

Water Commission - Memorandum

Date: February 24, 2025
To: Douglas County Water Commission
Subject: **Water Commission Informational Item - Grant Opportunities for Douglas County 2050 Comprehensive Water Plan**

SUMMARY

With the Board of County Commissioners approval of the contract for public services with Forsgren Associates, Inc. on January 28, 2025, staff has started the application process for grant opportunities for the Douglas County 2050 Comprehensive Water Plan (Water Plan).

DISCUSSION

Several of the previously developed county water plans across the state have utilized grant funds for the development of their water plans. The County is eligible to apply for the following grant opportunities from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB).

Metro Roundtable Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant

Colorado Roundtables across the state have access to grant funding from the CWCB and have discretion to make funding recommendations and allocations for projects. Douglas County is a member of the Metro Roundtable. The Metro Roundtable's eligible categories for grant funding include planning, studies, and education and outreach. The Water Plan will encompass multiple priority areas and may receive higher consideration for funding. Applicants are required to provide a minimum of 25% matching funds for the project. Progress reports, including a description of the status of tasks identified in the statement of work and any major issues, are required to be submitted every 6 months following execution of a contract. A final report is required at the completion of the project. Grant proposal summaries are due March 1, and the full grant application is due April 18.

Statewide WSRF Grant

The CWCB also manages a statewide WSRF account for statewide grant applications specific to Drought Resilience and Aging Infrastructure. The required cash match is a minimum of 25%. Statewide WSRF grants can be applied for through the same application as the Roundtable grants described above.

Arapahoe County was successful in receiving a total of \$25,000 from the Metro Roundtable WSRF grant and \$25,000 from the statewide WSRF grant.

Colorado Water Plan Grant

The CWCB also manages the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program. The grant program is intended to fund projects focused on priority areas of the Colorado Water Plan, including water storage and supply, conservation and land use, and engagement and innovation.

Eligible projects include studies or analysis. A minimum of 25% cash match is required for all plans or studies. The required match may consist of in-kind match and cash-match, including necessary project administration by paid staff. The application deadline for the next funding cycle is July 1 and applications will be considered at the September CWCB meeting.

Adams County was awarded \$397,500 in March 2024 for development of their Master Water Management Plan. The application for this grant notes a total project cost of \$530,000 and a cash match of \$100,500 with in-kind match of \$32,000.