ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND COMMISSION

Business Meeting – June 27, 2023

Arizona Department of Water Resources Thunder River Conference Room 1110 W. Washington St., Ste. 310 Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex Meeting Number (Access Code): 2590 911 3205 Meeting Password: gPX3JpQSj25 1-415-655-0001 US Toll

Final Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Commission Voting Members Present
Pat Jacobs – Chairman
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman
Brian Biesemeyer
Shelley Blackmore
John Ladd
Frank Krentz
Tina Thompson
Stephen Turcotte

Arizona Water Protection Fund Staff
Kelly Brown
Lizette Fuentes
Reuben Teran

Commission Voting Members Absent

None

<u>Commission Non-voting, Ex-Officio Members Present</u> None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pat Jacobs called the meeting of the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission to order at 10:00 a.m.

COMMISSIONER MEMBER ROLL CALL

Mr. Reuben Teran called the roll of the AWPF Commission. Commissioners present at the time of roll call included Chairman Pat Jacobs, Vice—Chairman Rodney Held, Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer, Commissioner Shelley Blackmore, Commissioner Frank Krentz, Commissioner John Ladd (via telephone), Commissioner Tina Thompson (via Webex), and Commissioner Stephen Turcotte (via Webex). A quorum of voting Commission members was present.

Mr. Teran also called the role for non-voting, ex-officio members of the Commission. None were present, but Elizabeth Logan was in attendance on behalf of Commissioner Robyn Sahid.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Jacobs made a call to the public. No public comments were made.

COMMISSION MEMBER ELECTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Vice-Chairman Rodney Held made a motion for Pat Jacobs to remain as Chairman, with a second from Commissioner Shelley Blackmore. Chairman Pat Jacobs called for any discussion on the motion. No discussion was made. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion.

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held –Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer made a motion for Vice-Chairman Rodney Held to be appointed as Vice-Chairman, with a second from Commissioner Frank Krentz. Commissioner Tina Thompson made a motion to nominate Commissioner Stephen Turcotte as Vice-Chairman, with a second from Shelley Blackmore. Chairman Jacobs called for any further nominations. None were made.

Commissioner Krentz made a motion to close nominations, with a second from Commissioner Biesemeyer. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion to close nominations:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held –Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Held stated that he would be willing to withdraw his nomination for Vice-Chairman if Commissioner Stephen Turcotte was willing to serve as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Turcotte stated he was willing to serve and commended current Vice-Chairman Held on his work in the past.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion to elect Commissioner Stephen Turcotte as Vice-Chairman:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held –Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Ahstaine

Abstained Stephen Turcotte

The motion passed unanimously. Chaiman Jacobs stated that the appointments will become effective following this meeting.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF ACTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 21, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Biesemeyer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 21, 2023, with a second from Commissioner Turcotte. Chairman Jacobs called for a discussion on the motion. No comments were made. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held –Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

<u>AWPF GRANT 22-213WPF - DYE RANCH EROSION CONTROL AND WETLAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT</u>

Chairman Jacobs stated the Commission will discuss and may take action to approve a grant award contract extension. Mr. Teran introduced Audrey Owens, Ranid Frogs Project Coordinator with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Ms. Owens provided a presentation to the Commission.

Chairman Jacobs asked for any questions from the Commission. Commissioner Blackmore inquired what would be the ultimate goal with the frogs that will be translocated to the project site. Ms. Owens responded that the goal would be to have the Dye Ranch population of Northern Leopard frogs become a self-sustaining population and potentially be dispersing into other areas, and eventually be a source population for taking frogs and egg masses and populating other sites in the wild.

Commissioner Turcotte made a motion to approve the grantee's request for a contract extension of 1 year, with a second from Commissioner Thompson. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held –Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND ADMINISTRATIVE FUND TRANSFER REQUEST

Mr. Teran stated that AWPF staff are requesting \$216,800 for administrative expenses for Fiscal Year 2024. Commissioner Krentz requested a breakdown of administrative expenses, and Mr. Teran provided a breakdown of the Fiscal Year 2024 request compared to the Fiscal Year 2023 request. Commissioner Blackmore inquired if these monies are not used if they would be taken back by the Legislature. Mr. Teran responded that Water Protection Fund monies are not subject to fiscal year spending cutoffs and any funds at the end of the fiscal year would roll forward to the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Blackmore made a motion to approve the transfer of \$216,800 of the unobligated fund balance, with a second from Commissioner Turcotte. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held –Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. Teran stated that the following updates are for informational purposes updates only and no action is required to be taken.

AWPF Records Inventory Project

Mr. Teran provided an update on an Arizona Department of Water Resources agencywide project that is currently being implemented by staff for AWPF Commission and program related records.

Financial Update

Mr. Teran provided an update on Arizona Water Protection Fund activity from July 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023. The fund balance as of May 31, 2023 was \$4,039,674, with existing grant obligations of \$2,533,431, and an uncommitted fund balance of \$1,506,243.

Commissioner Turcotte requested clarification if there were restricted internal class codes for different appropriated funds or expenditure classes. Mr. Teran responded that the Water Protection Fund has two accounts for the program, one being the Grants fund and the other being the Administration fund. Commissioner Turcotte inquired if the available administration fund balance will roll forward to the next fiscal year under the existing administration fund class code. Mr. Teran responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Blackmore inquired if it was typical in individual years when the Commission may have more funding left available for grants that could have been awarded. Mr. Teran responded that it can change every year depending on the number of projects that are submitted, how much funding is requested, and what the Commission determines to award during a grant cycle. He further stated that any funding that is

not awarded during a grant cycle will roll forward to the next fiscal year and be available for the next grant cycle. Commissioner Blackmore inquired if others could be looking at the available monies in the account and say that AWPF does not need any additional funding. Mr. Teran stated that it is a continuing education process for interested parties, and the Arizona Department of Water Resources Legislative Liaison does help to inform Legislators about current AWPF program fund balances and existing grant obligations. Vice-Chairman commented that having grant funds available and not awarding all of it could also come into play at the Legislature where they could potentially reduce the amount future appropriations.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Teran presented the draft Fiscal Year 2023 annual report to the Commission and stated that there are a few highlighted items that still need to be incorporated which include fiscal year end fund balance figures, and the final financial statement. Commissioner Biesemeyer stated that he provided staff with non-substantial grammatical and clerical edits to one of the project descriptions for clarity. Chairman Jacobs stated that a cover letter from the Chairman will also be attached to the report, and Mr. Teran displayed the cover letter for the Commission. Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to approve the AWPF Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report, with a second from Commissioner Biesemeyer. Chairman Jacobs called for a discussion on the motion. No comments were made. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held –Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 GRANT CYCLE

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion that the Commission move forward with a Fiscal Year 2024 grant cycle, with a second from Commissioner Frank Krentz. Chairman Jacobs called for a discussion on the motion. No comments were made. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held –Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 GRANT APPLICATION MANUAL

Mr. Teran presented the draft Fiscal Year 2024 grant application manual that incorporated staff recommendations and suggestions made by the Commission at the last Commission meeting.

Commissioner Thompson suggested revising the bullet on page 6 stating "Generally, the Commission does not fund groundwater recharge or recovery projects." to "Groundwater recharge or recovery projects may be considered if they will benefit riparian habitat". Commissioner Thompson stated that there may be projects that benefit riparian areas that also involve groundwater recharge and the current statement discourages anyone who has a project like that from applying. Mr. Teran stated that the current statement comes directly from the AWPF Policies and Procedures Manual. Vice-Chairman Held stated that at the last Commission meeting the Commission decided that any major updates or changes to the grant application manual based on public comments received during the Triennial Applications Guidelines review process would not be addressed or incorporated until the Fiscal Year 2025 grant application manual. Commissioner Krentz stated that he understands Commissioner Thompson's comments are related to projects that would benefit the land and the water, but that the Commission's current policy states that these types of projects cannot be funded out of this fund. He further suggested that given the short time frame the Fiscal Year 2024 grant application manual is planned to be published, the suggested comments should be discussed for the Fiscal Year 2025 grant application manual. Chairman Jacobs stated that the Commission is not changing the Fiscal Year 2024 manual, and directed the Executive Director to maintain a note of the suggested comments there were provided by Commission Thompson to be presented during the review of the Fiscal Year 2025 grant application manual. The Chairman's suggestion was acceptable to Commissioner Thompson.

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Application Manual and schedule, with a second from Commissioner Blackmore. Chairman Jacobs called for a discussion on the motion. No comments were made. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held –Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

AWPF PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES TRIENNIAL REVIEW PROCESS

Mr. Teran stated that Commission members have been provided with a summary document of comments submitted by the public that includes a legal staff review and comments, along with copies of those full letters submitted. Commissioner Krentz requested clarification that the comments provided would be

considered for any updates to the Fiscal Year 2025 grant application manual. Chairman Jacobs responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Krentz requested to discuss the comment "The [grant application] process can be streamlined by implementing a pre-application phase followed by invitations to submit a final application." noted on Document #1. Commissioner Krentz inquired if this suggestion should still be precluded from being implemented. Vice-Chairman Held stated that an earlier discussion on this topic by a previous Commission and legal staff indicated that that it was not possible to have a pre-application submittal process, which is why he requested another legal review of this topic, but was still not sure based on the current legal comments provided. Mr. Teran provided a brief overview of what staff does as part of the informal pre-application submittal process that is currently part of the program. Commissioner Biesemeyer suggested that the Commission could establish this process on a more formal basis where preapplication meetings could be set up to discuss the current grant application guidelines, and commented that he interprets the public comments as a way to streamline the process for applicants to understand and better gauge what to come forward with, rather than streamline the processes that the Commission already has in place. Commissioner Biesemeyer suggested to include more clarity in the grant application manual about what pre-application resources are already available as part of the current process. Commissioner Turcotte suggested that a statement could be incorporated into the grant application manual with more clarification about what the current AWPF pre-application process includes like workshops and setting up appointments with AWPF staff would be sufficient. Vice-Chairman Held stated that the current grant application manual currently includes this type of language. Vice-Chairmen Held also requested if Commissioner Thompson could provide clarification about the meaning of comments relating "...followed by invitations to submit a final application." since the comment was from the Willcox-San Simon Natural Resource Conservation District. Commissioner Thompson responded that she did not have any direct input on that particular comment, but stated that the person who signed the letter applies for many other grants and that is how these other grant programs work. She also stated that the suggested process could eliminate the time that an applicant would spend writing a grant application only to be told that their application does not qualify. Vice-Chairman Held stated that it is his opinion that the current AWPF pre-application process is intended to do what is currently being suggested. Commissioner Thompson suggested more clarification regarding the intent of the grant application workshops and pre-application meetings should be made in the grant application guidelines.

Commissioner Thompson requested to discuss the comments "Groundwater recharge projects and local, well documented science should be considered in designing and implementing effective projects, if the Arizona Water Protection Fund is to make a meaningful contribution to the State's riparian areas." as noted on page 2 of Document #1. Commissioner Thompson suggested the Commission strike the current language in the grant application manual guidelines where the Commission will not fund groundwater recharge and recovery projects, and believes there are many of these types of projects that could qualify as long as they are benefiting a riparian area. She also stated that she thinks the Commission is deterring projects because of the current language. Vice-Chairman Held stated that due to the costs associated with groundwater recharge and recovery projects the original Commission had made a policy

decision many years ago that these types of projects would take up a majority of the available funds and detract from actual restoration projects. AWPF legal staff commented that it may be very difficult for the Commission to amend these policies since the Arizona Department of Water Resources already has groundwater recharge and recovery program, and all of those projects have to be permitted and also have very strict guidelines on hydrologic feasibility and unreasonable harm. They further stated they did not feel this would be something under the purview of this Commission or this fund. Vice-Chairman Held commented that these reasons were why the Commission had originally adopted the policy. Commissioner Biesemeyer commented that he concurred with the statement regarding the expense. Commissioner Thompson commented that projects like erosion control structures and one rock dams within a stream channel are also considered recharge projects. Vice-Chairman Held commented that the types of groundwater recharge projects the Commission is discussing are the larger projects that are physically recharging groundwater through wells. He further commented that the types of projects Commissioner Thompson is referring to do fall within actual stream channel restoration projects and that he sees those types of projects as eligible. AWPF legal staff commented that those types of projects should already be covered under the existing policy. Vice-Chaiman Held suggested that the definition of recharge project should be updated to describe groundwater well recharge projects as that was the intention of the policy because they are so expensive. Commissioner Biesemeyer suggested that the definition not be limited to well recharge, but to also include any type of large-scale recharge facility or basin recharge project. AWPF legal staff stated that the Arizona Department of Water Resources definition of recharge includes the intent to recharge the aquifer, and stream restoration recharge would not fit the Department's definition of recharge. Chairman Jacobs suggested that the Commission make the distinction between aquifer recharge and stream restoration recharge clear in the Fiscal Year 2025 grant application manual. Commissioner Krentz suggested the Commission needs to address the statement of "Generally, the Commission does not fund groundwater recharge or recovery projects." by striking the statement as part of the application process or include the Arizona Department of Water Resource's definition of recharge.

Commissioner Krentz requested to discuss the comments: "Applicant presentations should not be part of the grant process. Presentations allow for human bias and a pre-application phase followed by a final application phase will allow for staff to ask questions and provide feedback for final submissions. Applications should be able to stand on their own merit without a presentation." noted on Document #1; & "The use of grant application presentations to supplement the process allows for human bias and the practice is not typically used in other grant application processes. If there is concern that applicants need to adjust their applications per staff and public comment recommendations, then a pre-proposal and final proposal time period should be implemented similar to other grant processes." as noted on Document #2. Chairman Krentz commented that these statements generally indicate that grant application should be brought forth without a presentation and allow the Commission to read through the application and see if it will stand on its own merit without a presentation, and wanted to get the Commission's feedback on these comments. Vice-Chairman stated that he is against removing the application presentation process because he thinks this is an excellent opportunity for the Commission to address them in person, better understand their projects, and helps the Commission to make a better-informed decision when they are able to interact with the applicants and get feedback when there are things that are not clear. Chairman Jacobs stated there have been many times when he did not fully understand a project until he had the opportunity to ask questions and they made a presentation. Commissioner Biesemeyer stated that he concurred with the comments, and it is a voluntary presentation and not mandatory. He also stated that the Commission is

here to judge and understand the project and the applicant presentations allow this opportunity. He further stated that is against eliminating that process. Chairman Jacobs stated that he emphasizes that this process is voluntary. Commissioner Blackmore commented that the written word and spoken word can mean two different things, and the Commission needs to have all the information clarified to give that application a fair shot at being accepted.

Chairman Jacobs stated that if any Commissioners have any other items noted in the public comments received that they would like to discuss to notify the Executive Director so that they may be put on the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Jacobs called for future agenda items. Commissioner Thompson requested an agenda item for a discussion on being able to use digital signatures for contracts in the future. Commissioner Turcotte requested an agenda item for a discussion on the time that grant cycle is announced and applications being accepted to the time that applications are due.

FUTURE MEETING DATE(S)

Chairman Jacobs stated that the next scheduled Commission meeting dates are November 14-15, 2023 for grant application presentations, and November 28, 2023 for the Commission grant selection meeting.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Jacobs made a call to the public. No public comments were made.

ADJOURN

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Commissioner Biesemeyer. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion.

Aye
Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Commission Members

Pat Jacobs, Chairman Rodney Held, Vice Chairman Brian Biesemeyer Shelley Blackmore John Ladd Frank Krentz Tina Thompson Stephen Turcotte

Executive Director

Reuben Teran

Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission

1110 West Washington, Suite 310, Phoenix, AZ 85007 Phone: (602) 771-8528

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Ex-Officio Members

Thomas Buschatzke
Director
AZ Department of Water Resources

Robyn Sahid State Land Commissioner AZ State Land Department

Advisory Members

The Honorable Sine Kerr AZ State Senate

The Honorable David L. Cook AZ House of Representatives

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) Commission on **Tuesday**, **June 27**, **2023 at 10:00 a.m.** This meeting is open to the public, and in person or virtual attendance options are available. The meeting location and agenda are described below.

Meeting Location:

Arizona Department of Water Resources Thunder River Conference Room 1110 W. Washington St., Ste. 310 Phoenix, AZ 85007 To ensure appropriate meeting space, please RSVP to lfuentes@azwater.gov if you would like to attend in person.

Cisco Webex Meeting Information

Link: https://adwr.info/AWPF C

Meeting Number (Access Code): 2590 911 3205

Meeting Password: gPX3JpQSj25

or

Join by Phone

1-415-655-0001 US Toll Access Code: 2590 911 3205

Dated this 9th day of June 2023

ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order Chairman Pat Jacobs
- II. Commission Member Roll Call Executive Director
- III. Call to the Public Chairman Jacobs
 - Comments from the public will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker.
- IV. Commission Member Elections for Chairman and Vice-Chairman
 - The Commission will discuss and take action to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for Fiscal Year 2024.

Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission Notice of Public Meeting and June 27, 2023 Meeting Agenda (continued)

- V. Review and Consideration of Action to Approve the March 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes Chairman
- VI. AWPF Grant 22-213WPF Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project Arizona Game and Fish Department
 - The Commission will discuss and may take action to approve a grant award contract extension.
- VII. Arizona Water Protection Fund Administrative Fund Transfer Request Executive Director
 - The Commission will discuss and may take action to approve a transfer of \$216,800 of the unobligated Water Protection Fund balance to the program administration account for Fiscal Year 2024.
- VIII. Arizona Water Protection Fund Program Updates Executive Director
 - AWPF Records Inventory Project
 - Financial Update

Informational update only. No action will be taken.

- IX. Fiscal Year 2023 Arizona Water Protection Fund Annual Report Chairman
 - The Commission will discuss the draft Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report.
- X. Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Cycle Chairman
 - The Commission will discuss and may take action to implement a grant cycle for Fiscal Year 2024.
- XI. Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Application Manual Chairman
 - The Commission will discuss and may take action to revise and/or approve the draft Fiscal Year 2024 grant application manual and grant application process schedule.
- XII. AWPF Program Grant Application Guidelines Triennial Review Process Chairman
 - The Commission will review legal staff opinions on updates/changes suggested by the public during the Triennial review process, and may discuss and take action to update Arizona Water Protection Fund program future grant application guidelines and/or future grant application manuals.
- XIII. Call for Future Agenda Items All Commission Members
- XIV. Future Meeting Date(s) Chairman
- XV. Call to the Public Chairman
 - Comments from the public will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker.
- XVI. Adjourn Chairman

Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission Notice of Public Meeting and June 27, 2023 Meeting Agenda (continued)

- The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission may elect to go into Executive Session for the purposes of obtaining legal advice from its attorney on any of the listed agenda items pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3). Executive sessions are not open to the public.
- Agenda items may be taken out of order. No action may be taken on items unless specifically noted on the agenda.
- *Members of the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission may appear by telephone.*
- Agenda and backup/supporting documents can be obtained by contacting Lizette Fuentes at 602-771-8472 or <u>lfuentes@azwater.gov</u>.
- People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations such as interpreters, alternate formats, or assistant with physical accessibility. If you require accommodations, please contact Jennifer Marteniez at (602) 771-8426 or by e-mailing jkmarteniez@azwater.gov. Please make requests as soon as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission Meeting June 27, 2023 STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. Call to Order
 - No staff recommendations.
- II. Commission Member Roll Call
 - No staff recommendations.
- III. Call to the Public
 - No staff recommendations.
- IV. Commission Member Elections for Chairman and Vice-Chairman
 - No staff recommendations.
- V. Review and Consideration of Action to Approve the March 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - Staff recommends the Commission accept the meeting minutes from March 21, 2023.
- VI. AWPF Grant 22-213WPF Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project
 - Staff recommends the Commission approve a grant award contract extension to December 31, 2025.
- VII. Arizona Water Protection Fund Administrative Fund Transfer Request
 - Staff recommends the Commission approve a transfer of \$216,800 of the unobligated Water Protection Fund balance to the program administration account for Fiscal Year 2024.
- VIII. Arizona Water Protection Fund Program Updates
 - No staff recommendations.
 - IX. Fiscal Year 2023 Arizona Water Protection Fund Annual Report
 - Staff recommends the Commission accept the draft Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report.
 - X. Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Cycle
 - Staff recommends the Commission implement a grant cycle for Fiscal Year 2024.
 - XI. Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Application Manual
 - Staff recommends the Commission approve the draft Fiscal Year 2024 grant application manual and grant application process schedule.
- XII. AWPF Program Grant Application Guidelines Triennial Review Process
 - No staff recommendations.
- XIII. Call for Future Agenda Items
 - No staff recommendations.
- XIV. Future Meeting Date(s)
 - No staff recommends.
- XV. Call to the Public
 - No staff recommendations.
- XVI. Adjourn
 - No staff recommendations.

ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND COMMISSION

Business Meeting – March 21, 2023

Arizona Department of Water Resources Thunder River Conference Room 1110 W. Washington St., Ste. 310 Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex Meeting Number (Access Code): 2598 324 5465 Meeting Password: GCsiwUAr978 1-415-655-0001 US Toll

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Reuben Teran

ATTENDANCE

Commission Voting Members Present
Pat Jacobs – Chairman
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman
Brian Biesemeyer
Shelley Blackmore
John Ladd
Frank Krentz
Stephen Turcotte

Arizona Water Protection Fund Staff
Kelly Brown
Lizette Fuentes

Commission Voting Members Absent Tina Thompson

<u>Commission Non-voting, Ex-Officio Members Present</u> None.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pat Jacobs called the meeting of the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission to order at 10:00 a.m.

COMMISSION MEMBER ROLL CALL

Mr. Reuben Teran called the roll of the AWPF Commission. Commissioners present at the time of roll call included Chairman Pat Jacobs (via Webex), Vice—Chairman Rodney Held (via Webex), Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer, Commissioner Shelley Blackmore, Commissioner Frank Krentz, Commissioner John Ladd (via telephone) and Commissioner Stephen Turcotte. A quorum of voting Commission members was present.

Mr. Teran also called the role for non-voting, ex-officio members of the Commission. None were present, but Elizabeth Logan was in attendance on behalf of Commissioner Robyn Sahid.

ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND PROGRAM UPDATES

Commission Membership Update

Chairman Jacobs requested this item be moved up in the agenda, and announced that there is 1 new voting member and 1 new non-voting ex-officio member on the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission. Mr. Teran introduced Frank Krentz as the voting member who replaced Commissioner William Schock, and who is representing the State Association of Conservation Districts. Commissioner Krentz was appointed by former Governor Doug Ducey in December 2022.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Pat Jacobs made a call to the public. No public comments were made.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2022 & NOVEMBER 29, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Jacobs asked for any comments or corrections on the meeting minutes from November 15th and November 29th, 2022. Vice-Chairman Rodney Held stated that he has forwarded minor, typo corrections to the Executive Director, but did not have any substantive comments. Mr. Teran stated that on the draft November 29, 2022 meeting minutes it was incorrectly stated that Commissioner Stephen Turcotte attended via Webex when in fact he attended in person. Commissioner Stephen Turcotte made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as corrected, with a second from Commissioner Frank Krentz. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

AWPF GRANT 22-214WPF – HABITAT RESTORATION IN THE GILA RIVER RIPARIAN CORRIDOR – GILA WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP OF ARIZONA

Mr. Teran introduced Sarah Sayles, Executive Director of the Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona. Ms. Sayles provided a project update, explained the circumstances for the delays in implementing the project, and requested a 1-year contract extension. Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to approve a 1-year contract extension, with a second from Commissioner Turcotte. Chairman Jacobs asked for any questions or comments on the motion. Mr. Teran clarified that a 1-year extension would extend the term of the agreement to October 31, 2026. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman Aye Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman Aye Brian Biesemeyer Aye
Shelley Blackmore Aye
John Ladd Aye
Frank Krentz Aye
Stephen Turcotte Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND PROGRAM UPDATES (continued)

Commission Membership Update (continued)

Mr. Teran stated that Chairman Pat Jacobs has been re-appointed to the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission through December 31, 2024 by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board.

Mr. Teran stated that Governor Katie Hobbs has appointed Robyn Sahid as the State Land Commissioner of the AZ State Land Department in January 2023. The Arizona State Land Commissioner serves as Ex-Officio member of the Water Protection Fund Commission, and Commissioner Sahid has replaced former State Land Commissioner Lisa Atkins.

Financial Update

Mr. Teran provided an update on Arizona Water Protection Fund activity from July 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023. The fund balance as of February 28, 2023 was \$3,760,387, with existing grant obligations of \$1,957,170, and an uncommitted fund balance of \$1,803,216. Mr. Teran also notified the Commission that that the fiscal year 2023 Legislative appropriation made to the Arizona Water Protection Fund under House Bill 2862 in the amount of \$1,250,000 has become a permanent appropriation.

Status Updates for Active Grant Award Contracts

Mr. Teran stated that a grant award contract update document was provided to Commission members in the meeting materials that identifies each active grant, grant award amount, funds expended to date, contract expiration date, and a summary of the project. Chairman Jacobs called for any questions or comments on the document. No questions or comments were made.

AWPF PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES TRIENNIAL REVIEW PROCESS

Mr. Teran reported on the actions taken by staff for this review process which included Sending out the public notice and request for comments letter to entities and stakeholders identified in Statute (183 letters mailed)

- Sending out the letter to the AWPF email distribution list (approximately 1,300+ email addresses)
- Public Notice and Request for Comments information posted on the AWPF website.
- Published a Legal Public Notice in the Arizona Republic.
- Held a public hearing at the ADWR office on February 15, 2023.
- 2 comment letters were received.

Chairman Jacobs requested staff read the summary of comments. Mr. Teran displayed the comments on the meeting screen and read the comments out loud. Chairman Jacobs called for any questions or comments from the Commission.

Vice-Chairman Held stated that in the past he recalls staff investigating a way to implement a preapplication process, but advice from legal counsel the Commission was not able to implement this type of process because AWPF statutes were not set up in a way that the Commission could directly invite applicants to submit a formal grant application. He suggested that AWPF legal staff investigate this process again to see if it would be feasible now. Mr. Teran stated that as part of the application process staff does offer pre-application consultations with interested applicants where staff does review and provide feedback on draft applications prior to the final grant application deadline.

Commissioner Shelly Blackmore commented about prior discussions of some grant applications being 100s of pages long, and inquired if the comments regarding removing the grant application presentations is part of that concern. Mr. Teran stated that grant applications presentations to the Commission are offered as part of the grant application process, but are not required. He also stated that overall, the core grant application required documents are not lengthy, but where those large number of pages come from are the supplemental information documents provided as part of the application which can include archaeological surveys and reports, environmental compliance documents, existing project plans, etc.

Vice-Chairman Held inquired if the Commission's intent today to incorporate any of the suggested changes into the upcoming grant application manual, or would these suggestions be incorporated into a future grant cycle. Commissioner Brain Biesemeyer supported Vice-Chairman Held's suggestion for AWPF legal staff to review the pre-application process, and stated that the public comments and suggestions made merit further discussion. Vice-Chairman Held stated he agreed with Commissioner Biesemeyer's statement that the Commission should take time to discuss the public comment made. He also stated that it would be good to take time to get feedback from constituents and allow legal staff to review the statutes, and make any changes in the fiscal year 2025 grant cycle.

Commissioner Biesemeyer made a motion for AWPF legal counsel to review the possibility of a preapplication process, and over the next year discuss possible changes to the grant application process based on the public comments received with the target to incorporate any changes into the fiscal year 2025 grant cycle process, with a second from Vice-Chairman Held.

Chairman Jacobs called for any questions or comments regarding the motion. Commissioner Frank Krentz inquired if the Commission should also get AWPF legal staff opinions on all other public comments suggestions submitted on both documents, instead of just the pre-application process.

Commissioner Biesemeyer amended his motion to include that AWPF legal counsel review the preapplication process as well as the other summarized suggestions as described under the summary of comments to determine if there are any contradictions to AWPF statutes, with a second from Vice-Chairman Held. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the amended motion:

Aye
Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

GRANT CYCLE PLANNING

Mr. Teran presented a proposed fiscal year 2024 grant application process schedule. Chairman Jacobs called for comment or questions on the grant application process. Vice-Chairman Held inquired if the grant application manual will be discussed as well. Mr. Teran responded that staff will incorporate any suggested changes to the existing grant application manual, and a final version will be presented to the Commission for approval before the formal implementation of the grant cycle. Vice-Chairman Held suggested incorporating an additional bullet to the list of ineligible projects as listed on page 5 to include a reference to A.R.S. 45-2104.D regarding "....to use this state's right of eminent domain to acquire water or water rights or long-term storage credits using monies derived from the Arizona water protection fund....". Chairman Jacobs asked if there were any objections to including this Statutory reference. No objections were made.

Chairman Jacobs inquired if the Commission would still be able to review and discuss the grant application manual at the next meeting. Mr. Teran responded that he will update the grant application manual with general updates pertaining to the next grant cycle, and present the document for review and approval by the Commission. He further stated that he has not yet made any updates to the current version of the grant application manual provided to the Commission for this meeting.

Commissioner Biesemeyer inquired if Commission members have any suggested updates if they can send them to staff, and then have a discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Teran responded that any input provided will be incorporated via track changes and then presented to the Commission for a formal review and discussion.

Chairman Jacobs stated that this item will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Jacobs called for future agenda items. No items were suggested.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Jacobs made a call to the public. No public comments were made.

FUTURE MEETING DATE(S)

Commissioner Shelly Blackmore made a motion to schedule the next meeting for June 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., with a second from Commissioner Stephen Turcotte. Chairman Jacob called for any discussion on the motion. No discussion was made. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion.

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Vice-chairman Held made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Commissioner Biesemeyer. Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion.

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
John Ladd	Aye
Frank Krentz	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.



Reube	n Teran	<	>

Dye Ranch extension of AWPF agreement

1 message



hi Reuben,

I wanted to follow up with you regarding our discussion last month about Dye Ranch project delays due to wet conditions. As you know, we have had to postpone the erosion control and pool maintenance work two times now (fall 2022 and spring 2023) because the channel has held too much water; the soil moisture and water will impede our ability to compact the soil. We are currently planning on doing the restoration project in fall 2023 (it is scheduled for the first week of October), and if we are able to do the work at that time, we would release frogs into the site in summer 2024. Our AWPF/AZGFD agreement expires December 2024, so as it is already, we have lost some post-construction monitoring time. If conditions are still too wet this year, we may have to postpone again, which would mean we wouldn't have a full year of post construction monitoring. I would like to ask for an extension on the AWPF/AZGFD agreement, specifically to be extended to December 31, 2025.

Please let me know if this is amenable to AWPF and if we need to do a formal request to the Commission.

Also, I talked with Ethan Sandoval of BCI and they do not have any invoicing yet.

Thanks, Audrey

AUDREY OWENS | RANID FROGS PROJECT COORDINATOR ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

OFFICE: MOBILE: EMAIL:

azgfd.gov | 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086

Join our new Conservation Membership program and ensure a wildlife legacy for the future.

Arizona Department of Water Resources Water Protection Fund

FY 2023 Fund Activity

For the period July 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023

Description	1302-WPF	1303-WPF	Total
	Grants	Administration	
Beginning Fund Balance -	\$3,026,034	\$15, 7 55	\$3,041,790
7/1/2022	43,020,03 4	\$13,733	43,041,730
Revenues:			
Interest Income	\$-	\$86,943	\$86,943
In-Lieu Fee Deposit	\$-	\$-	\$-
General Fund Appropriation	\$1,250,000	\$-	\$1,250,000
Transfers - Administrative Expenses	\$(196,800)	\$196,800	\$-
Total - Revenues	\$1,053,200	\$283,743	\$1,336,943
Expenditures:			
Salary Expense	\$-	\$198,878	\$198,878
Grantee Payments	\$138,999	\$-	\$138,999
Travel	\$-	\$-	\$-
Operating Expenses	\$-	\$1,183	\$1,183
Total - Expenditures	\$138,999	\$200,060	\$339,059
Fund Balance - May 31, 2023	\$3,940,235	\$99,438	\$4,039,674
Less: Existing Grant Obligations	\$(2,533,431)	\$ -	\$(2,533,431)
Uncommitted Balance	\$1,406,805	\$99,438	\$1,506,243

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From 1995 to 2023, the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission (Commission) has supported 246 projects and awarded over \$48 million toward the restoration, protection and enhancement of river and riparian resources in Arizona. As a result, Arizona citizens have realized many benefits from these investments through improvements in water quality, in-stream flows/water supplies, biodiversity, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, flood control and overall watershed functionality and sustainability. In addition, important socioeconomic benefits such as jobs and revenue streams are realized by many local communities through the implementation of Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) projects.

The Water Protection Fund balance at the beginning of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 was \$3,041,790. Deposits into the fund for FY 2023 included a \$1,250,000 appropriation from the General Fund in the Arizona Department of Water Resources budget. The fund balance as of June 30, 2023 was \$XXXXXXX.

At the beginning of FY 2023, 12 AWPF grant projects were being implemented across the State. With available funds and appropriations provided by the Legislature for FY 2023, the Commission was able to offer a grant cycle that resulted in the receipt of 7 grant applications and \$844,321 being awarded to three projects. Throughout the fiscal year, AWPF staff continued to provide technical support to current AWPF grantees through the administration and project management of 15 grant award contracts.

At the end of FY 2023 there were 14 active grant projects in Apache (2), Coconino (5) [with one jointly taking place in Mohave County], Graham (2), Gila (2), Pima, Pinal, and Yavapai Counties. These projects are focused on implementing water conservation measures, removal and/or treatment of invasive vegetation, native riparian habitat restoration and enhancement, enhancing degraded stream, wet meadow, and wetland resources, and enhancement of upland habitats for watershed improvement and health.

This fiscal year included two new appointments, and two re-appointments in Commission membership. The AWPF Commission included a total of 12 members at the end of FY 2023, with one vacancy.

ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND CREATION AND PURPOSE

The 1994 Arizona Legislature established the Arizona Water Protection Fund, and the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission to administer the AWPF (A.R.S. § 45-2101 *et seq.*). In passing the enabling legislation, the Legislature declared that the policy of the State is to provide for a coordinated effort between State funding and locally led solutions for the restoration and conservation of this State's rivers, streams and associated riparian habitats, including fish and wildlife resources that are dependent on these important habitats.

The primary purpose of the AWPF is to provide an annual source of funds for the development and implementation of measures to protect water of sufficient quality and quantity to maintain, enhance and restore rivers, streams and associated riparian resources consistent with existing water law and water rights. The Commission may also provide funding to develop and protect riparian habitats in conjunction with a man-made water resource project if the project directly or indirectly benefits a river or stream and includes or creates riparian habitat. The Commission, supported by staff from the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), solicits, reviews, and awards grants to any person, State agency, or political subdivision (excluding federal agencies) to implement local on-the-ground solutions to improve our State's rivers, streams, and watersheds.

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission

The 13-member Commission is the main policy-making body for the AWPF. The Commission is composed of nine voting members who, by statute, must be Arizona residents who represent a variety of land, water use, and socioeconomic perspectives. There are two non-voting ex officio members – the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Commissioner of the Arizona State Land Department; and two non-voting advisory members – one from the Arizona State House of Representatives and one from the Arizona State Senate.

During FY 2023, the AWPF Commission held three business meetings and one Executive Committee meeting. Meeting minutes of the actions taken by the AWPF Commission can be found on the AWPF website at https://www.azwpf.gov/. Over the course of the fiscal year the AWPF Commission was able to transition from holding only virtual meetings to hosting hybrid meetings with both virtual and in-person meeting attendance options available.

This fiscal year included two new appointments, and two re-appointments in Commission membership. Frank Krentz, affiliated with the Whitewater Draw Natural Resource Conservation District, was appointed in December 2022 to replace Commissioner William Schock whose term had expired. State Land Commissioner Robyn Sahid became a non-voting ex officio member of AWPF Commission, replacing former State Land Commissioner Lisa Atkins. Commissioner Pat

Jacobs and Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer were both re-appointed to continue serving in their current capacity. A list of current Commission members and vacancies as of June 30, 2023 is provided in Table 1.

Arizona Water Protection Fund Administration

ADWR provides the primary technical, legal, and administrative staff to the Commission. The AWPF program is managed by its Executive Director. Staffing for the program during FY 2023 included the Executive Director and ADWR legal counsel, with administrative support provided by the ADWR legal division.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

At the beginning of FY 2023, 12 AWPF grant projects were being implemented across the State. With available funds and appropriations provided by the Legislature for FY 2023, the Commission was able to offer a grant cycle. A grant application workshop webinar was held on July 13, 2022. Staff also provided pre-application technical assistance to members of the public and potential grant applicants through a total of 4 scheduled grant pre-application consultations, and numerous phone calls and e-mail inquiries.

The AWPF received a total of 7 grant applications for FY 2023 with \$2,159,318 in funding requested. Following grant application presentations and Commission business meetings in November 2022, the Commission awarded funding to three projects totaling \$844,321. The projects funded in FY 2023 are identified below. Throughout the fiscal year, AWPF staff continued to provide technical support to current AWPF grantees through the administration and project management of 15 grant award contracts.

Other activities completed by staff included assisting the ADWR webmaster with the update of the Arizona Water Protection website to the Drupal 9 operating platform; implementing a triennial grant application guidelines review process with public input as required by Statute; responding to public records requests pertaining to the AWPF program; continued updates and maintenance of the AWPF program website and project tracking database; presenting to the Bureau of Land Management Arizona Office about the AWPF program and riparian restoration funding opportunities; drafting ADWR's Watershed Improvement Program annual report; initiating the development of a records inventory, file retention, and file cleanup management plan for AWPF program records; and successfully continuing to implement an electronic grant application submittal and review process via the eCivis grant management system.

Table 1. Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission Members as of June 30, 2023.

Commission Member / Affiliation	• • •		Term Expiration Date
Pat Jacobs* Central Arizona Project	Multi-County Water Conservation District	District Governing Board	December 31, 2024
Rodney J. Held** Salt River Project	Agricultural Improvement District	Governor	June 30, 2023
Brian K. Biesemeyer City of Scottsdale	Member of the Public – B.S.in Hydrology – City Served by the Central Arizona Project	Governor	June 30, 2025
Shelley Blackmore Triangle Natural Resource Conservation District	Natural Resource Conservation District	Senate President	September 30, 2023
Frank Krentz Whitewater Draw Natural Resource Conservation District	State Association of Natural Resource Conservation Districts	Governor	June 30, 2025
John Ladd Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District	Natural Resource Conservation District	Speaker of the House of Representatives	February 7, 2025
Tina Thompson Willcox-San Simon Natural Resource Conservation District	Natural Resource Conservation District	Senate President	February 2, 2025
Stephen Turcotte Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District	Natural Resource Conservation District	Speaker of the House of Representatives	October 15, 2023
VACANT	Indian Tribe	Inter Tribal Council of Arizona	-
Thomas Buschatzke Director Department of Water Resources	Non-voting Ex Officio Member	Arizona Revised Statues § 45- 2103(A)(7)	-
Robyn Sahid State Land Commissioner State Land Department	Non-voting Ex Officio Member	Arizona Revised Statues § 45-2103 (A)(7)	-
The Honorable Sine Kerr AZ Senate	Non-voting Advisory Member	Senate President	April 9, 2022
The Honorable David L. Cook AZ House of Representatives	Non-voting Advisory Member	Speaker of the House of Representatives	September 21, 2020

^{*}Chair, **Vice-Chair

Grant Projects Completed during Fiscal Year 2023

20-209WPF: Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Lower Verde River Riparian Restoration Project

Map #	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
215	Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Environmental Department	Maricopa	\$237,246	November 30, 2022

Project Description:

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (FMYN), Mariposa Ecological and Botanical Consulting, and Morning Dew Landscaping partnered in controlling invasive plant species along ten miles of the Verde River, and continued restoring native vegetation to select areas on FMYN lands. The project complemented the previously funded AWPF grant 17-192WPF with additional restoration actions along the Lower Verde River and provided resources to continue to work within, and both up and downstream of the pilot project restoration site.

As part of the project the FMYN 1) continued to treat known and new populations of giant reed and tree tobacco along the Verde River; 2) developed invasive species removal & native plant restoration plans for two new habitat enhancement projects; 3) retreated tamarisk in the FMYN pilot project site; 4) implemented Phase 2 planting in the pilot project site; 5) conducted initial tamarisk treatment in a new restoration site (Site RM 3.11R); and 6) implemented a monitoring program in all restoration areas.

Active Grant Projects during Fiscal Year 2023

20-202WPF: Gila Valley Irrigation District System Optimization Phase I

Map #	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
208	Gila Valley Irrigation District	Graham	\$623,702	September 30, 2024

Project Description:

The Gila Valley Irrigation District (GVID) will modernize the lateral gate water delivery system on two of its canals, Smithville and Dodge-Nevada, to increase on-farm irrigation efficiency and improve environmental flow conditions. The specific objective of the project is to implement improvements on 58 lateral gates along the two canals to provide improved sediment and water level control, flow control, and flow measurement. The modernization of these canal delivery systems will allow for future canal automation projects and on-farm water conservation projects that may have the potential to improve water quality in the Gila River. The project intends to improve the Gila Valley Irrigation District's operational efficiency and available flows at turnouts for on-farm deliveries, increase the efficiency of individual irrigators, and conserve water for downstream users.

20-204WPF: Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District Riparian Restoration

Map #	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
210	Winkelman Natural Resources Conservation District	Pinal	\$205,844	March 31, 2024

Project Description:

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District (WNRCD) will 1) remove tamarisk along the Gila River on approximately 17 acres of the General Kearny Sheriff's Mounted Posse of Pinal County property; 2) remove tamarisk along the Gila River on approximately three acres of the DuBoise Ranch private property; 3) revegetate approximately 105 acre riparian corridor on Town of Kearny property where tamarisk is currently being removed by other project partners, and 4) create a Tamarisk Management Plan for the WNRCD outlining future tamarisk treatment methods, priority restoration sites, revegetation goals, and monitoring. All three project areas to be restored as part of the grant will be revegetated with native trees and shrubs, monitored, and re-treated for tamarisk as necessary for the duration of the project. Long-term maintenance of these three restoration sites and future projects will be outlined in the WNRCD Tamarisk Management Plan.

