

EXHIBIT 4

DATE JAN 14, 2013

HB 6

## Capacity Grants

### Goals:

To foster new and expand existing organizations that provide stewardship, coordination, education and outreach for on- the- ground renewable resource projects that conserve, manage, develop or preserve renewable resources. The grant must build the overall capacity of the organization.

### Applicant Eligibility:

Eligible applicants include Montana conservation districts and watershed groups. If a watershed group is applying, it must use a conservation district as its fiscal agent and a District supervisor must be actively involved in the effort.

### Grant Specifics:

- Grants will be made up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year. If the applicant has performed well in the first year they will be eligible to apply the second year for another \$10,000.
- No more than \$20,000 per organization will be allowed for a five year period.
- No match funding is required, however match funding will be considered in evaluation of proposals.
- Grant administration costs no more than 4% of the total grant
- An application must be filled out and signed documenting the needs of the project, along with two letters of support from elected officials other than the CD Board (County commissioner, state representative, etc)

### Eligible Grant Expenditures:

Wages or salaries for labor, including a watershed coordinator  
Board / Leadership development  
Staff training  
Fundraising/Grant Writing  
Financial Management  
Strategic planning  
Public engagement and mobilization  
Collaboration and partnerships  
Project specific materials and supplies  
Equipment rental  
Postage  
Transportation  
Contracted Services

### Ineligible Grant Expenditures:

Land or property acquisition  
Political advocacy or litigation  
Meals  
Ongoing Operating expenses, such as office supplies  
River Councils and Task Forces

### Application Evaluation Criteria:

- Overall Application
- The diversity of the organization in terms of stakeholder participation and involvement
- The organization's history of working cooperatively in partnership with other community organizations and state and federal agencies.
- The organization's history of accomplishments in regards to the proposed project or planning effort.
- The level of staffing (volunteer or paid) the applicant organization has available for the proposed project or planning effort.
- The capability of the available staff/contractor of accomplishing the proposed project or planning effort.
- Applicants working relationship with Conservation Districts
- The organization has a plan to continue the operation and maintenance of what the grant has accomplished.
- The project leads to an on-the-ground renewable resource project that conserves, manages, develops or preserves renewable resources.