

PRE-MEETING AGENDA

**Casper City Council
City Hall, Council Meeting Room
Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 5:30 p.m.**




Please silence cell phones during the City Council meeting

	Presentation	Beginning Time	Allotted
1.	LGBTQ Advisory Committee Update	5:30	15 min
2.	River Grant	5:45	10 min
3.	Agenda Review	5:55	5 min
	Approximate Ending Time		6:00 p.m.

We are CASPER

Communication Accountability Stewardship Professionalism Efficiency Responsiveness

February 22, 2023

MEMO TO: J. Carter Napier, City Manager 

FROM: Jolene Martinez, Assistant to the City Manager

SUBJECT: Submission of a WaterSMART grant in an amount up to \$3,000,000 for river restoration work.

Meeting Type & Date

Council Pre-Meeting March 7, 2023

Action Type

Direction requested

Recommendation

That Council authorize submission of a WaterSMART grant in an amount up to \$3,000,000 for river restoration work.

Summary

In June 2013, Council authorized staff to move forward to secure funding and implement the work identified in the Platte River Environmental Restoration Master Plan. The river restoration effort, which includes a volunteer day every September, is called the Platte River Revival. The projects outlined in the master plan are a combination of riverbank and in-river construction, Russian olive removal, and vegetative plantings. Seven in-river and riverbank construction projects were identified and four have been completed.

Grants and donations are integral to the funding river restoration. A WaterSMART grant through the Bureau of Reclamation is available and due March 28, 2023. This grant program has a focus on ecological work and specifically names river restoration projects that have a nexus with managing and conserving drinking water resources. The maximum that can be requested is \$3 million and requires a minimum 25% cash and/or in-kind match. Total project cost cannot be more than \$6 million. The Izaak Walton Reach, with its close association with Casper's drinking water resources, is eligible for this grant.

Casper has a valuable and unique asset in the North Platte River, and river restoration is a transformational investment in Casper's infrastructure. A showcased river with a planned and protected natural/urban interface prevents water pollution and improves water quality; improves aquatic and terrestrial habitat that may make Casper's urban corridor a destination fishery; stabilizes and improves banks; and provides economic development opportunities. River restoration is a quality of life project that can positively impact human health by providing a connection with nature.

Financial Considerations

The in-river construction and riparian and uplands work for the Izaak Walton First Street Reach is estimated at over \$4 million. Three million dollars will be requested from the WaterSMART grant program. The match will be in cash and in-kind work from a combination of River Fund reserves, other grants and donations including the Charles E. Pierall Izaak Walton League donation of \$60,000, and in-kind work from the City, volunteers, and other businesses, foundations, organizations and agencies who have a track record of cooperating on the river restoration work.

Oversight/Project Responsibility

Andrew Beamer, Public Services Director

Alex Sveda, City Engineer

Scott Baxter, Associate Engineer

Jolene Martinez, Assistant to the City Manager

Attachments

None