20-205WPF: Upper, Middle, and Lower Fossil Creek Invasive Plant Removal

Map	# Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
211	National Forest Foundation	Gila	\$98,662	May 7, 2025

Project Description:

The project area spans a total of approximately 1,300 riparian acres on both sides of Fossil Creek within a 16.8-mile river reach located from lower Fossil Creek to the springs on Coconino and Tonto National Forest lands. Within all three reaches of the Wild & Scenic Fossil Creek, the National Forest Foundation and the Friends of the Verde River will partner to implement an invasive species management project focusing on monitoring and treatment of invasive plant species in the middle and lower reaches of Fossil Creek, including tamarisk, Tree of Heaven, giant reed, and Russian olive. In the upper reach, a pilot project consisting of monitoring and treatment of Himalayan blackberry will also be implemented. The overall goals for invasive plant species removal are to eliminate Russian olive and giant reed, and manage tamarisk and Tree of Heaven to less than 10% cover in the riparian corridor.

20-207WPF: Harrenburg Wash Enhancement Project

Map #	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
213	Coconino County Parks and Recreation	Coconino	\$129,190	December 31, 2025

Project Description:

Coconino Parks and Recreation will improve the stability, productivity, and habitat quality of Harrenburg Wash, just upstream from its confluence with Pumphouse Wash, both of which are in the Upper Verde River Watershed and are the headwaters of Oak Creek Canyon. The wash and associated wetland habitat have been impacted by several factors including the building, filling, and partial breaching of an existing earthen dam and a relatively large pond that was constructed by a previous landowner and is now causing downstream channel erosion due to high water velocity; previous channel excavations that have initiated channel head cuts and created areas of excess floodplain fill; and the invasion of non-native weed species. To restore Harrenburg Wash

the Grantee will implement stream channel improvements, invasive weed treatments, native plant revegetation, the clean-up and removal of debris and materials from the site, and the construction of a fence along the parking area boundary.

20-208WPF: Paria Beach Riparian Restoration

Map #	Grantee	County		Contract Expiration Date
214	Grand Canyon Wildlands Council	Coconino	\$187,699	May 31, 2024

Project Description:

The Grand Canyon Wildlands Council (GCWC) will complete tamarisk control and removal and undertake native phreatophyte revegetation on approximately 4 acres at the Paria Beach site along the Colorado River. GCWC will also assist the National Park Service (NPS) with developing a monitoring program, project site outreach, and curriculum for an onsite outdoor classroom. This project will also assist in further implementing Glen Canyon National Recreation Area's (GLCA) Colorado River Riparian Revegetation Plan. The proposed objectives for meeting the project goals are 1) assist GLCA staff ensure the sufficiency of GLCA riparian restoration guidance; 2) assemble, compile, and assess historic information to guide planning; 3) develop a prioritized restoration, maintenance, and monitoring plans; and 5) collaborate with GLCA to achieve effective on-site education and outreach. Ultimately, the project should further inform riparian revegetation in many other settings in the Southwest where tamarisk removal involves large stands, heavily impacted by tamarisk beetle.

22-210WPF: Verde River Riparian Restoration - Highway 89A to Bignotti Picnic Site

Map #	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
216	Friends of the Verde River	Yavapai	\$247,350	December 31, 2024

Project Description:

The Friends of the Verde River propose to collaborate with multiple Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition partners to 1) monitor vegetation treatments along the Verde River project area, 2) initially treat and retreat target non-native invasive plants, and 3) plan and implement landowner outreach and volunteer events to engage the community and educate people about the threats from invasive riparian plants. The project area spans a total of 387 riparian acres on both sides of the Verde River within a 5.9-mile river reach located along Coconino National Forest (CNF), Prescott National Forest (PNF), and on private properties. This project will build upon the work completed and currently underway by Friends of the Verde River and the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition partners and will take place in the vicinity of previously funded Arizona Water Protection Fund project sites where a mix of initial and retreatment is needed for invasive plant species.

22-211WPF: Little Green Valley Fen Restoration Feasibility Study

Map#	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
217	National Forest Foundation	Gila	\$77,003	September 30, 2024

Project Description:

The purpose of the Little Green Valley Fen restoration feasibility study is to gather technical information and expertise needed to develop and implement a plan to restore the wet meadow function of the Little Green Valley Fen (Fen). The objectives of this project are to 1) engage contractor(s) to study feasibility of both form and process-based restoration scenarios for the Fen; 2) gather monitoring data needed to assess condition and trend of the Fen after the installation of a fence exclosure; 3) synthesize the information obtained through objectives 1 & 2; and 4) conduct a workshop/site visit to bring together relevant stakeholders and decide on a path forward. The final products for the project will include a restoration plan for the Fen and proposed budget for the restoration activities.

22-212WPF: The Path to Protection at Oak Creek: Social Trail Rehabilitation for Watershed Health

Map#	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
218	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	Coconino	\$238,980	August 31, 2025

Project Description:

In Oak Creek, a majority of social trails stem from unauthorized parking areas along Highway 89A and are exacerbated by increased visitation which causes soil erosion and transports sediment and E. coli into Oak Creek. In 2020, a joint project with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Natural Channel Design, Arizona Conservation Corps, and the National Forest Foundation rehabilitated 145 unpermitted social trails leading to Oak Creek. The Grantee and its partners will build upon these past efforts by rehabilitating and improving an additional 120 unpermitted social trails along an approximate 12-mile stretch of Oak Creek on lands managed by the Coconino National Forest, Red Rock Ranger District. The Grantee will also monitor and maintain the 145 trails previously rehabilitated and monitor an additional 55 trails planned for future rehabilitation. Additional project monitoring will include measurements of E. coli contamination, monitoring and photographing pre- and post-decommissioned and improved trails, and modeling the reduction of sediment load levels in Oak Creek. This effort will complete a high-priority, essential project approved in the Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan and is intended to improve riparian habitat for wildlife and protect stream water quality.

22-213WPF: Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project

Map #	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
219	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Coconino	\$76,945	January 31, 2025

Project Description:

The purpose of the Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project is to improve habitat along the ephemeral stream and meadow on Dye Ranch, a 35.92-acre parcel of the Chevelon Canyon Ranches Wildlife Area owned by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. The project would involve restoration work along the stream channel, including repairing existing head-cuts, and restoring pool and wetland habitat so that they support year-round water. The project intends to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and aid floodplain development by allowing floodwaters to spread out. Monitoring components of the project will include habitat assessments and wildlife use. Following restoration activities, the Grantee will translocate and release Northern Leopard Frogs to the project area.

22-214WPF: Habitat Restoration in the Gila River Riparian Corridor

Map #	Grantee	•		Contract Expiration Date	
220	Gila Watershed Partnership	Graham	\$97,455	October 31, 2025	
220	of Arizona	Granam	φ91, 4 33	October 31, 2023	

Project Description:

The Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona (GWP) will enhance 75 acres of riparian land along the Upper Gila River and will focus on maintaining previously treated sites (not initially funded by AWPF) to promote native plant establishment and survival in the wake of tamarisk decline due to the tamarisk beetle. To continue restoring native-dominated plant communities along the river, the GWP is shifting the restoration focus away from primary tamarisk removal and toward active management of these previously treated sites. The project will build upon previous efforts by intensively re-treating 60 acres of tamarisk re-sprouts and secondary weeds to prevent these species from regaining dominance, and planting 15 acres of previously treated land with native species, including both seeds and nursery stock.

22-215WPF: Ravenna & Pampas Grass Control along the Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to Diamond Creek

Map #	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
221	RiversEdge West	Coconino / Mohave	\$43,178	April 30, 2024

Project Description:

This project will take place along the Colorado River within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA) and Grand Canyon National Park (GRCA), and is a collaborative effort between the National Park Service, RiversEdge West, and Mariposa Ecological and Botanical Consulting. This project will involve the mapping and manual removal of Ravenna grass (*Saccharum ravennae*) and pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) populations from Glen Canyon Dam River Mile 15 to Diamond Creek River Mile 225.0 (240 total river miles) and will continue to build on 28 years of invasive species control. This project will involve two river trips in which crews will revisit all known Ravenna and pampas populations mapped between 2012-2020, and continue to map, monitor, and manually remove (i.e., clip all seed heads and dig up plants) all Ravenna grass and pampas grass along the Colorado River.

23-216WPF: Timberline-Upper Little Colorado River Watershed Improvement Project

Map#	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding Contract Expirate	
222	Arizona Association of Conservation Districts	Apache	\$261,000	April 30, 2026

Project Description:

The project is located on the Dobson Timberline Ranch, in Apache County, AZ, and the Apache Natural Resource Conservation District. The Grantee will treat invasive juniper trees on approximately 1,800 acres grassland habitat to support watershed restoration within the Little Colorado River Watershed, to improve watershed conditions, reduce overland flow, decrease soil erosion, increase water infiltration, decrease turbidity throughout the watershed, improve water quality, and increase water quantity. Juniper will be treated using equipment with rubber tires to

masticate the juniper trees. The project area will be monitored pre and post treatment to document vegetative changes occurring due to project work, and to assess the success of the project. Treatment of these 1,800 acres will build on the previously funded Arizona Water Protection Fund grant #17-188WPF, which borders the project area, and build upon the landscape-level improvement of the watershed.

23-217WPF: Becker Lake Wildlife Area: Little Colorado River Habitat Improvement Project

Map #	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
223	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Apache	\$388,075	March 31, 2027

Project Description:

The Arizona Game & Fish Department (AGFD) is undertaking a project to improve wildlife habitat and riverscape function along a 1.2-mile corridor of the Little Colorado River (LCR) through Becker Lake Wildlife Area (BLWA). Since 2019 the AGFD and project partners have invested over \$55,000 toward the completion of assessment, design, and compliance tasks for the project. The overall goal of the project is to improve the geomorphological and ecological diversity of the LCR riverscape through BLWA, and help build a resilient and sustaining riparian ecosystem that directly benefits stream and floodplain function, habitat for fish and wildlife, recreational opportunities for the public, and promotes the efficiency of working agricultural lands. Restoration practices will include floodplain/backwater connection, re-contouring, and enhancement; river walk trail improvements; streambank soil bioengineering; and native plant revegetation with riparian sod and willow clump transplants.

23-218WPF: Protecting and Restoring Habitat and Surface Flow in Tanque Verde Creek

Map #	Grantee	County	AWPF Funding	Contract Expiration Date
224	Watershed Management Group	Pima	\$195,426	December 31, 2026

Project Description:

The goals of this project are to preserve intermittent flows in Tanque Verde Creek and enhance the area's riparian habitat through community-based restoration efforts. The project area falls within a shallow groundwater area that supports riparian habitats in Tanque Verde Creek. The Grantee will eradicate invasive Giant cane (*Arundo donax*) from an intermittent upstream reach of Tanque Verde Creek stretching approximately 4 miles from Wentworth Road down to Houghton Road in the City of Tucson, AZ; implement approximately 4-6 stormwater restoration projects on the Tanque Verde Creek floodplain to reduce erosion and stormwater flooding impacts from adjacent parcels and neighborhood street landscape areas; and increase stewardship of Tanque Verde Creek by deepening community connections through community science monitoring of flow permanence, implementing a native vegetation response plan to *Arundo donax* removal, and engaging residents and businesses in stormwater restoration efforts.

CONCLUSION

From 1995 to 2023, the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission has supported 246 projects and awarded over \$48 million toward the restoration, protection and enhancement of river and riparian resources in Arizona. The Commission has funded a wide range of projects including stream channel restoration, riparian revegetation, wetland creation/restoration, fencing and other grazing management improvements, upland and watershed restoration, erosion control, conservation education, applied ecological research, and infrastructure improvements to benefit water conservation and wildlife habitat. A complete list of projects and a general project location map are included in Appendix A. Project final reports generated since the inception of the program can be requested from ADWR via a public records request.

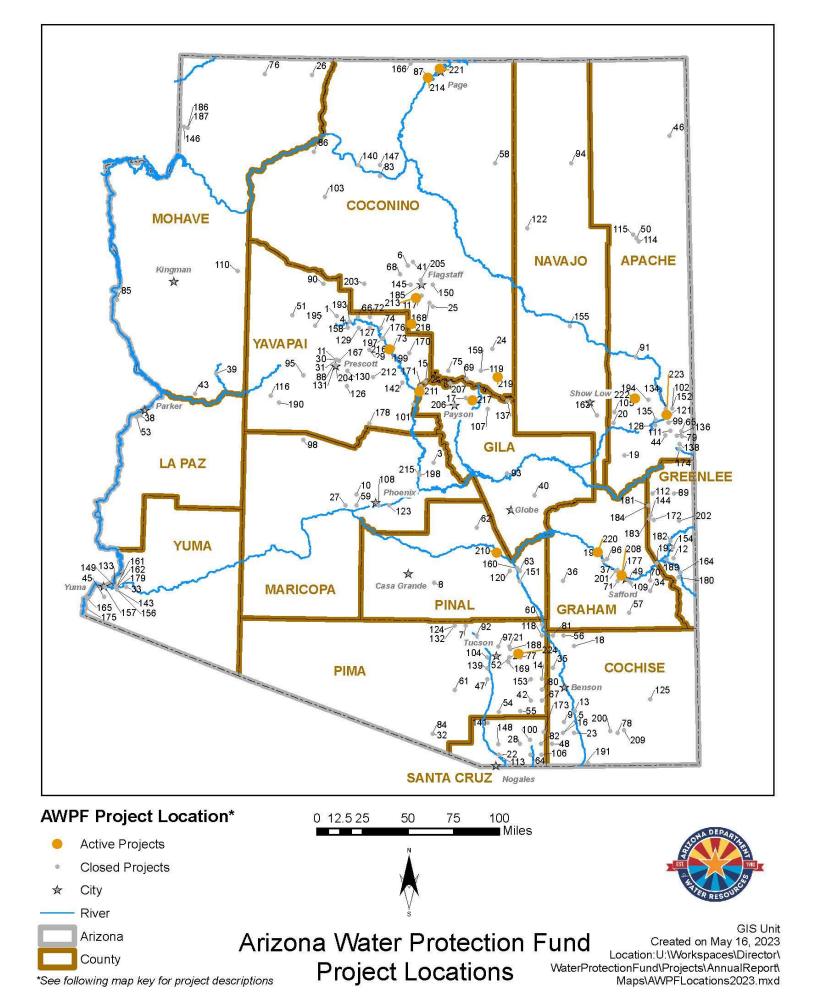
With available funds and appropriations provided by the Legislature for FY 2023, the Commission was able to offer a grant cycle that resulted in the receipt of 7 grant applications and \$844,321 being awarded to three projects. AWPF staff continued to provide technical support to current AWPF grantees through the project management of 15 grant award projects (with one closed out) during the fiscal year. A financial statement as of June 30, 2023 is included in Appendix B.

Arizona citizens continue to realize many benefits from the AWPF investments through ongoing improvements in water quality, in-stream flows/water supplies, biodiversity, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, flood control, and overall watershed health. Not only do communities rely on the State's watersheds and riparian areas for a general water source, but also for recreation, ecotourism, fishing, hunting, birdwatching, and agricultural operations. The Commission is committed to approving projects that are fiscally responsible and beneficial to the citizens of Arizona and will work to continue making progress toward the restoration, protection, and enhancement of river and riparian resources throughout the State.

APPENDIX A: MAP AND LIST OF AWPF PROJECTS

The following map and list of AWPF projects contain a compilation of grant award projects from 1995-2023.





Map#	Grant #	Project Title	Grant Amount	County	Project Status
1	95-001	Stable Isotope Assessment of Groundwater and Surface Water Interaction: Application to the Verde River Headwaters	\$21,508	Yavapai	Complete
2	95-002	Partnership for Riparian Conservation in Northeastern Pima County (PROPIMA)	\$78,100	Pima	Complete
3	95-003	Sycamore Creek Riparian Management Area	\$115,522	Maricopa	Complete
4	95-004	Road Reclamation to Improve Riparian Habitat Along the Hassayampa and Verde Rivers	\$45,693	Yavapai	Complete
5	95-005	Preservation of the San Pedro River Utilizing Effluent Recharge	\$333,863	Cochise	Complete
6	95-006	Critical Riparian Habitat Restoration along a Perennial Reach of a Verde River Tributary	\$102,535	Coconino	Complete
7	95-007	High Plains Effluent Recharge Project	\$189,000	Pima	Complete
8	95-008	Picacho Reservoir Riparian Enhancement Project	\$2,400,000	Pinal	Terminated
9	95-009	Regeneration and survivorship of Arizona Sycamore	\$34,617	Cochise	Complete
10	95-010	Assessment of the Role of Effluent Dominated Rivers in Supporting Riparian Functions	\$46,750	Maricopa	Complete
11	95-012	The Comprehensive Plan for the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve	\$33,267	Yavapai	Complete
12	95-014	Gila Box Riparian and Water Quality Improvement Project	\$157,223	Greenlee	Complete
13	95-015	San Pedro RNCA Watershed Rehabilitation/Restoration Project	\$286,000	Cochise	Complete
14	95-016	Refinement of Geologic Model, Lower Cienega Basin, Pima County, Arizona	\$7,390	Pima	Complete
15	95-017	Restoration of Fossil Creek Riparian Ecosystem	\$59,693	Yavapai	Complete
16	95-018	Autecology and Restoration of <i>Sporobolus Wrightii</i> Riparian Grasslands in Southern Arizona	\$53,734	Cochise	Complete
17	95-019	Quantifying Anti-Erosion Traits of Streambank Graminoids	\$14,910	Gila	Complete
18	95-020	Teran Watershed Enhancement	\$142,378	Cochise	Complete
19	95-021	Lofer Cienega Restoration Project	\$161,204	Apache	Complete
20	95-022	Gooseberry Watershed Restoration Project	\$126,406	Apache	Complete
21	95-023	Sabino Creek Riparian Ecosystem Protection Project	\$16,385	Pima	Complete
22	95-024	Potrero Creek Wetland Characterization and Management Plan	\$75,300	Santa Cruz	Complete
23	96-0001	San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Watershed Protection and Improvement Project	\$89,250	Cochise	Complete
24	96-0002	Completion Phase: Hi-Point Well Project	\$77,844	Coconino	Complete
25		Hoxworth Springs Riparian Restoration Project	\$31,545	Coconino	Complete
26		Hydrologic Investigation & Conservation Planning: Pipe Springs	\$50,000	Mohave	Complete
27	96-0006	Tres Rios-River Management and Constructed Wetlands Project Hydrogeologic Investigation of Groundwater Movement and Sources of Base Flow to Sonoita Creek and Implementation of Long-Term Monitoring Program	\$1,000,000 \$155,715	Maricopa Santa Cruz	Complete Complete
29		Ash Creek Riparian Protection Project	\$19,248	Yavapai	Complete
30		Watson Woods Vegetation Inventory	\$16,115	Yavapai	Complete
31	96-0009	Watson Woods Riparian Preserve Visitor Management	\$8,556	Yavapai	Complete
32	96-0010	Rehabilitating the Puertocito Wash on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.	\$83,432	Pima	Complete
33	96-0011	Lower Colorado River - Imperial Division Restoration	\$435,928	Yuma	Complete
34		Eagle Creek Watershed and Riparian Stabilization	\$80,626	Graham	Complete
35		Happy Valley Riparian Area Restoration Project	\$64,697	Cochise	Complete
36	96-0014	Klondyke Tailings Response Strategy Analysis (RSA)	\$77,614	Graham	Complete

