
North Platte	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$550,000	Available
Rio Grande	\$1,000,000	\$17,888	\$982,112	\$0	\$550,000	Approved
South Platte	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$550,000	Approved
Yampa-White-Green	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$550,000	Approved
CURRENT PEPO GRANT REMAINING BALANCES						
PEPO Coordinator Funds Remaining	\$50,000					
Statewide PEPO Grants	\$775,000					
Total Basin Funds (WSRF & PEPO)	\$9,825,000					
CURRENT WSRF STATEWIDE ACCOUNT BALANCE						
Statewide WSRF Reserve	\$8,316,391					
Statewide WSRF Grants****	\$11,029,188					
Total Statewide Funds	\$19,345,579					

*Time sensitive funds need to be allocated by CWCB Board by May 2023 Meeting.
 **Spending needed is necessary spending by end of current fiscal year in order to receive full annual allocation.
 ***25,000 PEPO Contract for Basin PEPO Coordinator submission status
 **** The first WSRF Statewide Grant application deadline is December 1, 2022.

1. Review 4 WSRF applications

a. Elbert County Water Plan

Ask is for \$90,000 total with a \$45,000/\$45,000 split. The areas within the Metro are all within municipalities. This proposal is focused on the rural areas. Because of the rural focus, they are not making a request from the Metro RT. Discussion on support as is with the proposed 50% match. It falls inline with the intent of the BIP. The costs are in line with what Larimer County paid for similar work.

Approved for now.

b. Agditch Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation Development

They are asking for \$74,230 with their match at \$25,758. If it's not deferred maintenance the group will have to make a strong case that it is not deferred maintenance. The maximum amount WSRF could approve is \$25,000 based on current SPBRT guidelines. The dam is older and may have been given new dam safety rules. As a study, it is the beginning of several steps. The amount requested and cap on deferred maintenance would leave them at a shortfall of \$48,472. They are a taxing authority. They could have an assessment placed on this that would be a minimal increase to their shareholders.

Recommend that SPBRT remain within the deferred maintenance policy offering \$25,000 deferred maintenance policy cap. Recommend other options to them to consider internally. Statewide funds and MRT are other sources to consider.

c. Open Water Foundation River Basin Information Websites for Big Thompson River, Saint Vrain Creek, and Clear Creek

They are asking for funds from both the SPBRT and MRT. MRT has asked them to return in the next grant cycle with more information on the partnering for this project and details on the purpose and value.

Recommend they ask the proponent to provide clarity on the project budget during the November SPBRT meeting. Or, they can hold their submission for the next grant cycle when they also have the MRT lined up. In general, the membership supports this type of work.

d. St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District Airborne Snow Data Analysis & Interpretation

The ask total is \$698,000 with \$349,000 from the SPBRT WSRF. It is a 50/50 match. There will be two flights per basin with two separate flight groups for a total of four flights. They will go from Clear Creek to above the Poudre. This proposal includes all of the data processing. There is a separate flight project with request for funds submitted into the MRT WSRF. This is important work but needs to find a sustainable funding source.

Recommend approval. This is worthwhile from a basin wide perspective.

2. Review 2 WPG applications

a. CSU - Colorado South Platte River Basin Salinity Characterization Study Request for Letter of Support

Recommend proponent returns in January with more information.

A water festival proposal was also received. They were asked to return in January with more detailed information and request a letter of support at that time.

b. Coalition for the Upper South Platte Lake George Diversion Structure Removal Water Plan Grant Request for Letter of Support

Request for funding was made at an earlier date for WSRF funds. They withdrew to gather more matching funds. It was then recommended they go for a CWP grant. Sediment to be removed will be used locally for road maintenance and development. The budget looks good. The dam was put in by the CO Springs Utilities. There is some pushback. There is belief that CO Springs should contribute more financially to the removal. Although, it is on USFS property, the lease is over, and now the dam is the property of USFS.

Recommend providing letter of support.

3. Draft of updated guidelines for comment and discussion

AN email was sent with edited guidelines. Please review and send your comments back to Diane Kielty, Scott Griebing, and Garrett Varra. Because there are large projects that are of joint interest to both the SPBRT and MRT some unified language is of interest. Please have comments prepared and returned by January 4, 2023.

2:33 pm - Adjourn