

11/30/2022

Kevin Reidy

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Colorado Water Conservation Board

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721

Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for Native Grass Manual Website Grant

On behalf of the South Platte Basin Roundtable, I am pleased to write in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Water Plan grant application submitted by Colorado Waterwise for the Native Grass Manual Website. We support the statewide effort to create a website showcasing the best practices for installing and maintaining native and water-wise grasses in urban/suburban landscapes in Colorado. The South Platte Basin Roundtable unanimously voted at its November meeting to allow the WSRF committee to decide upon support for this project. On November 29th the SPBRT WSRF committee unanimously voted to support this project.

The grant funds will be used to hire a website developer to publish the information as an engaging and accessible online resource. This resource will be critical to enable successful large-scale non-essential turfgrass replacement. Native and water-wise grasses are one of the best types of replacement landscape vegetation for large, commercial-scale projects, but current installation and maintenance best practices have not been systematically identified, current projects have many points of failure, and there is not a common skill set among landscape professionals.

In response, the Native Grass Working Group, an informal collaborative group of more than fifty stakeholders, has recorded the best-known steps, actionable procedures, project templates, and resources to landscape owners/managers and industry professionals throughout Colorado.

The information will benefit communities across the state by ensuring turf replacement will result in real water savings and replacement vegetation will enhance environmental and economic vitality.

Importantly, for our Roundtable, the proposed Native Grass Manual addresses multiple objectives from our Basin Implementation Plan. It promotes conservation, protects and enhances environmental attributes, and positions our basin to better manage risks associated with climate change. Finally, the public outreach components of the project advance our goals for community outreach and education on water matters within the South Platte watershed.

We encourage CWCB to support the Native Grass Manual Website. Judging from sources of funding and letters of support to date, there a high probability of sustained activity and support to carry this project to full implementation. We support and look forward to the development of this manual. We are confident this resource will increase native landscapes in our state and improve Colorado's health and resiliency.

Sincerely,



Garrett Varra, SPBRT WSRF Committee Chair