Map #	Grant #	Project Title	Grant Amount	County	Project Status
37	96-0015	Abandonment of an Artesian Geothermal Well	\$113,360	Graham	Complete
38	96-0016	'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve	\$1,131,477	La Paz	Complete
39	96-0017	Big Sandy River Riparian Project	\$92,000	Mohave	Complete
40	96-0018	San Carlos Spring Protection Project	\$131,540	Gila	Withdrawn
41	96-0019	Response of Bebb Willow to Riparian Restoration	\$33,752	Coconino	Complete
42	96-0020	Cienega Creek Stream Restoration	\$210,700	Pima	Complete
43	96-0021	Riparian Vegetation and Stream Channel Changes Associated with Water Management along the Bill Williams River	\$14,788	Mohave	Complete
44	96-0022	Saffell Canyon and Murray Basin Watershed Restoration Project	\$24,316	Apache	Complete
45	96-0023	Watershed Restoration at the Yuma Conservation Gardens	\$31,050	Yuma	Complete
46	96-0025	Tsaile Creek Watershed Restoration Demonstration	\$152,775	Apache	Complete
47	96-0026	Riparian Restoration on the San Xavier Indian Reservation Community	\$591,319	Pima	Complete
48	97-027	Lyle Canyon Allotment Riparian Area Restoration Project	\$60,359	Cochise	Complete
49	97-028	Creation of a Reference Riparian Area in the Gila Valley – Discovery Park	\$182,000	Graham	Complete
50	97-029	Demonstration Enhancement of Riparian Zone and Stream Channel along stretch of Pueblo Colorado Wash at Hubbell Trading Post	\$91,110	Apache	Complete
51	97-030	Walnut Creek Center for Education and Research - Biological Inventory	\$50,580	Yavapai	Complete
52	97-031	Lincoln Park Riparian Habitat Project (a.k.a. Atturbury Wash Project)	\$154,580	Pima	Complete
53	97-032	'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve - Deer Island Revegetation	\$228,800	La Paz	Complete
54	97-033	Proctor Vegetation Modification	\$11,487	Pima	Complete
55	97-034	Oak Tree Gully Stabilization	\$42,491	Pima	Complete
56	97-035	Watershed Improvement to Restore Riparian & Aquatic Habitat on the Muleshoe Ranch CMA	\$128,315	Cochise	Complete
57	97-036	Stable Isotopes as Tracers of Water Quality Constituents in the Upper Gila River	\$27,338	Graham	Complete
58	97-037	Talastima (Blue Canyon) Watershed Restoration Project	\$310,192	Coconino	Complete
59	97-038	Tres Rios Wetlands Heavy-Metal Bioavailability and Denitrification Investigation	\$117,028	Maricopa	Complete
60	97-040	Bingham Cienega Riparian Restoration Project	\$84,679	Pima	Complete
61	97-041	Altar Valley Watershed Resource Assessment	\$88,730	Pima	Complete
62	97-042	Queen Creek Restoration & Management Plan	\$207,595	Pinal	Complete
63	97-044	San Pedro River Preserve Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	\$336,127	Pinal	Complete
64	97-045	Santa Cruz Headwaters Project	\$100,445	Santa Cruz	Complete
65	98-046	EC Bar Ranch Water Well Project	\$20,300	Apache	Complete
66	98-047	Upper Verde Adaptive Management Unit	\$115,300	Yavapai	Complete
67	98-049	Empire/Cienega/Empirita Fencing Project	\$54,850	Pima	Complete
68	98-050	Watershed Restoration of a High-Elevation Riparian Community	\$304,775	Coconino	Complete
69	98-051	Evaluation of <i>Carex</i> Species for Use in Riparian Restoration	\$47,907	Coconino	Complete
70	98-052	Tritium as A Tracer of Groundwater Sources and Movement in The Upper Gila River Drainage	\$41,028	Graham	Complete
71	98-054	Fluvial Geomorphology Study and Demonstration Projects to Enhance and Restore Riparian Habitat on The Gila River from The New Mexico Border	\$449,872	Graham	Complete
72	98-055	Horseshoe Allotment: Verde Riparian Project II	\$82,561	Yavapai	Complete

Map#	Grant #	Project Title	Grant Amount	County	Project Status
73	98-057	Upper Verde Valley Riparian Area Historical Analysis	\$44,019	Yavapai	Complete
74	98-058	Effects of Removal of Livestock Grazing on Riparian Vegetation and Channel Conditions of Selected Reaches of the Upper Verde River	\$116,500	Yavapai	Terminated
75	98-059	Verde River Headwaters Riparian Restoration Demonstration Project	\$204,629	Coconino	Complete
76	98-061	Watershed Enhancement on the Antelope Allotment	\$137,307	Mohave	Complete
77	98-062	Partnership for Riparian Conservation in Northeastern Pima County II	\$54,734	Pima	Complete
78	98-066	Hay Mountain Watershed Rehabilitation	\$116,525	Cochise	Complete
79	99-067	EC Bar Ranch Wildlife Drinker Project	\$30,500	Apache	Complete
80	99-068	Lower Cienega Creek Restoration Evaluation Project	\$83,272	Pima	Complete
81	99-069	Riparian and Watershed Enhancements on the A7 Ranch - Lower San Pedro River	\$521,197	Cochise	Complete
82	99-070	Lyle Canyon Allotment Riparian Area Restoration Project Phase 2	\$214,211	Santa Cruz	Complete
83	99-071	Protection of Spring and Seep Resources of The South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park by Measuring Water Quality, Flow and Associated Biota	\$238,953	Coconino	Complete
84	99-072	Leopard Frog Habitat and Population Conservation at Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge	\$120,485	Pima	Terminated
85	99-073	Colorado River Nature Center Backwater Phase 2	\$41,500	Mohave	Complete
86	99-074	Proposal to Inventory, Assess and Recommend Recovery Priorities for Arizona Strip Springs, Seeps and Natural Ponds	\$101,856	Coconino	Complete
87	99-075	Glen and Grand Canyon Riparian Restoration Project	\$371,285	Coconino	Complete
88	99-076	Watson Woods Preserve Herpetological Interpretive Guide and Checklist	\$31,255	Yavapai	Complete
89	99-077	Blue Box Crossing	\$150,000	Greenlee	Complete
90	99-078	Aquifer Framework and Ground-Water Flow Paths in Big and Little Chino Basins	\$188,140	Yavapai	Complete
91	99-079	Little Colorado River Riparian Restoration Project	\$404,587	Apache	Complete
92	99-080	Cortaro Mesquite Bosque	\$486,650	Pima	Terminated
93	99-083	Cherry Creek Enhancement Demonstration Project	\$263,225	Gila	Complete
94	99-084	Assessments of Riparian Zones in the Little Colorado River Watershed	\$79,443	Navajo	Complete
95	99-085	Kirkland Creek Watershed Resource Assessment	\$131,430	Yavapai	Complete
96	99-086	Abandonment of Gila Oil Syndicate Well #1	\$333,790	Graham	Complete
97	99-087	Rillito Creek Habitat Restoration Project	\$293,000	Pima	Withdrawn
98	99-088	Wickenburg High School Stream Habitat Creation	\$69,100	Maricopa	Complete
99	99-089	Town of Eagar/Round Valley Water Users Association Pressure Irrigation Feasibility Study & Preliminary Design	\$320,540	Apache	Complete
100	99-090	Redrock Riparian Improvement	\$62,350	Santa Cruz	Terminated
101	99-091	Effects of Livestock Use Levels on Riparian Trees on the Verde River	\$41,417	Yavapai	Complete
102	99-092	Little Colorado River Enhancement Demonstration Project	\$348,627	Apache	Complete
103	99-093	Coconino Plateau Regional Water Study	\$134,200	Coconino	Complete
104	99-094	Santa Cruz River Park Extension	\$434,684	Pima	Withdrawn
105	99-095	Brown Creek Riparian Restoration	\$34,037	Apache	Complete
106	99-096	Upper Santa Cruz Watershed Restoration	\$184,950	Santa Cruz	Withdrawn

Map #	Grant #	Project Title	Grant Amount	County	Project Status
107	99-097	Dakini Valley Riparian Project	\$66,130	Gila	Terminated
108	99-098	Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project	\$950,408	Maricopa	Complete
109	00-099	Gila Reference Riparian Area, Discovery Park	\$152,850	Graham	Withdrawn
110	00-100	Willow Creek Riparian Restoration Project	\$33,480	Mohave	Complete
111	00-101	Murray Basin and Saffell Canyon Watershed Restoration Project	\$260,727	Apache	Complete
112	00-102	Upper Eagle Creek Restoration on East Eagle Allotment of Four Drag Ranch	\$66,330	Greenlee	Complete
113	00-103	Riparian Restoration on the Santa Cruz River - Santa Fe Ranch	\$49,008	Santa Cruz	Complete
114	00-104	Continued Enhancement of Pueblo Colorado Wash at Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	\$69,349	Apache	Complete
115	00-105	Hubbell Trading Post Riparian Restoration with Treated Effluent	\$81,951	Apache	Complete
116	00-106	Tres Alamos Ranch Dirt-Tanks-To-Aquatic-Habitat Conversion	\$69,220	Yavapai	Complete
117	00-108	Lake Mary Watershed Streams Restoration Project	\$253,119	Coconino	Complete
118	00-109	Lower San Pedro Watershed Project	\$249,871	Pima	Complete
119	00-110	Upper Fairchild Draw Riparian Restoration	\$35,515	Coconino	Complete
120	00-111	Cooperative Grazing Management for Riparian Improvement on the San Pedro	\$228,701	Pinal	Complete
121	00-112	Town of Eagar/Round Valley Water Users Assoc Additional Mapping for Water Quality Improvements in the Watershed	\$151,829	Apache	Complete
122	00-113	Polacca Wash Grazing Management	\$267,511	Navajo	Terminated
123	00-114	The Papago Park Green Line Project	\$229,152	Maricopa	Complete
124	00-115	Tucson Audubon Society North Simpson Farm Riparian Recovery Project	\$127,409	Pima	Complete
125	03-116	Cottonwood Creek Restoration	\$185,772	Cochise	Complete
126	03-117	Lynx Creek Restoration at Sediment Trap #2	\$179,771	Yavapai	Complete
127	03-118	Verde River Riparian Area Partnership Project	\$111,221	Yavapai	Withdrawn
128	03-119	Wet Meadows for Water Quality and Wildlife - A Riparian Restoration Project	\$137,027	Apache	Complete
129	04-120	Verde Headwaters 3-D Hydrogeological Model Framework and Visualization	\$46,634	Yavapai	Complete
130	04-121	Lynx Creek Restoration	\$266,020	Yavapai	Complete
131	04-122	Watson Woods Riparian Preserve Restoration Feasibility Project	\$183,523	Yavapai	Complete
132	04-123	Tucson Audubon Society, Santa Cruz River Habitat Project, North Simpson Site, Phase 2	\$130,786	Pima	Complete
133	04-124	Yuma East Wetlands Riparian Revegetation Project	\$285,878	Yuma	Complete
134	05-125	Wilkins' Family Little Colorado River Riparian Enhancement Project	\$293,618	Apache	Complete
135	05-126	X Diamond Ranch LCR Riparian Enhancement Project	\$352,119	Apache	Complete
136	05-127	EC Bar Ranch Reach 8 Water Well and Drinker Project	\$22,235	Apache	Complete
137	05-128	Canyon Creek Riparian Restoration Project, Reach 4-5	\$106,919	Gila	Complete
138	05-129	Georges Lake Riparian Restoration Project	\$168,636	Apache	Complete
139	05-130	Riparian Restoration on the San Xavier District - Project Two	\$36,353	Pima	Complete
140	05-131	Management & Control of Tamarisk and Other Invasive Vegetation at Backcountry Seeps, Springs and Tributaries in Grand Canyon National Park	\$245,500	Coconino	Complete
141	05-132	Esperanza Ranch Riparian Restoration Project	\$279,411	Santa Cruz	Complete

Map #	Grant #	Project Title Grant Amount		County	Project Status	
142	05-133	Verde Wild and Scenic River Fence Exclosure	\$63,888	Yavapai	Complete	
143	05-134	Quechan Indian Nation Yuma East Wetlands Restoration Project - Phase I \$263,803		Complete		
144	06-135	Double Circle Ranch Riparian Fencing Project	\$84,448	Greenlee	Complete	
145	06-136	The Arboretum at Flagstaff Wetland Habitat Enhancement	\$116,000	Coconino	Complete	
146	06-137	Pakoon Springs Restoration Design and Implementation Project	\$262,103	Mohave	Complete	
147	06-138	Management and Control of Tamarisk and Other Invasive Vegetation at Backcountry Seeps, Springs, and Tributaries in Grand Canyon National Park - Second Year of Phase II	\$258,397	Coconino	Complete	
148	06-139	Coal Mine Fence	\$187,013	Santa Cruz	Complete	
149	06-140	Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Yuma East Wetlands Restoration Project - Phase I	\$256,790	Yuma	Complete	
150	07-141	Picture Canyon Rio De Flag Meander Restoration Project	\$330,225	Coconino	Complete	
151	07-142	Reduction of Erosion and Sedimentation along the Lower San Pedro River Through Hydrologic Restoration of Modified Ephemeral Washes	\$396,409	Pinal	Complete	
152	07-143	Little Colorado River & Nutrioso Creek Riparian Enhancement Project	\$198,996	Apache	Complete	
153	07-144	Evaluation of Riparian Habitat and Headcutting on Lower Cienega Creek	\$23,972	Pima	Complete	
154	07-145	Kaler Ranch Erosion Control Project, Phase II	\$284,332	Greenlee	Complete	
155	07-146	Little Colorado River Project on H-Y Ranch River Property	\$53,000	Navajo	Withdrawn	
156	07-147	The Effects of Restoration on Wildlife Recovery at the Yuma East Wetlands Restoration Project	\$68,016	Yuma	Complete	
157	07-148	South Channel Phase II Restoration Project	\$603,487	Yuma	Complete	
158	07-149	Control of Tamarisk on 12 Miles of the Upper Verde River	\$366,390	Yavapai	Complete	
159	07-150	Fairchild Draw Riparian Restoration Project	\$172,674	Coconino	Complete	
160	08-151	Test of Riparian Recovery Following Cessation of Groundwater Pumping, Lower San Pedro	\$61,795	Pinal	Complete	
161	08-152	AWPF Yuma East Wetlands 68-acre Riparian Revegetation	\$746,667	Yuma	Complete	
162	08-153	The Effects of Restoration on Herpetofaunal and Mammalian Community Recovery	\$156,833	Yuma	Complete	
163	08-154	Billy Creek Natural Area Riparian Restoration Project	\$248,826	Navajo	Complete	
164	08-155	Restoration of the Gila River at Apache Grove	\$744,747	Greenlee	Complete	
165	08-156	Cocopah Colorado River Restoration	\$296,708	Yuma	Complete	
166	08-157	Paria River Exotic Removal Project - Phase I	\$293,960	Coconino	Complete	
167	08-158	Watson Woods Riparian Preserve Restoration Project	\$798,988	Yavapai	Complete	
168	08-159	Hoxworth Springs Stream Channel Restoration Project	\$142,543	Coconino	Complete	
169	08-160	Atturbury Wash Riparian Stewardship Project	\$390,839	Pima	Complete	
170	08-161	Montezuma Well Riparian Pasture Restoration Project	\$296,155 \$250,348	Yavapai	Complete	
171	09-162	Middle Fossil Creek Riparian Habitat Protection and Restoration		Gila	Complete	
172	09-163	Double Circle Ranch Erosion Control Project \$3 Babocomari River Riparian Protection Project \$11		Greenlee	Complete	
173	09-164	Babocomari River Riparian Protection Project		Santa Cruz	Complete	
174	09-165	Alpine Ranger District Riparian Improvement \$372,57		Apache	Complete	
175	09-166	Hunter's Hole Riparian and Wetland Restoration Project	\$683,345	Yuma	Complete	
176	09-167	Tavasci Marsh Wetland Restoration Project	\$374,838	Yavapai	Terminated	
177	09-169	Gila River Water Conservation Education Program	\$148,612	Graham	Complete	
178	09-171	Black Canyon Riparian Restoration Project	\$291,700	Yavapai	Complete	

Map#	Grant #	Project Title	Grant Amount	County	Project Status
179	11-172	Avifaunal and Butterfly (Lepidoptera) Recovery in Restored Wetland and Riparian Habitats	\$100,758	Yuma	Complete
180	11-173	Invasive Weed Control - Gila River Corridor, Greenlee County	\$261,995	Greenlee	Complete
181	11-174	Eagle Creek Riparian Restoration at Filleman Crossing	\$265,776	Greenlee	Withdrawn
182	11-175	E. Coli Reduction on the San Francisco River through Alternative Livestock Water on the Kaler Ranch, Phase II	\$137,594	Greenlee	Complete
183	11-176	Double Circle Ranch Erosion Control Project Phase II	\$36,866	Greenlee	Complete
184	11-177	Eagle Creek Riparian Protection Project	\$136,714	Greenlee	Complete
185	11-179	Inventory of Tamarisk Leaf Beetle and Effects on Riparian Habitat in the Colorado, Verde, Salt and Tonto Rivers	\$141,972	Coconino	Complete
186	11-180	Pakoon Wash and Pakoon Springs Restoration and Enhancement Project	\$306,353	Mohave	Complete
187	11-181	Hidden Slough and Leopard Frog Marsh Restoration in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, AZ	\$348,901	Mohave	Complete
188	14-182	Arundo Eradication & Riparian Restoration of Sabino and Bear Creek, Tucson, AZ	\$51,262		Complete
189	14-183	Menges Ranch Water System Maintenance Project		Greenlee / Graham	Withdrawn
190	14-184	Date Creek Riparian Restoration Project	\$147,877	Yavapai	Withdrawn
191	14-185	Horseshoe Draw Flood Control, Restoration and Erosion Mitigation Study and Design Project	\$198,625		Complete
192	15-186	Phase Two Gila River Corridor Invasive Weed Control		Greenlee / Graham	Complete
193	15-187	Upper Verde River Habitat Improvement Project	\$169,325		Complete
194 195	17-188 17-189	A&NC Focal Area Watershed Improvement Project Erosion Control to Stabilize Soils and Restore Historic Grasslands in the Upper Verde River Watershed	\$303,975 \$138,183	•	Complete Complete
196	17-190	River Restoration through Hazardous Fuels and Invasive Species Removal	\$94,903	Graham	Complete
197	17-191	Verde River Habitat Improvement Project	\$246,448	Yavapai	Complete
198	17-192	Lower Verde River Riparian Restoration Project	\$134,571	Maricopa	Complete
199	19-193	Verde River-Oak Creek Confluence Habitat Improvement Project	\$292,451	Yavapai	Complete
200	19-194	Davis Cattle Co. Grassland Restoration	\$341,626	Cochise	Complete
201	19-195	Gila Valley Irrigation District Rapid Appraisal for Modernization	\$32,982		Complete
202	19-196	Do Native Fish Facilitate the Persistence of Endangered Spikedace by Resuspending Food Particles	\$32,496	Greenlee	Withdrawn
203	19-197	Bill Williams Mountain Forest and Watershed Restoration Project	\$315,000	Coconino	Complete
204	19-198	Granite Creek Corridor Enhancement Master Plan	\$79,401	Yavapai	Complete
205	19-199	Headwater Stream Restoration: Coyote Springs, Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff	\$31,846	Coconino	Withdrawn
206	19-200	American Gulch Channel and Riparian Enhancement	\$202,556	Gila	Complete
207	19-201	Webber Creek Sediment Control Project	\$166,057		Withdrawn
207	20-202	Gila Valley Irrigation District System Optimization Phase I	\$257,775		Active
209	20-203	Sandhill Farm Water and Wildlife Conservation Project	\$35,254	Cochise	Complete
210	20-204	Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District Riparian Restoration	\$205,844	Pinal	Active
211	20-205	Upper, Middle, and Lower Fossil Creek Invasive Plant Removal	\$98,662	Gila	Active

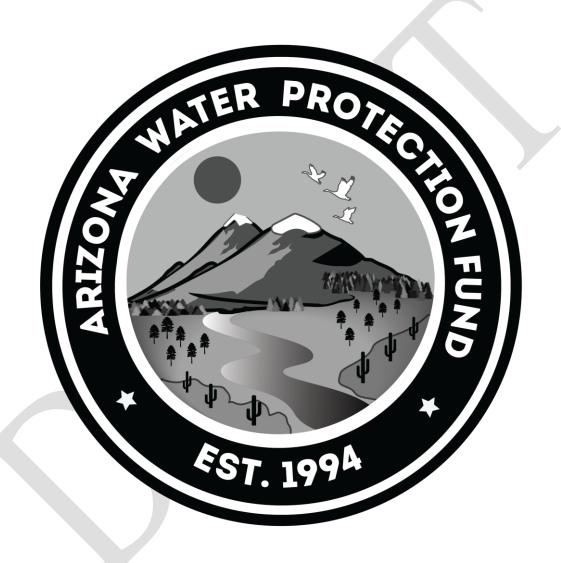
Map #	Grant #	Project Title	Grant Amount	County	Project Status
212	20-206	Quantifying Benefits for Brush Management on Arizona Rangelands	\$50,000	Multiple	Withdrawn
213	20-207	Harrenburg Wash Enhancement Project	\$129,190	Coconino	Active
214	20-208	Paria Beach Riparian Restoration	\$187,699	Coconino	Active
215	20-209	Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Lower Verde River Riparian Restoration Project	\$237,246	Maricopa	Complete
216	22-210	Verde River Riparian Restoration - Highway 89A to Bignotti Picnic Site	\$247,350	Yavapai	Active
217	22-211	Little Green Valley Fen Restoration Feasibility Study	\$77,003	Gila	Active
218	22-212	The Path to Protection at Oak Creek: Social Trail Rehabilitation for Watershed Health	\$238,980	Coconino	Active
219	22-213	Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project	\$76,945	Coconino	Active
220	22-214	Habitat Restoration in the Gila River Riparian Corridor	\$97,455	Graham	Active
221	22-215	Ravenna & Pampas Grass Control along the Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to Diamond Creek	\$43,178	Coconino / Mohave	Active
222	23-216	Timberline-Upper Little Colorado River Watershed Improvement Project	\$261,000	Apache	Active
223	23-217	Becker Lake Wildlife Area: Little Colorado River Habitat Improvement Project	\$388,075	Apache	Active
224	23-218	Protecting and Restoring Habitat and Surface Flow in Tanque Verde Creek	\$195,426	\$195,426	Active

NOTE: The "Grant Amount" column represents the full grant awarded for each project. Some grants have been completed for less money than the amount budgeted, while others have been withdrawn by the grantee or terminated by the Commission prior to expenditure of funds or expenditure of the full grant amount. This column has not been changed to reflect these situations.

