

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 11.o**

Applicant: Bear River Reservoir Company

Water Activity Name: Stillwater Reservoir Seepage Project

Water Activity Purpose: Structural water project

County: Garfield and Routt Counties

Drainage Basin: Yampa/White Basin

Water Source: Bear River

Amount Requested: \$189,000 (Yampa/White Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$20,000 (10%)

Staff Recommendation
The proposed project will reduce seepage from the Stillwater Reservoir. Staff recommends approval of up to \$189,000 from the Yampa/White Basin Account to help complete this project.

Water Activity Summary:

The reduction of seepage from Stillwater reservoir will improve storage efficiency and has the potential to reduce the need to develop additional unappropriated waters in the upper basin. The reservoir, located in Garfield County at the headwaters of the Bear River, is used primarily for native grass hay irrigation in Routt County and for municipal water owned by the Town of Yampa. The Bear River Reservoir Company provides water to eighteen agricultural users on a basis of 5,175 shares each of which corresponds to one acre-foot of water when the reservoir is full.

The scope of work includes the following four steps:

- 1) Installation of a new steel outlet flume.
- 2) Engineering and geologic evaluation to determine the most cost effective way to reduce seepage.
- 3) Preparation of the State Engineer Repair Application to be submitted to the U.S. Forrest Service for review and permitting.
- 4) Seepage repair.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application/project meets all four Threshold Criteria. No Statewide funds are being requested, therefore the evaluation criteria does not apply.

Funding Overview

Grant funding in the amount of \$189,000 is being requested from the Yampa/White Basin Account. Match includes \$20,000 of matching funds.

Discussion:

The Bear River Reservoir Company operates on an annual budget between \$10,000 and \$13,000. SWSI indicated that assistance to small rural water providers is needed. The applicant also indicated that the project would provide an indirect benefit to downstream users by providing return flows later in the summer for use in satisfying other rights. The Bear River above the Town of Yampa is over appropriated and under administration for most of the summer irrigation season. Due to its lower priority (appropriated 01/09/1935; adjudicated 09/14/1946), the reservoir typically gets called out of priority early in the irrigation season and is required to bypass flows to downstream senior water

rights. This limits the ability of the reservoir to refill on an annual basis if drained. The effect of the seepage from the reservoir is that it limits the ability to effectively store water during runoff and from year to year.

While there is a clear local need for the this project, it should be noted that with the additional applications that the Yampa/White roundtable has or is expected to approve, will nearly zero out the Yampa/White basin account.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- Please specify the source of match funds.
- CWCB will need to review interim products (e.g. evaluation and permitting) prior to conducting the next task.
- Please revise the scope of work and budget to indicate more detail regarding the Engineering/Geologic Evaluation.
- Please revise the budget and scope of work to match the sample budget provided in the WSRA grant application.
- Please provide a project schedule.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$189,000 from the Yampa/White Basin Account to enable the seepage repair of the Bear River Reservoir, contingent upon the above issues and needs being addressed.

All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation. This information will in turn be made widely available to Basin Roundtables and the general public and will help promote the development of a common technical platform.

In accordance with the revised WSRA Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements. The specific requirements are provided below.

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the scope of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

Engineering: All engineering work (as defined in the Engineers Practice Act (§12-25-102(10) C.R.S.)) performed under this grant shall be performed or certified by a professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.