**R653. Natural Resources, Water Resources.**

**R653-15. 2024 Grant Funding for Water Infrastructure Projects.**

**R653-15-1. Purpose.**

(1) The Legislature appropriated $21,989,200 to the Division of Water Resources for grants to help fund water infrastructure projects located within the state.

(2) This rule sets forth the procedures and requirements for issuance and receipt of grant funds for water infrastructure projects.

**R653-15-2. Definitions.**

As used in this section:

(1) "Director" means the Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

(2) "Division" means the Division of Water Resources.

(3) "Project proponent" means an entity requesting a grant under this rule to help fund a water infrastructure project.

(4) "Water Infrastructure Project" means an existing or new project which:

(a) aids in the development, conservation, collection, transmission, storage, treatment, or distribution of water for culinary or secondary use in residential, commercial, industrial, or agricultural settings; or

(b) facilitates the use of water for public safety or environmental purposes.

**R653-15-3. Grants for Water Infrastructure Projects.**

(1) The division may issue a grant to a project proponent to help fund the study, design, or construction of a water infrastructure project.

(2) To be eligible for a grant award, the project proponent must propose the study, design, improvement, or construction of a water infrastructure project that:

(a) is located within Utah;

(b) benefits Utah communities and residents; and

(c) complies with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

**R653-15-4. Applications for Grants.**

(1) To obtain a grant under this rule, a project proponent shall submit a written application to the division, on or before the application deadline date established by the division.

(2) Each project proponent shall apply using the division's approved form and shall include the following information:

(a) detailed and itemized cost estimate of the proposed project, study, design, or construction prepared by a licensed professional engineer;

(b) map showing the location of the proposed project;

(c) designs and schematics detailing project construction particulars;

(d) estimated timeline for the project, including the projected start date and expected completion date;

(e) estimated useful life of the project;

(f) number of people that will benefit from the project;

(g) matching funds to be contributed, if any, by the project proponent; and

(h) any additional information required on the application.

(3) Each application shall be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the project proponent and include the project proponent's verification that information provided in the application is accurate and that any estimates or projections submitted are based on sound professional judgement and best available data.

**R653-15-5. Application Review and Prioritization.**

(1) The division shall:

(a) review and prioritize each application submitted under Section R653-15-4; and

(b) make recommendations to the director on which project proponent applicants should be awarded a grant under this rule.

(2) In reviewing applications submitted under Subsection (1), the division may contact an applicant to:

(a) verify information in the application;

(b) seek clarifications and supplemental information; and

(c) address and correct anomalies and inconsistencies in the application.

(3) The division shall review and evaluate applications submitted under Subsection (1) based on the following criteria:

(a) the grant amount requested in comparison to the number of Utah residents benefited by the project;

(b) estimated timeline to complete needed studies and design for the project;

(c) estimated timeline for the construction and completion of the project;

(d) existence of other available funding sources to complete the project;

(e) estimated useful life of the project;

(f) matching funds contributed by the project proponent toward the project;

(g) water conservation benefits;

(h) environmental benefits;

(i) legislative support; and

(j) overall public benefit.

(4)(a) The division will prioritize each application based on its evaluation of the criteria identified in Subsection (3).

(b) The prioritization will form the basis for the division's recommendation to the director.

**R653-15-6. Grant Award and Agreement.**

As a condition to receiving a grant under this section, the applicant shall enter into a contract with the division for use of the grant money.

**KEY: 2024 Grant Funding for Water Infrastructure Projects**

**Date of Last Change: June 21, 2024**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 63G-3-201(2); H.B. 3, Item 54, 2024 General Session**