APPENDIX B: FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission Grant Application Manual



Fiscal Year 2024 Funding Cycle

ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND

Grant Application Manual FY 2024 Funding Cycle

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SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION

Introduction

It is declared policy of the legislature to provide for a coordinated effort for the restoration and conservation of the water resources of this state. The Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) is a competitive state grant program that is designed to allow the people of Arizona to prosper while providing funding to interested parties for the development and implementation of measures to protect water of sufficient quality and quantity to maintain, enhance, and restore river and riparian resources throughout Arizona (including projects that benefit fish and wildlife that are dependent on these important resources), and measures to increase water availability and supply. The distribution of grant funds from the AWPF is authorized pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-2101 *et seq.* and is overseen by the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission (Commission). The program is administered through the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR).

The AWPF supports projects that fit the following objectives to meet the program goals:

- ➤ Provide identified and measurable benefits to the water resources of Arizona through broad-based local support.
- ➤ Provide positive, effective examples for other similar projects.
- Advance the field of water conservation knowledge in Arizona.
- Increase public awareness of the function and value of riparian resources in Arizona.

<u>Riparian Habitat</u> is defined as an ecosystem found between aquatic and upland environments that is dependent on the existence of a perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral water source. Soil and vegetation in riparian areas have distinct characteristics that make them different from surrounding areas.

Riparian habitats are vital resource areas that:

- > Improve water quantity by storing water in streambanks, which is slowly released to help maintain base flows.
- ➤ Improve water quality by trapping sediments from surface water runoff, providing nutrient cycling and increasing streambank stabilization.
- ➤ Provide flood control by slowing and absorbing flood waters, resulting in reduced flood damage and increased groundwater storage.
- ➤ Provide highly valued recreational opportunities such as fishing, camping, hiking, wildlife viewing and picnicking.
- > Sustain high biodiversity of plant and animal species.
- Provide important wildlife habitat such as food, water, shelter, relief, and travel corridors.
- ➤ Help stabilize water temperatures for native aquatic species.
- ➤ Provide economic benefits by improving water supplies, reducing flood damage, filtering pollutants, and supporting recreational activities.

This manual provides the necessary information for interested parties to submit an application for funding consideration. More information about the AWPF is available on the Commission's web site at www.azwpf.gov.

General Guidelines

Funding Categories

The AWPF typically awards grants under three categories:

- 1) Capital Projects: Projects under this category include on-the-ground measures that maintain, enhance, and restore Arizona's river and riparian resources, including projects that benefit fish and wildlife that are dependent on these important resources. Feasibility of design studies are considered capital projects but are only eligible if the applicant (1) requests funding to investigate the feasibility of implementing a specific capital project that is being proposed, (2) develops a detailed implementation plan and budget for the proposed project as part of the feasibility study, and (3) has control and tenure over the proposed project area and the authority to implement the proposed project should it be deemed feasible. Acquisition of Central Arizona Project water or effluent to restore and maintain river and riparian resources may also be considered a capital project. Examples of projects under this category include components that do one or more of the following:
 - Demonstrate direct benefits to perennial or intermittent rivers or streams *
 - ➤ Demonstrate commitment to continued maintenance of proposed enhancements *
 - ➤ Protect/Restore native riparian vegetation and habitat
 - Restore proper hydrologic conditions/functions
 - ➤ Restore proper stream geomorphology/channel characteristics
 - > Restore floodplains
 - Restore wetlands/backwater areas
 - ➤ Improve watershed conditions using forest and/or near-stream restoration treatments that improve water quality or increase water quantity
 - > Protect/Restore habitat needs for fish and wildlife
 - ➤ Decrease negative impacts of non-native species to riparian areas
 - * INDICATES FUNDING PRIORITY IN STATUTE
- 2) Research (Total annual funding limited to 5% of monies received by the AWPF each fiscal year): Projects under this category include research and data collection measures that are related to maintaining, enhancing, and restoring Arizona's river and riparian resources, including fish and wildlife that are dependent on these important resources. Research projects must be developed using the Scientific Method. Examples of projects under this category include:
 - Research that will advance the science of river and riparian restoration in the Southwest
 - Research that will advance scientific understanding of fluvial processes and ecosystem characteristics and functions in association with rivers, streams, and wetlands
 - Research that will evaluate impacts or values of invasive species in riparian habitat.
- 3) Water Conservation: Projects under this category include measures that develop, promote, or implement programs designed to conserve water for a purpose related to maintaining, enhancing, and restoring Arizona's river and riparian resources, including fish and wildlife that are dependent on these important resources. Projects under this category must be located outside of all Active Management Areas.

Eligible Applicants

Any person, organization, local/state/tribal agency, or political subdivision of Arizona may submit an application. Federal agencies are not eligible to receive funding from the AWPF; however, funding can be awarded to projects on federal lands.

Eligible Applications

Grant applications must meet all the following requirements to be considered eligible for evaluation during the FY 2024 grant cycle:

- Administrative costs limited to a maximum of 5% of the total AWPF project funds requested.
- Applicant must have legal and physical access as well as authority to implement the project in the area where the grant tasks are to be performed. After grant awards have been determined, signed cooperative agreements with all parties granting such access and authority, will need to be provided to the AWPF in a timely manner prior to the finalization of any contracts.
- Applicant must provide appropriate documentation that any water to be used in the project is legally and physically available to the applicant for the stated purpose.
- Applicant must demonstrate that vital partnerships, funding, etc. have been committed at the time of the application or submit letters of support from the appropriate entities with a plan to obtain these critical elements prior to grant award.

Ineligible Applications

In accordance with state statutes, funding is prohibited for:

- ➤ Purchase of real property/conservation easements
- Projects outside the state of Arizona
- Any project that includes the planting of mesquite, tamarisk or other nonnative high-water usage trees that consume water to a degree that is detrimental to water conservation efforts.
- ➤ Remedial actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. § 9601, or Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF), A.R.S. § 49-281 *et seq.*
- Research projects with funding requests in excess of 5% of the total funds received for the FY 2024 funding cycle.
- Water conservation projects/program applications within one of the five six Arizona Department of Water Resources Active Management Areas (AMA).
- Exercising the right of eminent domain to acquire water, water rights, or long-term storage credits using monies derived from the Water Protection Fund.

In accordance with Commission Policy, funding will not be provided for:

➤ Projects located in areas with elevated levels of environmental contaminants that pose risk of harm to human health or the environment, including hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, petroleum products or Environmental Protection Agency priority toxic pollutants.

- ➤ Projects which are required as a result of legal action taken by a regulatory agency, such as ecological mitigation. Applicants must notify the Commission if a proposed project is part of any mitigation effort.
- ➤ Projects that are designed to meet wastewater treatment requirements. Proposed projects that create or sustain riparian habitat using treated effluent or recycled water that already meets or exceeds relevant state and federal standards may be considered as long as the project meets the requirements of A.R.S. § 45-2101(B).
- ➤ Generally, the Commission does not fund groundwater recharge or recovery projects.

Important Notes

- Administrative costs **must** be limited to a maximum of 5% of the total AWPF project funds requested. Subcontractors or consultants working on your project must also conform to the 5% administrative cost limit if you are paying them out of AWPF funds.
- Payments are made on a cost reimbursement basis. Appropriate documentation (e.g., in the form of receipts, invoices, reports, data, and photographs), etc. will be <u>required</u> in order to receive reimbursement.
- Any reimbursement requested for travel costs, including lodging, meals, and/or personal vehicle mileage must comply with the <u>State of Arizona Accounting Manual</u> (SAAM) established rates and guidelines. Personal vehicle mileage reimbursement is limited to sixty-two and one-half cents (62.5¢) per mile. Reimbursements will not be provided above the amounts listed in SAAM 5095.
- ➤ Commission/Staff access for inspection and evaluation of the project will be required as a contract condition.
- ➤ A final presentation to the commission within 90 days of the contract termination date will be required as a contract condition and will be included as a deliverable within the final reporting task.
- Adequate accounting practices and record keeping will be required.
- > Submittal of pertinent information and research gained from all projects will be required.

Grant Cycle Details

FY 2024 Grant Cycle Schedule

The Commission and staff will implement the FY 2024 grant cycle based on the schedule in Table 1*.

Table 1. FY 2024 Grant Application Process Schedule

Grant Application Process	Timeline
Grant Application Manual Available	No later than July 7, 2023 (on-going)
Application Workshop	July 12, 2023
Pre-application Consultations (depending on staff availability)	July-August 2023
eCivis Online Grant Application Submittal Portal Available	No later than July 21, 2023 (on-going)
Final Date and Time to Submit Applications	August 25, 2023 at 11:59 PM
45-Day Public Comment Period for Applications	September 12 – October 27, 2023
Staff Review Comments to Applicants / Commission	No later than November 3, 2023
Applicant Presentations to the Commission	November 14 – 15, 2023
Clarifying Questions to Applicants and Applicants' Responses in Writing (if necessary)	November 16 – 27, 2023
Commission Grant Selections	November <mark>28</mark> , 2023
Applicants Notified of Funding Status	December 2023
Staff Begins Writing Grant Award Contracts	December 2023 / January 2024

^{*}The Commission reserves the right to adjust this schedule if necessary.

Grant Application Workshops & Consultations

AWPF staff will provide opportunities for pre-application consultations (as time permits) with potential applicants on a first-come-first-served basis as indicated in Table 1. Due to time constraints, consultations will be limited to a maximum of one hour. Applicants should schedule a consultation as far in advance as possible, and are encouraged to submit a draft application at least one week in advance of the consultation. Consultations will be conducted via teleconference or virtual meeting.

In addition, AWPF staff will conduct a workshop for interested applicants as indicated in Table 2. It is highly recommended that applicants attend a workshop and schedule a pre-application consultation. Past experience has demonstrated that workshop attendance and discussing your proposal with staff could help you develop a better application.

Table 2. FY 2024 Grant Application Workshop

Location	Date	Time		
Online Webinar*	July 12, 2023	1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.		
Wahinar Information				

Webinar Information

Link: https://adwr.info/AWPF W

Webinar Number (Access Code): 2595 334 6863

Webinar Password: 3ZKcjn3WW97

Join by Phone: 1-415-655-0001 US Toll (Access Code is same as above)

Application Due Date

Applications must be submitted online via the eCivis Grant Management System no later than <u>August 25</u>, <u>2023 at 11:59 p.m.</u> Arizona time as indicated in Table 1. Detailed submission requirements are outlined in Section II – Grant Application. A direct link to the eCivis grant solicitation will be available on the AWPF website at https://www.azwpf.gov/grant-information/fy-2024-grant-cycle.

Grant Evaluation Process

Applications will be initially reviewed for completeness and consistency with AWPF statutes and policy. Applications that are complete and eligible under statute and Commission policy will be reviewed by AWPF staff in accordance with the evaluation criteria listed below. Other appropriate state and federal agencies may be asked to review and comment on applications. AWPF staff will compile intra-agency and inter-agency comments. Please note that under the following circumstances, applications will not be given further consideration:

- ➤ It is determined that the proposed project is ineligible according to AWPF statutes or Commission policy.
- ➤ It is determined that the application does not contain all of the required information identified in Section II of this manual.
- It is determined that any part of the application is ineligible for funding.

Application Evaluation

Application evaluation criteria should guide you in the development of your application. Staff will use the criteria listed below to organize their technical reviews and evaluate applications submitted for consideration. Applications that meet many to all of the criteria will rate higher than those meeting few to none of the criteria. Please note that the evaluation criteria for capital and water conservation projects are different than those used for research projects.

The Commission shall give priority to applications which:

- ➤ Enhance, maintain and/or restore river, stream and riparian resources in headwater streams and watersheds that will provide direct improvements to water quality and/or increase water quantity, addresses degraded watershed health conditions or impacts to perennial streams through implementation of scientifically based restoration projects (see examples of capital projects listed under funding categories).
- ➤ Matching monies or assets of comparable value including in kind contributions will be provided by other sources.
- > Provide for the continued maintenance of the portion of the river and stream and associated riparian habitat that are enhanced by the project.

^{*}Staff will be providing the grant application workshop via online webinar only, but a recording will also be available on the AWPF website at https://www.azwpf.gov/grant-information/fy-2024-grant-cycle. Please contact the Arizona Water Protection Fund at 602-771-8528 or retran@azwater.gov with any questions.

- Projects that include broad based local involvement/support.
- Directly benefit perennial or intermittent rivers or streams or that otherwise increase the supply of water.
- ➤ If for the purposes of water conservation, the applicant estimates the water increase and/or savings and how this estimate was determined.

Evaluation Criteria for Capital and Water Conservation Projects

- A. Project Will Enhance, Maintain and/or Restore River, Stream, and Riparian Resources (See bullets under capital projects on page 4).
- B. Project Will Benefit Fish and Wildlife Resources Dependent on River, Stream, and Riparian Resources (See bullets under capital projects on page 4).

C. Feasibility

- ➤ Objectives clearly identified and demonstrate benefits to river, stream and riparian resources / dependent fish and wildlife resources
- Methodologies and designs clearly presented, appropriate and adequate
- ➤ Clarity and adequacy of the scope of work and deliverables
- ➤ Cost/Benefit compared to similar applications submitted
- > Expertise of applicant/personnel/subcontractors appropriate
- ➤ Description of the relationship between any existing plans, reports and/or information relevant to the proposed project [required]. (See Existing Plans/Reports/Information guidance on page 18.)

D. Monitoring

- Objectives clearly identified
- ➤ Methods clearly presented, appropriate and adequate to evaluate benefits to rivers, streams, and riparian resources and/or dependent fish and wildlife resources

E. Other Considerations

- ➤ Add coordinated effort with state or watershed restoration programs
- > Public outreach
- ➤ Project will support local businesses
- If the applicant is proposing to use out of state consultants, there is adequate justification for their use and associated travel costs

Evaluation Criteria for Research Applications

- A. Research is applicable to river and riparian restoration and or fish and wildlife that are dependent on river and riparian resources
- B. Application demonstrates use of the Scientific Method
 - ➤ Background research includes data collection, analysis, and synthesis
 - Data collection will build on existing data, or generate new data
 - Quality literature review provided
 - ➤ Hypothesis or hypotheses are clearly articulated
 - Research/experimental design is clearly presented, appropriate and adequate to:
 - Test hypothesis or hypotheses
 - Analyze data and draw conclusions

Report results

C. Feasibility

- ➤ Clarity and adequacy of the scope of work and deliverables
- ➤ Cost of research reflects potential benefits of outcomes
- ➤ Expertise of applicant/personnel/subcontractors appropriate
- ➤ Description of the relationship between any existing plans, reports and/or information relevant to the proposed project [required] (See guidance on page 18.)

D. Research results may be translatable

E. Proposal includes some form of publication as a deliverable (e.g., intent to publish results in a professional journal, article in a watershed newsletter, other written media) and a commitment to some form of public presentation(s) (e.g., AWPF Commission meeting, watershed group meeting, professional conference, or other peer groups)

F. Other Considerations

- Project will support local businesses
- > If the applicant is proposing to use out of state consultants, there is adequate justification for their use and associated travel costs

Applicant Presentations to Commission

Applicants will be given an opportunity to provide a brief presentation to the Commission (maximum of 15 minutes) in accordance with the schedule in Table 1. Commission members will have 15 minutes the opportunity to ask clarifying questions of applicants or AWPF staff. If the Commission has follow-up questions for the applicant following their scheduled presentation time, the Commission may send the applicant a request for clarifying information in writing. The applicant may provide a response to the Commission, and the response shall be in writing. The timeframe for clarifying questions and responses will be in accordance with the schedule in Table 1. Commission members consider AWPF staff reviews, but also use their own judgment when making grant award selections.

Changes to the scope of work during the application process

Once the application has been received by the commission, applicants are not permitted to make changes to the scope of the project during the application process.

Grant Award Notification

Applicants will be notified as to whether they received a grant award as outlined in Table 1. Notification of grant award does not authorize any expenditure of funds. Please see Grant Awards subsection below.

Application Assistance

Please contact the AWPF staff at (602) 771-8528 if you are in need of any assistance with completing or filing a grant application.

Grant Awards

Grant Award Contracts

A grant award by the Commission does not allow you to immediately start your project. Please note that you cannot be reimbursed for any project expenditure activities conducted prior to executing a grant award contract. Grant awards are implemented through contracts, which may extend up to five years in duration. The Arizona State Constitution prohibits the Commission from giving gifts. Therefore, monies are granted in return for equivalent products. The grant award contract specifies the deliverables, due dates and costs associated with producing those products. The application is structured so that if it is completed correctly, much of the detail for a contract will have already been obtained.

Grant-funded work may only begin after a grant award contract has been finalized and signed by both the applicant and the Commission Chair. For most grant award contracts, expenditures will be reimbursable, which means that you will be responsible for initial payment of costs. AWPF will reimburse your costs based upon actual initial expenditures. Monetary disbursement is in accordance with the details within each contract and is paid out after submittal of complete and accurate deliverables and payment requests. AWPF staff must review and approve these before payment can be processed. Therefore, the grantee must have a sufficient line of credit to fund project activities for some period of time. In some instances, the Commission may authorize a one-time advance payment at the beginning of the grant, up to 20 percent of the total grant amount, but not to exceed \$50,000. Applicants must indicate on the application cover page whether they are requesting an advance payment.

If a grantee proposes minor modifications to a project, such that the purpose (or scope) of the project will be changed, the AWPF Commission will re-evaluate the project and may grant an amendment to the contract after a formal request is made.

If a grant award contract is not executed within 12 months following approval of the grant application by the Commission, the Commission may consider rescinding the grant award.

General Provisions - Grant Award Contract

The contract will contain General Provisions, which are standard contract clauses (Appendix A). Please have your legal counsel and/or responsible contracting authority review and accept these provisions prior to the submittal of your application.

Long-Term Maintenance of Project Benefits

The Commission intends that AWPF monies act as "seed money" for putting projects on the ground. The Commission expects grantees to maintain the project beyond the contract period, or that it will develop institutional partnerships to do so. The Commission requires that capital improvements be maintained by the grantee for a period of up to 20 years. Unforeseen acts of nature may substantially alter your project in some future year, and upon notifying the Commission of that occurrence, you may not be required to maintain the capital improvements subsequent to that event.

SECTION II: GRANT APPLICATION

Grant Application Planning and Content Overview

*Indicates an electronic form or template is available.

Application Planning

It is important that application forms are carefully completed with accurate, realistic information. Before developing a grant application, applicants should carefully consider and understand:

- ➤ How the project should be structured?
- ➤ What are the necessary project components/permits?
- ➤ When project components can be completed (realistic timeline)?
- ➤ Who the necessary personnel are to complete project components?
- ➤ How much each project component will cost to complete?

Application Content Requirements Overview

- 1) Application Cover Page*
- 2) Executive Summary* (500-word maximum)
- 3) Project Overview* (2-page max.)
 - Background
 - **➢** Goals
 - Objectives
 - > Statement of Problems/Causes (Capital and Water Conservation Projects)
 - > Statement of Solutions (Capital and Water Conservation Projects)
 - ➤ Statement of Project Years of Benefit to the resource and the general public (Capital and Water Conservation Projects)
- 4) Project Location and Environmental Contaminant Information*
- 5) Scope of work* (preferably in Microsoft word format)
- 6) Detailed Budget Breakdown* (preferably in Microsoft Word or Excel format)
 - Direct Labor & Outside Services Costs
 - Other Direct Costs
 - > Capital Outlay & Equipment Costs
 - ➤ Administrative Costs
- 7) Detailed Matching Funds Breakdown* (If available for the project. Matching funds are not required.)
 - Direct Labor & Outside Services Costs
 - ➤ Capital Outlay & Equipment Costs
 - ➤ Administrative Costs
- 8) Project Maps and Schematic
 - Arizona Watershed Map*
 - Project Location/Ownership Map(s)
- 9) Supplemental Information
 - ➤ State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Review Forms*
 - > Key Personnel
 - ➤ Project Site Photographs
 - Existing Plans, Reports, Information Relevant to the Project (summary paragraph for each plan/report with relevant portion or full report attached as an appendix)
 - ➤ Letters of Community Support
 - ➤ Evidence of Control and Tenure of Land including legal access
 - A narrative as to how the applicant will obtain permission for project work and/or access (agreements must be finalized prior to contract finalization)
 - > Letters from those pledging matching funds
 - > Evidence of Physical and Legal Availability of Water

Grant Application Instructions

Application Submission Requirements

Grant applications for FY 2024 are only being accepted electronically via the eCivis Grant Management Software System. A direct link to the eCivis grant application solicitation portal will be available on the AWPF website at https://www.azwpf.gov/grant-information/fy-2024-grant-cycle. An eCivis application submission users guide is attached as Appendix B to the grant application manual.

Grant applications must include all the information identified in the Application Content Requirements Overview on page 12 and the content uploaded and/or entered into applicable form fields in the eCivis AWPF grant application portal. Specific content requirements and instructions are provided below.

