



Arizona Association of Conservation Districts 2019 Summer Conference

Reuben Teran, Executive Director

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Arizona Water Protection Fund is a competitive state grant program that provides funding for the development and implementation of measures that will protect water of sufficient quality and quantity to maintain, enhance, and restore river and riparian resources, including projects that benefit fish and wildlife that are dependent on these important resources.

ARS § 45-2101

OVERALL PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

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



GENERAL PROJECT GUIDELINES

- ▶ Demonstrate direct benefits to perennial or intermittent rivers or streams
- ▶ Protect/Restore native riparian vegetation and habitat
- ▶ Restore proper hydrologic conditions/functions
- ▶ Restore proper stream geomorphology/channel characteristics
- ▶ Restore wetlands/backwaters
- ▶ Improve watershed conditions
- ▶ Protect/Restore habitat needs for fish and wildlife dependent on riparian resources
- ▶ Decrease negative impacts of non-native species to riparian areas

FUNDING CATEGORIES

▶ Capital Projects

- On-the-ground measures/projects; acquisition of Central Arizona Project water or effluent to restore and maintain river/riparian resources; and feasibility of design studies (if they investigate the feasibility of implementing a specific capital project).

▶ Research

- Innovative research and data collection efforts related to the goals and purpose of the Fund.
- Limited to 5% of funds received in any fiscal year.

▶ Water Conservation

- Measures which develop, promote or implement programs designed to conserve water for the purposes related to the Fund. Must be located outside of all Active Management Areas in Arizona.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Projects should reflect a “bottom-up” rather than a “top-down” solution to river and riparian maintenance, enhancement and restoration issues.
 - AWPf supports locally acceptable solutions, rather than have the state dictate specific projects, measures, priorities, or areas of concern.
- ▶ The AWPf Commission’s priority is to fund high quality “on-the-ground” solutions.



**ARIZONA WATER
PROTECTION
FUND COMMISSION**

ARS § 45-2103

Commission Member / Affiliation	Statutory Category Represented	Appointing Authority
Charles Paradzick - Chairman Salt River Project	Agricultural Improvement District	Governor
Pat Jacobs - Vice-Chairman Central Arizona Project	Multi-County Water Conservation District	District Governing Board
Harold Paul Brick San Pedro Natural Resource Conservation District	Natural Resource Conservation District	Senate President
Dr. Lucinda Earven Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District	Natural Resource Conservation District	Speaker of the House of Representatives
Michael Macauley Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District	Natural Resource Conservation District	Senate President
Roy Pierpoint Gila Bend Natural Resource Conservation District	Natural Resource Conservation District	Speaker of the House of Representatives
William Schock Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District	State Association of Natural Resource Conservation Districts	Governor
VACANT	Member of the Public – B.S.in Hydrology – City Served by the Central Arizona Project	Governor
VACANT	Indian Tribe	Intertribal Council of Arizona
Thomas Buschatzke Director Department of Water Resources	Non-voting Ex Officio Member	Arizona Revised Statutes § 45-2103(A)(7)
Lisa Atkins State Land Commissioner State Land Department	Non-voting Ex Officio Member	Arizona Revised Statutes § 45-2103 (A)(7)
The Honorable Sine Kerr AZ State Senate	Non-voting Advisory Member	Senate President
The Honorable David L. Cook AZ House of Representatives	Non-voting Advisory Member	Speaker of the House of Representatives

COMMISSION PRIORITIES

ARS § 45-2113(A)

- ▶ Projects that directly benefit perennial or intermittent rivers or streams or that otherwise increase the supply of water.
- ▶ Projects that provide matching monies or assets of comparable value (including in kind contributions) from other sources.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Projects that include broad based local involvement.

OTHER COMMISSION PRIORITIES

- ▶ Projects that 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.
- ▶ Projects that address degraded watershed health conditions or impacts to perennial streams through the implementation of scientifically-based restoration projects.
- ▶ If for the purposes of water conservation, projects where the applicant estimates the water increase and/or savings, and how this estimate was determined.

ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Any person, state agency, or political subdivision of this state may submit a request for funding from the Arizona Water Protection Fund.

NOTE: Federal agencies are not eligible for funding.

- Projects on federal lands are eligible.



ARS § 45-2113(E)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Must have legal and physical access, and authority to implement the project.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Must demonstrate that vital partnerships, funding, access, etc. have been committed at the time of the application.
- ▶ Administrative costs must be limited to **5%** of total project implementation funds requested.
 - ARS § 45-2113(B)(4).

INELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS

(in accordance with State statutes)

- ▶ Purchase of real property / conservation easements.
- ▶ Projects outside the state of Arizona.
- ▶ Any project that includes the planting of mesquite, tamarisk, or other non-native high water use trees that consume water to a degree that is detrimental to conservation efforts.
- ▶ Remedial actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) or Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF)
- ▶ Research projects with funding requests in excess of **5%** of the total funds received in a given fiscal year.
- ▶ Water Conservation programs within an Active Management Area.

INELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS

(in accordance with Commission policy)

- ▶ Projects located in areas with elevated levels of environmental contamination.
- ▶ Projects required as a result of a legal action by a regulatory agency.
- ▶ Projects 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 or federal standards may be considered as long as the project meets the requirements of ARS § 45-2101(B)
- ▶ Generally, the Commission does not fund groundwater recharge or recovery projects.

**NATURAL RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
INVOLVEMENT**

ARS § 37-1054. POWERS OF DISTRICT

37-1054(A)7: [... *A district is empowered to:*] “Apply for, receive and spend monies from the Arizona water protection fund pursuant to title 45, chapter 12 to be used in individual districts or in cooperation with other districts, persons, cities, towns, counties, special districts and Indian communities for projects consistent with title 45, chapter 12.”

37-1054(D): “A district may send to the Arizona water protection fund commission established by title 45, chapter 12 written recommendations for geographic areas to be emphasized, issues of concern and measures to implement title 45, chapter 12. A district that sends written recommendations to the commission shall request information from at least 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.”

**FISCAL YEAR 2020
GRANT CYCLE**

GRANT CYCLE SCHEDULE

FY2020 Grant Application Process Schedule	Timeline
Applications available	July 8, 2019 (on-going)
Application workshop	July 24, 2019
Pre-application consultations (depending on staff availability)	July - August 2019
Final date and time to submit applications	September 6, 2019 at 3:00 PM
Public comment period for applications	September 18 – November 1, 2019
Staff review comments to applicants / Commission	No later than November 15, 2019
Applicant presentations / Commission grant selections	November 19 – 20, 2019
Applicants notified of funding status	December 2019
Staff begins writing grant contracts	December 2019 / January 2020



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Arizona Water Protection Fund

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