Electronic forms or sample templates (on the AWPF web site at: https://www.azwpf.gov/grant-information/fy-2024-grant-cycle or in the eCivis AWPF grant application portal) are provided in Microsoft Word format for the Application Cover Page, Executive Summary, Project Overview, Project Location and Environmental Contaminants Information, Scope of Work, Grant Application Budget (in Microsoft Word and Excel), Arizona Watershed Map, and State Historic Preservation Office requirements. If you do not have access to Microsoft Word or Excel, you may recreate the electronic forms using any related software. No electronic forms are provided for the remaining required information.

AWPF prefers that the contents for the grant application uploaded into eCivis for the application are created in Microsoft Word and Excel format to provide ease with contract development should your application be approved for funding. If .pdf documents are uploaded, please ensure these documents are in an optical character recognition (OCR) format, or are otherwise keyword searchable.

Grant applications must be submitted via eCivis no later than <u>August 25, at 11:59 p.m.</u> Late applications will not be accepted by the eCivis submission portal.

Application Content Requirements

The following instructions should guide you through the application process (Reference the Application Content Requirements Overview on the previous page).

Application Cover Page

Provide the requested information on this form (see sample form on page 22). The project title should be short, yet descriptive of the proposal. The cover page should be signed by a person who is legally authorized to enter into an agreement on behalf of the applicant.

Executive Summary (500-word limit)

This section is limited to one page. The executive summary should clearly state the purpose of the proposal and provide a clear overview of all major project features.

Project Overview

Capital and Water Conservation Projects: State the purpose of the project and its general location. Provide any necessary background information for the project, including any relevant history regarding the project area. Identify the overall goal(s) of your project (what you want to achieve), followed by the objectives of your project. Objectives are specific, measurable outcomes of the project. List these objectives in numerical order, with the first objective having the most

important outcome. Discuss the problem(s) your proposal is addressing, the cause(s) of these problems, and the solutions that you believe are appropriate. State whether the project will result in water conservation. State the anticipated number of years of project-related benefit from the project to the resources and the general public, along with a justification for that estimate. For ongoing projects, describe the site prior to project initiation, tasks that have been completed and any site changes that have occurred as a result of these activities.

Research and Data Collection Projects: Provide a statement of applicability to river and riparian restoration and/or dependent fish and wildlife. Include any necessary background information for the project such as background research/data collection and analysis or synthesis completed to prepare the current proposal being submitted. Identify if data collection will build upon existing data, or generate new data. If the research is to be place-based (e.g., outside of a laboratory), identify the study area's physical characteristics, including drainage area, channel length, slope, soil type, average annual precipitation, depth to groundwater, gaining or losing reach and any other pertinent information. Also, identify the Ecosystem Service(s) that the proposed research will address (See Table 3).

Project Location and Environmental Contaminants Information

All applicants must provide project location and environmental contaminant information (see page 25).

Scope of Work

For *each* task, please describe in detail the work to be completed, and how it will allow you to accomplish your objectives and achieve your desired results. Tasks should be listed numerically and include the following information:

- ➤ Task #:
- Task Title
- > Task Description
- > Task Purpose/Objective
- Responsible personnel
- > Deliverable Description
- Deliverable Due Date
- > Task Cost (rounded to the nearest dollar)

General Guidelines

- ➤ If applicable, obtaining permits, authorizations, clearances, and access agreements should be the first task. Obtaining the appropriate permits will take longer than generally anticipated; allow more time than what is expected to avoid amendments to deliverable due dates.
- ➤ If applicable, development of plans (*e.g.*, re-vegetation, construction, monitoring) should be included as a separate task prior to on-the-ground activity.
- Some tasks continue throughout the contract duration, attempt to make each task separate and payable upon completion.
- > The final task must be a final report and oral presentation with an appropriate cost assigned.
- A deliverable is a product submitted to the AWPF demonstrating that work has been completed. Deliverables are often reports, photographs, data, etc. that are submitted along with receipts and invoices for materials and labor.

PROJECT GOALS describe the broad intent of the project.

OBJECTIVES provide additional specificity to the goals.

TASKS are the actual practices implemented to achieve the objective.

MONITORING benchmarks establish a metric by which to measure success of a task in meeting the objective.

EXAMPLE: Task 1: Permits, Authorizations, Clearances and Agreements

Task Description: The Grantee must obtain and submit to the Project Manager all permits, authorizations, clearances, and agreements, and perform any consultations necessary to complete the tasks listed in this Scope of Work. These may include but are not limited to:

- > State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) clearance
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance
- ➤ Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Access agreement(s) between Grantee and Landowner(s) (if different)
- ➤ Notice of Intention to Drill (NOI) a well authorization
- ➤ Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- ➤ Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers
- ➤ Data Collection permit(s) if necessary
- ➤ Water right permits if necessary
- Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Permit
- ➤ Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Pesticide General Permit and filing of Notice of Intent

Task Purpose: To comply with all local, state, and federal permit requirements, environmental laws such as NEPA and obtain legal access to project area.

Deliverable Description: Copies of all approved permits, authorizations, clearances, and agreements.

Deliverable Due Date: Prior to any ground disturbing activities

Responsible personnel: Grantee/administrator, subcontractor, etc.

Reimbursable Cost: \$5,000.00

Project Schematic

Provide a detailed drawing/schematic, preferably to fit/print on 8.5" x 11" paper, for any projects involving construction and/or investigation of physical features. The schematic must include all project features for which funding is being requested or discussed within the proposal (e.g., vegetation treatments, re-vegetation areas, fence lines, water distribution systems, existing or planned well and gage locations, etc.). Planning documents provided by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service will be accepted. In addition, identify all important project features located in relationship to one another, and in relation to important site physical features (e.g.,

streams and other bodies of water). The schematic must include a north arrow, a project title, and the date of preparation. Submit as many drawings as needed to demonstrate all project features.

Detailed Budget Breakdown

Provide a detailed breakdown of your budget by task in a table format (preferably using Microsoft Word or Excel). Divide your Scope of Work tasks (plans, monitoring, construction, reporting, etc.) into Direct Labor Costs, Outside Services Costs, Other Direct Costs, Capital Outlay & Equipment Costs, and Administrative Costs. Please round figures up or down to the nearest dollar. Identify only funds being requested from AWPF in this section. Expenditures not listed may not be eligible for reimbursement unless prior written approval is received from the Commission or Staff.

<u>Direct Labor Costs</u> include the labor costs directly involved with the project (wages, salaries, and fringe benefits of grantee and/or its employees). Direct labor costs must be broken down by job classification (*e.g.*, project scientist, hydrologist, laborer, etc.), and average cost/hour for that job classification.

<u>Outside Services</u> are consultants or subcontractors. Outside services costs must be broken down by job classification (*e.g.*, project scientist, hydrologist, laborer, etc.), and average cost/hour for that job classification.

Other Direct Costs include office supplies (e.g., paper, pencils, etc.), computer time, per diem travel, lodging, mileage, meals, printing, public relations outreach materials, revegetation plants / seed mixes, tools, fuel, personal protective equipment, etc. This should be an estimate budget of costs incurred over the life of the project as a lump sum, not per item. Please be advised that receipts or invoices documenting the actual costs will still need to be provided for future reimbursement purposes.

<u>Capital Outlay & Equipment Costs</u> includes any equipment or other expenditures (*e.g.*, equipment, materials). Please list anticipated costs for individual major expenditures in excess of \$1,000.00. All other materials/equipment in this section can be summarized as a lump sum by material (e.g., fencing materials \$750.00, backhoe rental \$100.00/hr. for 25 hours = \$2,500.00, etc.). Please be advised that receipts or invoices documenting the actual costs will still need to be provided for future reimbursement purposes.

Administrative Costs are management and overhead costs. By statute, the total administrative costs charged to the AWPF cannot exceed 5% of the total project costs requested from the AWPF.

Detailed Matching Funds Breakdown

Matching funds are not required to be eligible for AWPF funding; however, projects that do include matching funds typically receive higher consideration. (See Detailed Budget Breakdown above for guidance). A specific form is not provided for matching funds, but you may consider using the AWPF budget template. Please note that matching administration costs are **not** limited to 5% of the total project costs.

Volunteer labor costs should be based on current minimum wage rates; technical volunteer labor can be based on an hourly fee comparable to consulting fees.

Project Locations Map(s) and Schematic

Arizona Watershed Map (see page 29)

Type the project title at the bottom of the map. Indicate the location of your project on the map and ensure that your markings are clearly visible on the electronic copy submitted. In addition, provide a map of the project area with Township(s)/Range(s)/Section(s) clearly identified.

Project Location/Ownership Map(s)

Provide a detailed map(s) to scale that clearly delineates the following information:

- > Project location boundaries, including acreage where grant tasks will be performed
- A general description and/or delineation for the area of impact of the project within the watershed.
- Land ownership boundaries, including areas of legal and physical access
- > Sources of water to be used in the project

Supplemental Information

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Review Form is mandatory for all projects submitted to the Arizona Water Protection Fund (See pages 30-34). Please complete the form and have signed by an authorized person.

Key Personnel associated with this project must be identified and a Project Coordinator must be designated. Resumes and/or brief biographical sketches describing the relevant qualifications of all key personnel, including subcontractors also must be submitted.

Project Site Photographs for all types of applications must be submitted. Submit at least one set of color photographs of the project area (or color copies) with the electronic and hard copies of your application. Indicate and describe the location of proposed project features on each photo, including compass direction.

Plans for activities such as sampling/monitoring, study/research designs, revegetation efforts, and photographic monitoring must be discussed at a level of detail that will allow AWPF to evaluate whether the activities will be appropriate and adequate. If you receive a grant award, you will be required to submit detailed plans as deliverables. Your application should include a separate task and appropriate budget within the Scope of Work to complete detailed plans and be included on the budget forms. Also, include a description of any equipment related to such efforts to be purchased using AWPF Funds.

Existing Plans/Reports/Information relevant to the project (e.g., Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Reports, Species Recovery Plans, Federal/State/Government Agency/County/City planning documents, National Environmental Policy Act documents, Watershed Assessments, etc.) must be submitted at the time of application for AWPF to consider when evaluating your proposal.

Community Support should be demonstrated in the application. Include signed copies of letters from community organizations and other groups or individuals that support your project. If you are a local government or state agency, you should attach evidence of support from those citizens who lease or hold use-permits for the lands to be impacted by your project. Letters of support for your proposal received after the application deadline will not be considered for evaluation purposes; however, they will be forwarded to the Commission.

Evidence of Control and Tenure of Land must be demonstrated. Applicant must have legal and physical access and authority to manage the area where grant tasks are to be performed. Cooperative agreements with all parties having such access and authority, or letters of support with a plan to obtain cooperative agreements prior to grant award will meet this requirement and must be included.

- ➤ If you own the land on which the proposed project is located, attach a copy of the appropriate legal document showing title in the name of the applicant, including a legal description of the property.
- ➤ If you manage the land on which the proposed project is located, attach a copy of the lease, special use permit, intergovernmental agreement, or another appropriate official instrument.
- ➤ If you do not own or manage the land on which the proposed project is located, attach documentation verifying ownership (as noted above) and attach a copy of the permit, agreement or letter of intent that allows you access to the site.

If the proposed project is located on Arizona State Trust Lands, please be advised that the State Trust Land lessee must submit an application to the Arizona State Land Department for the applicable permit(s) necessary to implement the proposed project. The AWPF grant application must include a letter of support from the State Trust Land lessee that indicates an application for the permit(s) has been submitted for the proposed AWPF project.

Evidence of physical and legal availability of water must be demonstrated. If water resources will be used for any aspect of the project, the water must be physically and legally available to the applicant for the proposed purpose. Provide a projection of the total number of acre-feet per year necessary for the project.

- ➤ If your proposed project uses surface water flows, attach the appropriate documentation of your surface water right or claim for the intended use at that location.
- > If you do not have a surface water right or claim for the intended use at that location, attach a copy of the surface water right or claim that you intend to use, as well as a permit, agreement, or letter of intent that allows your use of the water.
- ➤ If your proposed project will require pumping from wells, submit well registration numbers for existing wells and appropriate groundwater or surface water right documentation. Note: A Notice of Intention to Drill a well is not evidence of a water right.

Additionally, for all proposed and existing wells, state the following:

- > Appropriate depth and borehole diameter
- > Pump size
- Estimated depth and length of perforated or screened interval
- ➤ Well drilling method, if known (*e.g.*, hand-driven well point, auger, mud rotary, etc.)
- ➤ Use of water (e.g., water level measurement, water quality monitoring, livestock watering, revegetation)

Well information is available on the Arizona Department of Water Resources web site: https://new.azwater.gov/permitting-wells

- ➤ If the proposed project will use effluent, attach documentation demonstrating the source of the effluent and your authority to use it (e.g., a contract with the wastewater treatment plant or municipal water provider).
- ➤ If the proposed project will use Central Arizona Project ("CAP") water, provide documentation demonstrating your authority to use it (e.g., CAP subcontract).

Projects failing to document evidence of control and tenure of land and/or evidence of physical and legal availability of water are ineligible for funding.

Table 3. Ecosystem Services and Functions*

Ecosystem Service	Ecosystem Function(s)	Examples
Disturbance regulation	Capacitance, damping and integrity of ecosystem response to environmental fluctuations	Storm protection, flood control, drought recovery and other aspects of habitat response to environmental variability mainly controlled by vegetation structure
Water Regulation	Regulation of hydrologic flows	Provisioning of water for agricultural (such as irrigation) or industrial (such as milling) processes or transportation
Water supply	Storage and retention of water	Provisioning of water by watersheds, reservoirs and aquifers
Erosion control and sediment retention	Retention of soil within an ecosystem	Prevention of loss of soil by wind, runoff, or other removal processes, storage of silt in lakes and wetlands
Soil formation	Soil formation processes	Weathering of rock and the accumulation of organic material
Biological control	Trophic-dynamic regulations of populations	Keystone predator control of prey species, reduction of herbivory by top predators
Refugia	Habitat for resident and transient populations	Nurseries, habitat for migratory species, regional habitats for locally harvested species, or overwintering grounds
Genetic resources	Sources of unique biological materials and products	Medicine, products for material science, genes for resistance to plant pathogens and crop pests, ornamental species (pets and horticultural varieties of plants
Climate regulation	Regulation of global temperatures, precipitation, and other biologically mediated climatic processes at global or local levels	Greenhouse gas regulation, DMS production affecting cloud formation
Gas regulation	Regulation of atmospheric chemical composition	CO ₂ /O ₂ balance, O ₃ for UVB protection, and SO ₄ levels
Nutrient cycling	Storage, internal cycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	Nitrogen fixation, N, P and other elemental or nutrient cycles
Pollination	Movement of floral gametes	Provisioning of pollinators for the reproduction of plant populations
Recreation	Providing opportunities for recreational activities	Eco-tourism, sport fishing and other outdoor recreational activities
Cultural	Providing opportunities for non- commercial uses	Aesthetic, artistic, educational, spiritual, and/or scientific values of ecosystems
Food production	That portion of gross primary production extractable as food	Production of fish, game, crops, nuts, fruits by hunting, gathering, subsistence farming or fishing
Raw materials	That portion of gross primary production extractable as raw materials	The production of lumber, fuel or fodder
Waste treatment	Recovery of mobile nutrients and removal or breakdown of excess or xenic nutrients and compounds	Waste treatment, pollution control, detoxification

^{*}Costanza, R., d' Arge, Ralph, de Groot, Rudolf, Farber, S., Grasso, M., Hannon, B., Limburg, K., Naeem, S., O'Neill, R. V., Paruelo, J., Raskin, R. G., Sutton, P., & van den Belt, M. The value of the world's ecosystem services and natural capital. *Nature* 387, 253 – 258 (1997)

ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND GRANT APPLICATION FY 2024 Electronic Forms

The subsequent pages include sample templates of the following electronic forms:

- ➤ Application Cover Page
- > Executive Summary Template
- Project Overview Template
- Project Location and Environmental Contaminant Information
- > Scope of Work Template
- ➤ Grant Application Budget Templates
- > Arizona Watershed Map
- > State Historic Preservation Office Review Form

Electronic forms and sample templates are on the AWPF web site at https://www.azwpf.gov/grant-information/fy-2024-grant-cycle and in the eCivis AWPF grant application portal. You may use your computer mouse or arrow keys to move through the electronic forms. You may single-click on a form field, or double-click on a check box to enter information. If you are unable to complete these forms electronically, you may print them and hand-write the requested information.

Please note that these forms do not constitute the entire required application package. All information identified in the Application Content Requirements Overview and FY 2024 Grant Application Instructions must be submitted.

Grant Application Checklist

□ Grant Application Cover Page □ Executive Summary □ Project Overview □ Project Location & Environmental Contaminant Form □ Scope of Work □ Detailed Budget □ Matching Funds / Cost Share Budget (if applicable) □ Maps & Schematics □ Supplemental Information (State Historic Preservation Office Forms, Watershed/Location Map Form, etc.)

Arizona Water Protection Fund Application Cover Page FY 2024

Title of Project:				
Type of Project:	Stream Type:	Your level of con	nmitment to maintenance of project	
Capital or Other	Perennial	benefits and capital improvements:		
Water Conservation	Intermittent		5-10 years 11-15 years 16-20 years	
Research	Ephemeral			
Applicant Information:			Inside an AMA: Yes No	
Name/Organization:				
Address 1:			If yes, which AMA:	
Address 2:			Douglas	
City:			Phoenix	
State:			Pinal	
ZIP Code:			Prescott	
Phone:				
Fax:			Santa Cruz	
Tax ID No.:			Tucson	
			Type of Application:	
			New project	
			Continuation of an existing project	
Contact Person:			Any Previous AWPF Grants:	
Name:			Yes No	
Title:				
Phone:			If yes, please provide Grant #(s):	
Fax:			<i>y</i> = 1, 1 = 1 = 1 = 1 = 1 = 1 = 1 = 1 = 1	
e-mail:				
Arizona Water Protection	Fund			
Grant Amount Requested:		Matching F	unds Obtained and Secured:	
	A	Applicant/Agency/C	Organization: Amount (\$):	
\$	1.	Applicant		
	2.			
If the application is funded, wil	1 the Grantee 3.			
intend to request an advance:				
☐ Yes ☐ No			Total:	
Has your legal counsel or control Yes No N/A	acting authority review	wed and accepted the	e Grant Award Contract General Provisions?	
			pliance with all terms, conditions, and	
-		• , ,	ertifies that all information provided by the	
* *			at intentional presentation of any false or	
			arding this application is subject to criminal	
			tion Fund Commission may approve Grant	
Awards with modifications to	scope items, method	lology, schedule, fin	al products and/or budget.	
Typed Name of Applicant or .	Applicant's Authoriz	zed Title and Tele	ephone Number	
Representative			-	
Signature		Date Signed		
~ - _				

[PROJECT TITLE] Executive Summary

(500-word maximum)



[PROJECT TITLE] Project Overview

Background	
<u>Goals</u>	
<u>Objectives</u>	
Statement of Problems/Causes	
Statement of Solutions	
Statement of Project Vears of Ran	efit to the Resource and General Public

Project Location & Environmental Contaminant Information FY 2024

Project Location Information								
1. County:	2. Section(s):	3. Township:	4. Range:					
5. Watershed: 6. 8 or 10 Digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 7. Name of USGS Topographic Map where project area is located:								
8. State Legislative District: (Information available at: https://redistricting-irc-az.hub.arcgis.com/pages/official-maps 9. Land ownership of project area:								
10. Current land use of project area:								
11. Size of project area (in acres):								
12. Stream Name:								
13. Length of stream through project area:								
14. Miles of stream benefited:	miles							
15. Acres of riparian habitat:acres will be:BhancedMaintainedRestoredCreated16. General description and/or delineation for the area of impact of the project within the watershed. 17. Provide directions to the project site from the nearest city or town. List any special access requirements:								
Environmental Contaminant Location Information								
 Does your project site contain known environmental contaminants? NO If yes, please identify the contaminant(s) and enclose data about the location and levels of contaminants: Are there known environmental contaminants in the project vicinity? NO If yes, please identify the 								
contaminant(s) and enclose data about the location and levels of contaminants: 3. Are you asking for Arizona Water Protection Fund monies to identify whether or not environmental contaminants are present? YES NO								

[PROJECT TITLE] Scope of Work

Example Only

Task 1: Permits, Authorizations, Clearances and Agreements

Task Description: The Grantee must obtain and submit to the Project Manager all permits, authorizations, clearances, and agreements, and perform any consultations necessary to complete the tasks listed in this Scope of Work. These may include but are not limited to:

- > State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) clearance
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance
- ➤ Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Access agreement(s) between Grantee and Landowner(s) (if different)
- ➤ Notice of Intention to Drill (NOI) authorization
- Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers
- Data Collection permit(s) if necessary
- ➤ Water right permits if necessary
- Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Permit
- > Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Pesticide General Permit and filing of Notice of Intent

Task Purpose: To comply with all local, state, and federal permit requirements, environmental laws such as NEPA and obtain legal access to project area.

Responsible personnel: Grantee/administrator, subcontractor, etc.

Deliverable Description: Copies of all approved permits, authorizations, clearances, and agreements.

Deliverable Due Date: Prior to any ground disturbing activities

Task Cost: \$5,000

TASK # X: Task Title

Task Description

Task Purpose/Objective

Responsible Personnel

Deliverable Description

Deliverable Due Date

Task Cost (rounded to the nearest dollar)

AWPF Grant Request Budget Template

Note: a version of this table is available in Microsoft Excel. Please contact AWPF staff or see the AWPF website at www.azwpf.gov.

Task X:					
	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total	Notes
Direct Labor Costs					
Ding at I also a Cyltagal					
Direct Labor Subtotal					
Outside Service Costs					
					_
Outside Services Subtotal					
Other Direct Costs					
Olici Birect Costs					
Other Direct Subtotal					
Capital Outlay, Equipment, Supplies,					
etc.					
NOTE: Any reimbursement requested for					
travel costs, including lodging, meals,					
and/or personal vehicle mileage must					
comply with the <u>State of Arizona</u> <u>Accounting Manual</u> (SAAM) established					
rates and guidelines.					
ruies and guidetines.					
Personal vehicle mileage reimbursement					
is limited to sixty-two and one-half cents					
(62.5¢) per mile.					
Other Direct Subtotal					
omer Direct Subtotal					
Tools Subtatal					
Task Subtotal					
Optional: AWPF Administrative Costs					
(not to exceed 5% of Task Subtotal)					
			Task X Total		

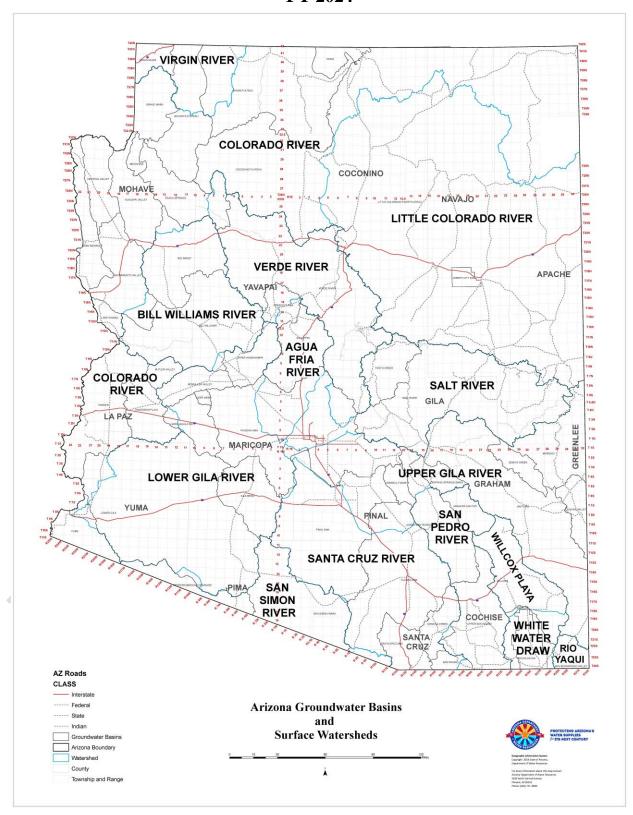
Matching Funds / Cost Share Budget Template

Note: a version of this table is also available in Microsoft Excel. Please contact AWPF staff or see the AWPF website at www.azwpf.gov.

Task X:					
1 ask A;	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total	Notes
Direct Labor Costs	Quality		Cint Cost	10441	11000
Direct Labor Costs					
Direct Labor Subtotal					
Direct Labor Subtotar					
Outside Service Costs					
Outside Service Costs					
O-4-1-1- C1 C-1-4-4-1					
Outside Services Subtotal					
Other Direct Costs					
Other Direct Subtotal					
Capital Outlay, Equipment,		\			
Supplies, etc.					
Other Direct Subtotal					
Task Subtotal					
				İ	i

Task X Total

Arizona Watershed Map FY 2024



Title of Project:

Location: (Township/Range/Section):

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE Review Form

In accordance with the State Historic Preservation Act (SHPO), A.R.S. 41-861 *et seq*, effective July 24, 1982, each State agency must consider the potential of activities or projects to impact significant cultural resources. Also, each State agency is required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer with regard to those activities or projects that may impact cultural resources. Therefore, it is understood that **recipients of state funds are required to comply with this law** throughout the project period. All projects that affect the ground-surface that are funded by AWPF require SHPO clearance, **including those on private and federal lands.**

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) must review each grant application recommended for funding in order to determine the effect, if any, a proposed project may have on archaeological or cultural resources. To assist the SHPO in this review, the following information MUST be submitted with each application for funding assistance:

- A completed copy of this form, and
- A United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute map
- A copy of the cultural resources survey report if a survey of the property has been conducted, and
- A copy of any comments of the land managing agency/landowner (i.e., state, federal, county, municipal) on potential impacts of the project on historic properties.
 NOTE: If a federal agency is involved, the agency must consult with SHPO pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); a state agency must consult with SHPO pursuant to the State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA),
 - OR
- A copy of SHPO comments if the survey report has already been reviewed by SHPO.

Please answer the following questions:

1.	Grant Program:
2.	Project Title:
3.	Applicant Name and Address:
4.	Current Landowner/Manager(s):
5.	Project Location, including Township, Range, Section:
6.	Total Project Area in Acres (or total miles if trail, fence line, etc.):
7.	Does the proposed project have the potential to disturb the surface and/or subsurface of the ground? YES NO
8.	Please provide a brief description of the proposed project and specifically identify any surface or subsurface impacts that are expected:

9. Describe the condition of the current ground surface within the entire project boundary area (for example, is the ground in a natural undisturbed condition, or has it been bladed, paved, graded, etc.). Estimate horizontal and vertical extent of existing disturbance. Also, attach photographs of project area to document condition:							
10. Are there any known prehistoric and/or historic archaeological sites in or near the project area? YES NO							
11. Has the project area been previously surveyed for cultural resources by a qualified archaeologist? YES NO UNKOWN							
If YES, submit a copy of the survey report. Please attach any comments on the survey report made by the managing agency and/or SHPO							
12. Are there any buildings or structures (including mines, bridges, dams, canals, etc.), which are 50-years or older in or adjacent to the project area? YES NO							
If YES, complete an Arizona Historic Property Inventory Form for each building or structure, attach it to this form and submit it with your application.							
13. Is your project area within or near a historic district? YES NO							
If YES, name of the district:							
Please sign on the line below certifying all information provided for this application is accurate to the best of your knowledge.							
Applicant Signature / Date Applicant Printed Name							
FOR SHPO USE ONLY							
SHPO Finding: Survey necessary – further GRANTS/SHPO consultation required (grant funds will not be released until consultation has been completed) Cultural resources present – further GRANTS/SHPO consultation required (grant funds will not be released until consultation has been completed)							
SHPO Comments:							
For State Historic Preservation Office: Date:							

STATE OF ARIZONA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

Please type or print clearly. Fill out each applicable space accurately and with as much information as is known about the property.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION For properties identified through survey: Site	e No Survey Area:
Historic Names (enter the name(s), if any that	t best reflect the property's historic importance):
Address:	
City or Town:	Tax Parcel No.:
Township: Range: Section	: Quarters: Acreage:
Block: Lot(s): Plat (Additi	on): Year of plat (addition):
UTM Reference – Zone: Easting: _	Northing:
USGS 7.5' quadrangle map:	
ARCHITECT: not determined	known Source:
BUILDER: not determined	known Source:
CONSTRUCTION DATE: know	wn estimated Source:
STRUCTURAL CONDITION Good (well maintained; no serious proble Fair (some problems apparent) Poor (major problems; imminent threat) Ruin/Uninhabitable	cribe:
USES/FUNCTIONS Describe how the property has been used	Attach a recent photograph of property in this space.
over time, beginning with the original use:	Additional photographs may be appended.
Sources:	
PHOTO INFORMATION	
Date of photo: View Direction (looking towards):	

SIGNIFICANCE

To be eligible for the National Register, a property must represent an important part of the history or architecture of an area. The significance of a property is evaluated within its historic context, which are those patterns, themes, or trends in history by which a property occurred or gained importance. Describe the historic and architectural contexts of the property that may make it worthy of preservation.

	HISTORIC EVENTS/TRENDS – Describe any historic events/trends associated with the property:
B. I	PERSONS – List and describe persons with an important association with the building:
C. A	ARCHITECTURE – Style: no style
S	Stories: Basement Roof Form:
I	Describe other character-defining features of its massing, size and scale:
visually o	gible for the National Register, a property must have integrity (i.e., it must be able to convey its importance). The outline below lists some important aspects of integrity. Fill anks with as detailed a description of the property as possible.
Location	- Original Site Moved: Date: Original Site:
DESIGN Describe	alterations from the original design, including dates:
MATER Describe	TALS the materials used in the following elements of the property:
Walls (st	ructure):
Walls (sh	neathing):
Windows	3:
Roof:	
Foundati	on:
SETTIN Describe	the natural and/or built environment around the property:
How has	the environment changed since the property was constructed?
	MANSHIP the distinctive elements, if any, of craftsmanship or method of construction:

NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS (if listed, check the appropriate box)							
☐ Individually Listed; ☐ Contributor; ☐ Non-contributor to Historic District							
Date Listed: Determined eligible by Keeper of National Register (date:)							
RECOMMENDATIONS ON NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY (opinion of SHPO							
staff or survey consultant)							
Property is is not eligible individually.							
Property is is not eligible as a contributor to a listed or potential historic district.							
☐ More information needed to evaluate.							
If not considered eligible, state reason:							

APPENDIX A

Grant Award Contract General Provisions

1. **DEFINITIONS**:

As used throughout this Contract, including the General Provisions, Special Provisions, and the Scope of Work, the following terms have the meaning set forth below:

- a. "Administrative Cost" means those costs that are traditionally termed indirect and overhead.
- b. "Agreement" or "Contract" means this Arizona Water Protection Fund Grant Award Contract between the Commission and Grantee.
- c. "Arizona Water Protection Fund" means the fund established by A.R.S. § 45-2111 and consisting of monies as set forth in A.R.S. § 45-2112.
- d. "Chair" means the chairperson of the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission or a person duly authorized by the Chair to act on the Chair's behalf.
- e. "Commission" means the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission or its authorized representative.
- f. "Deliverables" means the reports, documentation, and other materials developed for submission to the Project Manager by the Grantee in the course of the Grantee's performance under this Contract.
- g. "Equipment" means one or more tools, implements, computers, computer hardware, computer software, cameras, camera accessories, vehicles, or instruments either purchased or leased with Grant funds pursuant to either this Contract or a prior Contract between the Commission and the Grantee that is intended to be used to carry out the purposes of this Contract.
- h. "Grantee" means the person, firm, or organization performing the work or delivering the items described in this Contract.
- i. "Grant Application" means the application filed by the Grantee upon which this Contract was awarded.
- j. "Grant Award Contract" means this Contract between the Grantee and the Commission.
- k. "Operation and Maintenance Period" means the period of time during which grant-assisted structures, human access or educational facilities, revegetation sites, and any other grant-assisted improvements will be operated and maintained.
- 1. "Project" means the total of all work to be performed by the Grantee as set forth in this Contract.

- m. "Project Manager" means the Arizona Department of Water Resources technical Staff person delegated by the Chair to administer this Contract.
- n. "Scope of Work" means that part of this Contract that describes the work to be performed by the Grantee to accomplish the Project purpose. If the Scope of Work conflicts with the General or Special Provisions, the terms of the Scope of Work will govern.
- o. "Special Provisions" means those provisions of this Contract that alter or augment the General Provisions. If the Special Provisions conflict with the General Provisions, the Special Provisions will govern.
- p. "Staff" means the technical, legal, and administrative staff, including the Project Manager, provided to the Commission by the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-2114.
- q. "State" means the State of Arizona, including the Department of Water Resources.
- r. "Task" means the specific provisions in the Scope of Work of this Contract that describe the nature and manner of the specific work to be performed and the Deliverables to be submitted to the Project Manager by the Grantee.

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- a. This Contract is interpreted in accordance with Arizona law.
- b. The Grantee must obtain and maintain all licenses, permits, and authorizations necessary to perform its obligations under this Contract. The Grantee is responsible for compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws.
- c. In this Contract, Special Provisions alter the General Provisions. If the Special Provisions conflict with the General Provisions, the Special Provisions will govern. If the Scope of Work conflicts with the Special or General Provisions, the Scope of Work will govern.

3. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES:

The parties agree that the Grantee will not be considered an employee, associate, partner, officer, joint venturer, or agent of the Commission or the State as a result of this Contract. The Grantee is solely responsible for the planning, design, scope, and implementation of the Project funded through this Contract. Neither the Commission nor the State is responsible for any liabilities resulting from the Grantee's planning, design, scope and implementation or performance of the Project funded through this Contract.

4. BOOKS AND RECORDS:

The Grantee must keep adequate books, accounts, files, and records related to work performed and expenditures incurred for a period of five (5) years after the termination of this Contract. Such books, accounts, files, and records must be made available for inspection by the Commission, Staff, or other appropriate agents of the State upon timely written notice. Financial records must: (1) identify the Tasks completed; (2) include records of the time the Grantee spent performing the Tasks; and (3) include original copies of invoices, statements, sales tickets, billings for work, and similar documents as necessary to document all expenditures applicable to this Contract.

5. INSPECTION AND AUDIT:

Commission representatives and other appropriate agents of the State must, during the term of this Contract, be entitled to review and inspect the Grantee's Project site and data which pertain to the work specified in the Scope of Work. Timely written notice must be provided prior to any inspection. The right to inspect includes review of operation and maintenance of the Project site and performance of field analyses and data collection to assess the degree of success of the Project.

All data collected and maintained pursuant to the requirements of this Contract is subject to examination on the request of the Auditor General in accordance with A.R.S. § 41-1279.

6. INDEMNIFICATION:

The parties to this Contract agree that the Grantee must indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Commission and the State, including the Department of Water Resources, for all claims which result in vicarious/derivative liability of the State as a result of the act, omission, misconduct, or other fault of the Grantee, its agents, officials or employees.

7. RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES:

- a. Disputes arising during the performance of this Contract will be resolved to the maximum extent possible through cooperation and coordination of the Grantee and Staff. If the Grantee and Staff are unable to resolve the differences or circumstances require an immediate decision, the Project Manager will refer the conflict to the Commission for resolution.
- b. Disputes arising out of this Contract are subject to arbitration to the extent required by A.R.S. § 12-133 and § 12-1518.
- c. Disputes arising out of this Contract are subject to the jurisdiction of the Superior Court of the State of Arizona.

8. STOP WORK NOTICE:

In the event of unapproved changes in the Scope of Work, performance or changes outside the scope of the Contract, illegal or unpermitted activities, or other material discrepancies between the Contract and the Grantee's activities, the Commission reserves the right to issue notice to the Grantee to stop work. The notice will further specify that the Commission will not approve resumption of performance or further payments until the issue or issues identified in the stop work notice have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Commission.

9. TERMINATION OF CONTRACT:

a. The Commission, in addition to other rights set forth elsewhere in this Contract, reserves the right to terminate this Contract in whole or in part, without cause, effective thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of written notice of termination sent by certified mail to the Grantee.

The Commission, in addition to other rights set forth elsewhere in this Contract, reserves the right to terminate this Contract in whole or in part, for cause, effective upon receipt of written notice of termination sent by certified mail to the Grantee.

In the event of termination as provided in Paragraph 9 (a):

- 1) The Grantee must stop work as specified in the notice of termination.
- 2) If the payments prescribed by this Contract are made on a reimbursable basis, the Commission must pay the Grantee the allowable cost for all Tasks completed in accordance with the Scope of Work as approved by the Project Manager. In addition, the Commission must pay the Grantee its reasonable, actual costs, not to exceed the allowable costs established in the Scope of Work, for work in progress as determined by generally accepted accounting principles and practices.
- 3) If payments have been made on an advance basis, the Grantee must return all unexpended Grant funds within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of notice of termination. The Grantee, at the Commission's request, must deliver to Staff specified completed documents, programs, data, and other information described in the Contract.
- b. The State may cancel this Contract without penalty or further obligation pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-511, which provides for cancellations of any contract made by the State, its political subdivisions, or any of the departments or agencies of either if any persons significantly involved in initiating, negotiating, securing, drafting, or creating the contract on behalf of the State, its political subdivisions or any of the departments or agencies of either is, at any time while the contract or any extension of the contract is in effect, an employee or agent of any other party to the contract or a consultant to any other party to the contract with respect to the subject matter of the contract.
- c. In the event of cancellation under Paragraph 9 (b) of this Contract, or if the term of the Contract expires, the Grantee will receive payment as established in Paragraph 9 (a) (2) and (3) of this Contract.
- d. In the event that the parties mutually agree to terminate a portion of the Contract, the Grantee must continue to perform work under this Contract to the extent not terminated under the provisions of this Paragraph.

10. NON-DISCRIMINATION:

The Grantee must comply with Arizona State Executive Order No.75-5, as amended by State Executive Order No. 2009-9, and all other applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

11. EXPENDITURES AND PAYMENTS:

- a. Payments made by the Commission to the Grantee pursuant to the Contract are conditioned upon the availability to the Commission of funds authorized for expenditure in the manner and for the purpose provided herein. The Commission is not liable for any purchases or work entered into by the Grantee prior to the effective date of this Contract.
- b. 1) Fixed cost and reimbursable payments are conditioned upon receipt and approval by the Project Manager of the Deliverable(s) specified in the Scope of Work and an applicable, accurate, and complete payment request prepared by the Grantee.
 - 2) The Project Manager will have a minimum of thirty (30) working days to approve the Deliverable(s) and payment request forms.
 - 3) If the Project Manager does not approve the Deliverable(s) or payment request, the Project Manager will provide a reasonable time to the Grantee to correct the problem.
- c. If the Project Manager determines that the Grantee is in default in the performance of any obligation under this Contract, the Project Manager may, at its option and in addition to other available remedies, either adjust the amount of payment or withhold payment until satisfactory resolution of the default.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:

The Grantee may request reimbursements for Administrative Costs at a rate not to exceed five (5) percent of the total Project costs incurred that are eligible for payment under this Contract.

13. RECOUPMENT OF PAYMENTS:

The Grantee must reimburse the Arizona Water Protection Fund for all grant funds determined by the Commission not to have been spent in accordance with the terms of this Contract.

14. NOTICES:

Whenever notice is required pursuant to this Contract, such notice must be in writing and be directed to the persons and addresses specified for such purpose in the Scope of Work, or to such other persons and addresses as either party may designate to the other party in writing. Unless otherwise set forth in this Contract, notice must be delivered in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested.

15. AMENDMENTS:

The commission generally does not allow significant changes in the scope of work from what is agreed to in the contract. If an applicant requests a significant change in the project scope of work, the commission's general policy is that the grantee will be required to withdrawal from the grant. Minor changes to the budget, scope or timeline of the contract can be accommodated with a contract amendment approved by the commission. All amendment requests must be submitted in writing to the commission and those requiring a change in timeline should be submitted at least 45 days prior to existing contracted dates. Multiple (in excess of 2) amendments are discouraged by the commission. No amendments to this Contract will be effective unless in writing and signed by all parties to the Contract.

16. SUBCONTRACTS:

- a. Subcontractors or consultants may be used in the performance of Tasks described in the Scope of Work of this Contract.
- b. Proposals to subcontract any Task described in this Contract must be approved by the Project Manager. Any subcontract must be submitted to the Project Manager for approval prior to execution by the Grantee. A copy of any executed subcontract must be submitted to the Project Manager prior to commencement of the subcontracted work.
- c. Any subcontractor or consultant participating in this Contract must comply with the terms and conditions of this Contract, as set forth in the General Provisions, Special Provisions, and Scope of Work.

17. ASSIGNMENTS:

- a. The Grantee may not transfer or assign in whole or in part, any obligations under the General or Special Provisions of this Contract to another party without prior written approval of the Commission.
- b. In the event that the Grantee transfers control or access to the Project site location through sale, lease, or other alienation of title during the term of this Contract or the Operation and Maintenance Period:
 - 1) The Grantee retains all duties and responsibilities assumed under this Contract unless otherwise approved by the Commission.
 - 2) The Grantee must provide written notice to the Commission within 30 days of such action.

18. WAIVERS:

- a. Neither the Grantee nor the Commission may waive or modify any condition or requirement contained in or made a part of this Contract without a written amendment to this Contract.
- b. A waiver by the Commission of any breach or default of any of the provisions of this Contract will not be construed as a waiver of any succeeding breach or default of the same or other provisions.

19. INCORPORATION OF GRANT APPLICATION:

The Grantee's approved Grant Application is incorporated by reference as part of this Contract; however, the terms of this Contract take precedence over the terms of the approved Grant Application in the event of conflict or ambiguity.

20. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:

- a. The Operation and Maintenance Period is for 20 years unless otherwise specified in the Special Provisions.
- b. The Operation and Maintenance Period for each individual grant-assisted structure, human access or educational facility, revegetation site, or any other grant-assisted improvement will begin upon the approval by the Project Manager of the designated Deliverables identified in the Scope of Work.
- c. During the Operation and Maintenance Period, the Grantee must, in good faith, provide operation and maintenance of all grant-assisted structures, human access or educational facilities, revegetation sites, and any other grant-assisted improvements.
- d. During the term of this Contract and the Operation and Maintenance Period, the Grantee must provide reasonable protection from vandalism to the Project site and to any grant-assisted structural, revegetation, or other improvements thereon.
- e. If, during the term of this Contract or the Operation and Maintenance Period, a major flood, fire, or other unforeseen act of nature causes substantial damage to the Project site, or to any grant-assisted structure, revegetation, or other improvements, the Grantee must notify the Project Manager in writing within fifteen (15) calendar days of discovering the damage. The parties will assess the damage and determine whether to continue the Project and/or operation and maintenance responsibilities.

21. EQUIPMENT:

- a. The Grantee may not purchase any Equipment without the prior approval of the Project Manager. In addition, the Grantee may not purchase any Equipment with a value equal to or greater than \$3,000 without the prior approval of the Commission.
- b. Equipment is the property of the Grantee, and the Grantee is responsible for maintenance and safekeeping of such Equipment.
- c. If equipment purchased for the Grantee under this contract or a prior Arizona Water Protection Fund contract still has useful life, that equipment shall be used for this or any subsequent Arizona Water Protection Fund contract, as appropriate.
- d. The Grantee may execute a lease of Equipment for this specific AWPF project with the prior approval of either the Commission or the Project Manager.

22. DATA:

- a. All data, information, research, reports, and analyses prepared or collected by the Grantee in carrying out the terms of this Contract is owned by the parties to this Contract.
- b. Unless otherwise provided in this Contract, all data, information, research, reports, and analyses prepared or collected by the Grantee in carrying out the terms of this Contract must be provided to the Commission as specified in the Scope of Work of this Grant Award Contract.
- c. All Deliverables, including data, information, research, reports, and analyses submitted to the Commission are public records generated for the benefit of the citizens of the State, and may be copied, published, and disseminated to any person upon proper request.

23. REQUEST FOR COPIES:

If the Grantee receives a request to prepare a copy of any Deliverable required by this Contract, the Grantee must provide the copy at cost, or at a price required by law.

24. GRANTEE'S REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

All representations and warranties made by the Grantee under this Contract, including but not limited to those representations made in Paragraph 20 and in the Grant Application, survive the expiration or termination of this Contract. In addition, the parties acknowledge that pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-510, except as provided in A.R.S. § 12-529, the State is not subject to or barred by any limitations of actions prescribed in A.R.S., Title 12, Ch. 5.

APPENDIX B

eCivis Application Submission Users Guide



Summary of Public Comments Received w/ AWPF Legal Opinions

<u>Date</u>	Sender	Doc#
02/07/2023	Wilcox-San Simon Natural Resource Conservation District	1
02/10/2023	Big Sandy Natural Resource Conservation District	2

Doc #1

The [grant application] process can be streamlined by implementing a pre-application phase followed by invitations to submit a final application.

AWPF Legal Opinion: Currently, the grant application guide does not indicate that a pre-application phase would be part of the process and that such process may result in some applicants not receiving an invitation to submit a final application. A.R.S. § 45-2105 sets forth the application guidelines and A.R.S. § 45-2106 details how the commission may amend the guidelines for applicants required by A.R.S. § 45-2105. Accordingly, should the commission wish to amend the guidelines to include a pre-application phase it must comply with requirements of A.R.S. § 45-2106.

Applicant presentations should not be part of the grant process. Presentations allow for human bias and a pre-application phase followed by a final application phase will allow for staff to ask questions and provide feedback for final submissions. Applications should be able to stand on their own merit without a presentation.

AWPF Legal Opinion: Same as above. The current grant application process informs applicants that a presentation will be part of the process. Should the commission wish to amend the guidelines to omit presentations it must comply with requirements set forth in A.R.S. § 45-2106.

Areas where landscape scale approaches to conservation are being implemented should be prioritized.

AWPF Legal Opinion: A.R.S. § 45-2113(A) details the priority for funding. Should the commission wish to have this type of project prioritized it would either need to fit within the current statutory requirements, or the commission would have to embark on a statutory change to include it.

1

Summary of Public Comments Received w/ AWPF Legal Opinions

The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission should consider looking at areas of the State where broad partnerships exist to help protect large landscapes.

AWPF Legal Opinion: A.R.S. § 45-2113(A) details the priority for funding and the top priority is for projects with matching monies. It is possible this request could fit into this requirement. If not, and the commission would like to update the funding priority, it would have to embark on a statutory change to include it.

The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission should consider broadening its application to include landscape scale land management practices like erosion control structures in upstream tributaries, wildfire mitigation and prevention measures, vegetation management, and recharge opportunities that can and do benefit and impact riparian ecosystems.

AWPF Legal Opinion: A.R.S. § 45-2105 sets forth the application guidelines and A.R.S. § 45-2106 details how the commission may amend the guidelines for applicants required by A.R.S. § 45-2105. Accordingly, should the commission wish to amend the guidelines to include consideration for these types of projects it must comply with requirements of A.R.S. § 45-2106.

Groundwater recharge projects and local, well documented science should be considered in designing and implementing effective projects, if the Arizona Water Protection Fund is to make a meaningful contribution to the State's riparian areas.

AWPF Legal Opinion: Same as above. A.R.S. § 45-2105 sets forth the application guidelines and A.R.S. § 45-2106 details how the commission may amend the guidelines for applicants required by A.R.S. § 45-2105. Accordingly, should the commission wish to amend the guidelines to include consideration for these types of projects it must comply with requirements of A.R.S. § 45-2106.

2

Summary of Public Comments Received w/ AWPF Legal Opinions

Doc #2

Landscape scale conservation measures should be considered as part of the Arizona Water Protection Fund priorities.

AWPF Legal Opinion: The policy and purpose of the WPF is to protect and restore the state's rivers and streams and associated riparia habitats, including fish and wildlife resources that are dependent on these important habitats. Landscape scale conservations are not considered. Additionally, A.R.S. § 45-2113(A) details the priority for funding. Should the commission wish to have this type of project prioritized it would either need to fit within the current statutory requirements, or the commission would have to embark on a statutory change to include it.

To enhance the application process, the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission should consider management of riparian ecosystems. Landscapes that are managed holistically have a higher chance of success.

AWPF Legal Opinion: A.R.S. § 45-2133(A)(2) prioritizes funding for projects that provide continued maintenance of the portion of the river and streams and associated riparian habitat that are enhanced by the project. Management of a riparian ecosystem could possibly fit within these parameters if the river and/or stream is also maintained

Groundwater recharge and recovery projects should be considered an eligible practice, if the Arizona Water Protection Fund is to make a meaningful contribution to the health and recovery of state's riparian areas.

AWPF Legal Opinion: A.R.S. § 45-2113(A) details the priority for funding. Should the commission wish to have this type of project prioritized it would either need to fit within the current statutory requirements, or the commission would have to embark on a statutory change to include it.

3

Summary of Public Comments Received w/ AWPF Legal Opinions

The use of grant application presentations to supplement the process allows for human bias and the practice is not typically used in other grant application processes. If there is concern that applicants need to adjust their applications per staff and public comment recommendations, then a pre-proposal and final proposal time period should be implemented similar to other grant processes.

AWPF Legal Opinion: The current grant application process informs applicants that a presentation will be part of the process. Should the commission wish to amend the guidelines to implement a preproposal and final proposal time period it must comply with requirements set forth in A.R.S. § 45-2106.

4

45-2105. Application guidelines

Before any monies are granted pursuant to section 45-2113, and by July 1, 1995, and every three years thereafter, the commission shall develop in conjunction with the department guidelines for applicants for funding. Guidelines shall include the following:

- 1. Delineation of geographic areas in this state where protection and restoration will be emphasized.
- 2. Identification of issues of concern.
- 3. Types of measures needed to address issues of concern.
- 4. A requirement that the applicant include a description of the relationship between the proposed project and existing plans, reports and information that are relevant to the proposed project.

45-2106. Public involvement

- A. The commission is subject to the provisions of title 38, chapter 3, article 3.1 and title 39, chapter 1.
- B. The commission shall develop and may amend the guidelines for applicants required by section 45-2105 after reviewing the recommendations submitted by the natural resource conservation districts developed pursuant to section 37-1054, subsections D and E and the information gathered during the public involvement process.
- C. The commission shall gather information from the following:
- 1. The director of the department of water resources and the state land commissioner.
- 2. The federal and state fish, wildlife, recreation and natural resource agencies.
- 3. County and municipal entities.
- 4. The public.
- D. The commission shall develop procedures to assure adequate public participation. At a minimum, public participation procedures shall prescribe public notice requirements including the content and publication of the notice, provide an opportunity for public hearings and specify the procedures governing the hearings and require the public availability of relevant documents. Public hearings shall be held at places and times which afford a reasonable opportunity to persons to participate.
- E. The commission shall make available for viewing copies of the recommendations and supporting documents submitted pursuant to this section and may charge a reasonable fee for copying.

45-2113. Fund grants; applications

- A. The commission shall grant monies from the fund consistent with the application guidelines developed pursuant to section 45-2105. The commission shall establish a procedure by which monies may be granted annually which shall include a maximum of six months between the receipt of the proposal by the commission and the disbursement of monies. The commission shall give priority in funding to the following:
- 1. Projects for which matching monies or assets of comparable value, including in-kind contributions, will be provided by other sources.
- 2. Projects that provide for the continued maintenance of the portion of the river and stream and associated riparian habitat that are enhanced by the project.
- 3. Projects that include broad based local involvement.
- 4. Projects that directly benefit perennial or intermittent rivers or streams or that otherwise increase the supply of water.
- B. The commission shall require as a condition of approval of any proposal all of the following provisions:
- 1. Allowing access for inspection and evaluation of the project.
- 2. Controlling the expenditure of and accounting for any monies granted by the commission
- 3. Requiring that those persons responsible for the project submit all pertinent information and research gained from the project to the commission.
- 4. Requiring that any person receiving a grant spend no more than five percent of the grant on costs of administration.
- C. The commission shall provide for public involvement regarding the applications submitted to the commission which shall include notice to any person who requests notice of applications and which shall provide a reasonable opportunity for comment on the application which shall not be less than forty-five days.
- D. On receipt of an application the commission shall notify cities, towns, counties, natural resource conservation districts, special districts and Indian communities affected by the proposal and shall provide a reasonable opportunity for comment on the application which shall not be less than forty-five days.
- E. Any person, state agency or political subdivision of this state may submit a request for funding from the fund for purposes prescribed by this section. A federal agency is not eligible for funding from the fund. Requests for funding shall be made to the commission. Requests for funding submitted to the commission may be accompanied by expressions of support from affected cities, towns, counties, natural resource conservation districts, special districts or Indian communities.
- F. As a condition of approval by the commission, the applicant shall commit to work jointly with the affected cities, towns, counties, natural resource conservation districts, special districts and Indian communities that have contacted the commission pursuant to subsection D of this section on all aspects of the proposal's implementation and monitoring, unless the jurisdiction chooses not to participate.
- G. Monies in the fund may only be spent to finance programs located in this state.
- H. Monies in the fund may be spent for any of the following:
- 1. Granting monies to entities for the acquisition of central Arizona project water or effluent that will protect or restore rivers or streams consistent with state water law. No entity may exercise the right of eminent domain to

acquire water or water rights using monies derived from this fund.

- 2. Granting monies to assist in developing, promoting and implementing water conservation programs, directly related to the purposes of this chapter, outside of the active management areas.
- 3. Granting monies in support of research and data collection, compilation and analysis directly related to the purposes of this chapter except that no more than five percent of the monies deposited in the fund in any fiscal year may be spent for this purpose. Before the approval of any such project, the commission shall consult with the department of water resources and the state land department to determine whether any research of a similar nature has been or is in the process of being performed and is already available. The commission shall not approve a proposal if either department determines that sufficient data exists and notifies the commission in writing.
- 4. Granting monies for the development and implementation of capital projects or specific measures consistent with the purposes of this chapter.
- I. Monies in the fund may not be spent for:
- 1. Any project that includes the planting of mesquite, tamarisk or other nonnative high water usage trees that consume water to a degree that is detrimental to water conservation efforts, but may be used for removal of mesquite, tamarisk or other nonnative high water usage trees that consume water to a degree that is detrimental to water conservation efforts.
- 2. Any remedial action purposes undertaken pursuant to the comprehensive environmental response, compensation, and liability act of 1980, as amended (P.L. 96-510; 94 Stat. 2767; 42 United States Code section 9601) or title 49, chapter 2, article 5.



Willcox-San Simon Natural Resource Conservation District

656 N. Bisbee Avenue, Willcox, AZ 85643 Phone: (520) 384-2229 Fax (520) 384-2735 willcoxsansimonnrcd@vtc.net

Supervisors:

Tina Thompson, Chairman
Amber Morin, Vice-Chairman
John Hart, Secretary/Treasurer
Larry Parker, Member
Matt Klump, Member
Alan Seitz, Advisor
Kolin Kramme, Advisor
Calvin Allred, Advisor
Patina Thompson, Admin. Coordinator

February 7, 2023

Dear Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission:

The Willcox-San Simon Natural Resource Conservation District is one of 42 conservation districts within the state of Arizona charged by the Legislature with the statutory responsibility to provide for the conservation and restoration of lands, water, wildlife, and other natural resources, and to protect water rights, the tax base, public lands, and the general health and welfare of the people.

In response to the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission's request for input from interested landowners, state and federal agencies, local government entities, non-profit organizations, and the public regarding the guidelines for applicants for funding, the Willcox-San Simon Natural Resource Conservation District submits the following comments.

Grant Application Structure and Processes

Regarding current grant application structure and processes, the process can be streamlined by implementing a pre-application phase followed by invitations to submit a final application. This would eliminate limitations on staff time on pre-application consults, based on a first come first serve basis, and would allow for staff to provide comments on applications moving forward and those recommended for reapplication the following year.

Furthermore, many of the Supplemental Information requirements need to be considered items that are submitted to the AWPF prior to contract finalization or within the final application phase recommended above.

Applicant presentations should not be a part of the grant process. Presentations allow for human bias and a pre-application phase followed by final application phase will allow for staff to ask questions and provide feedback for final submissions. Applications should be able to stand on their own merit without a presentation.

Geographic Areas in the State Where Protection and Restoration Should be Prioritized

As defined in the grant application manual, riparian habitat is an ecosystem found between aquatic and upland environments that is dependent on the existence of a perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral water source. Soil and vegetation in riparian areas have distinct characteristics that make them different from surrounding areas.

Riparian areas are unquestionably unique environments with rich biodiversity; however, they are often linear features of variable width with neighboring environments that contribute to their health. Therefore, areas where landscape scale approaches to conservation are being implemented should be prioritized. Consider the following threats to riparian ecosystems, which have been identified by Oregon State University Extension Service which are similar to natural resource challenges we face in Arizona.

Threat 1, Erosion: Erosion is a natural, biophysical process. Erosion rates differ from system to system and climate to climate. In healthy riparian systems, erosion does not significantly impact soil or riparian health. However, with improper management practices, the effects of erosion worsen, and the system as a whole degrades.

Threat 2, Rising Temperatures: According to the National Climate Assessment, the Southwest has heated up markedly in recent decades. The period since 1950 has been hotter than any comparably long period in at least 600 years. Warming temperatures can alter natural conditions and put increasing stress on these diverse and delicate systems. As the historic heat waves in June 2021 demonstrated, more attention is needed to better understand how to improve and maintain riparian and general ecosystem health in the face of rising temperatures.

Threat 3, Wildfire: Riparian systems can act as a buffer and disrupt the spread of wildfires if conditions are favorable. As summers continue to exhibit drier conditions, there is the potential for even more fuel accumulation or build-up that can leave riparian systems more vulnerable to catastrophic, high-severity fires. The build-up of dry plant material allows for wildfires to travel easily and quickly through ecosystems that may not be adapted to it. Fires are a natural and integral part of the landscape, but as temperatures increase, so does the frequency and severity of fires outside of natural ranges of variability.

To enhance the application process, the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission should consider looking at areas of the state where broad partnerships exist to help protect large landscapes. Additionally, the Commission should consider broadening its application to include landscape scale land management practices like erosion control structures in upstream tributaries, wildfire mitigation and prevention measures, vegetation management, and recharge opportunities, that can and do, benefit and impact riparian ecosystems. Landscapes that are managed holistically have a higher rate of conservation and restoration success, especially in the face of an unpredictable climate. Broadening the application practices would also increase the chance of grant applicants reapplying with more creative and effective applications that build on previous work and that leverage mutually beneficial projects and funds.

Relevant Science Related to Designing and Implementing Effective Riparian and Watershed Protection and Restoration Projects

Groundwater depletion threatens many riparian ecosystems in arid and semi-arid regions of the world. One method of controlling declining water levels is by using artificial groundwater recharge. Artificial recharge is the practice of increasing the amount of water that enters an aquifer through human-controlled means, and it has been used effectively along the San Pedro River to benefit the local aquifer and riparian ecosystem. Groundwater can be artificially recharged capturing floodwaters and stormwater runoff using infiltration trenches, detention basins constructed in channels, or simply injecting water directly into the subsurface through dry wells. Groundwater recharge projects and local, well documented science should be considered in designing and implementing effective projects, if the Arizona Water Protection Fund is to make a meaningful contribution to the health and recovery of state's riparian areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Morin, Vice Chair

Willcox-San Simon Natural Resource Conservation District

Big Sandy

Resource Conservation District P.O. Box 3506 Kingman, AZ 86402

February 10, 2023

Arizona Department of Water Resources Arizona Water Protection Fund Attn: Reuben Teran Email rteran@azwater.gov 1802 W. Jackson St. Box #79 Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Comment for Application Guidelines for Grant.

Comments below are the Big Sandy Natural Resource Conservation Districts (Big Sandy NRCD) recommendations for AWPF administration of 2023 grant cycle funding.

The Big Sandy NRCD is a sub division of Arizona State Government under the State Statues A.R.S. §37.

Riparian areas are critical features of the landscape because they contain a rich diversity of plants and animals and help to maintain water quality and unique habitats. Riparian areas are often linear features of variable width and are identified as transition zones between fully terrestrial and fully aquatic systems. Stable, healthy, and resilient riparian systems protect and enhance water bodies and surrounding environments. Neighboring environments also can contribute to the health of riparian ecosystems. Therefore, landscape scale conservation measures should be considered as part of the Arizona Water Protection Fund priorities.

Consider the following threats to riparian ecosystems, which have been identified by <u>Oregon State</u> <u>University Extension Service</u> and are applicable to natural resource challenges we face in Arizona.

- A. Erosion is a natural, biophysical process. Erosion rates differ from system to system and climate to climate. In healthy riparian systems, erosion does not significantly impact soil or riparian health. However, with improper management practices, the effects of erosion worsen, and the system degrades.
- B. Climate fluctuations and warming temperatures can alter natural conditions and put increasing stress on these diverse and delicate systems. Warmer climates alter snowpacks and hydrologic regimes (flooding, rainfall, etc.) that are necessary to maintain native vegetative communities and productivity of the region. Other concerns for riparian systems include the effects of converting to drier systems leading to an overall decrease in the resiliency of these systems. As the historic heat waves in June 2021 demonstrate, more attention is needed to better

- understand how to improve and maintain riparian and general ecosystem health in the face of rising temperatures.
- C. With regard to wildfires, riparian systems can act as a buffer and disrupt the spread of fire if conditions are favorable. As summers continue to exhibit drier conditions, there is the potential for even more fuel accumulation or build-up that can leave riparian systems more vulnerable to catastrophic, high-severity fires. The build-up of dry plant material allows for wildfires to travel easily and quickly through ecosystems that may not be adapted to it. Fires are a natural and integral part of the landscape, but as temperatures increase, so does the frequency and severity of fires outside of natural ranges of variability.

To enhance the application process, the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission should consider management of riparian ecosystems. Landscapes that are managed holistically have a higher chance of success.

Groundwater depletion threatens many riparian ecosystems in arid and semi-arid regions of the world. One method of controlling declining water levels is by using artificial groundwater recharge. Artificial recharge is the practice of increasing the amount of water that enters an aquifer through human-controlled means. For example, check dams slowing groundwater flow can allow water to penetrate and provide for riparian growth, recharge by redirecting water across the land surface through canals, infiltration basins (dams), or ponds; adding irrigation furrows or sprinkler systems; or simply injecting water directly into the subsurface through injection wells. Groundwater recharge and recovery projects should be considered an eligible practice, if the Arizona Water Protection Fund is to make a meaningful contribution to the health and recovery of state's riparian areas.

Well written applications should be able to stand on their own merit of clarity and value. The use of grant application presentations to supplement the process allows for human bias and the practice is not typically used in other grant application processes. If there is concern that applicants need to adjust their applications per staff and public comment recommendations, then a pre-proposal and final proposal time period should be implemented similar to other grant processes.

Sincerely;

Anita M. Waite Chairman Big Sandy NRCD bigsandynrcd@gmail.com 928-765-2397