

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program  
Water Activity Summary Sheet  
Agenda Item 13.a**

**Applicant:** Mancos Conservation District

**Water Activity Name:** Mancos River Diversion Project, Phase I

**Water Activity Purpose:** Study or Analysis of Structural, Nonconsumptive Water Project

**County:** Montezuma County

**Drainage Basin:** Mancos River

**Water Source:** Mancos River

**Amount Requested:** \$24,753 (Southwest Basin Account)

**Matching Funds:** \$30,500 (CWCB Watershed Restoration Program), \$3,150 (in-kind – San Juan RC&D), \$1,300 (in-kind – Applicant)

<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
The proposed project will help identify and meet nonconsumptive water supply needs in the Southwest Basin. Staff recommends approval of up to \$24,753 from the Southwest Basin Account to partially fund the Mancos River Diversion Project, Phase I for the Mancos Conservation District contingent on resolution of the items in the issues/additional needs section.

**Water Activity Summary:**

The Mancos Conservation District is in the process of a watershed assessment in order to create a comprehensive Mancos River Watershed Plan. The plan seeks to work with irrigation companies and landowners to restore the river system. The initial assessment has identified several priorities. The first priority involves ongoing improvements to aging irrigation infrastructure. This infrastructure is causing degradation of the river channel, inefficient and poorly measured water delivery, and ongoing maintenance issues. A major portion of this degradation occurs at ditch diversion sites. The second priority is attaining greater instream flows in the summer due to irrigation diversions.

A team of experts including, the local water commissioner, ditch owners, and an ecologist have collaborated to examine various options for irrigation system improvement and river restoration. The proposed project identifies the tasks necessary to reconstruct six of the worst ditch diversion structures. All six ditch companies have agreed to involvement with the project. The project involves surveys, structure design, cost estimates, and mapping. In addition, the project includes a decree analysis by the Colorado Water Trust to explore the potential of developing instream flow rights on critical stream reaches of the Mancos River. The project's objectives include:

- Stabilize the river bed at ditch company points of diversion:
- Position new diversion structures to preserve present elevation and eliminate need for temporary dams.
- Help the river to remain in the present channel and preserve adequate water depth at inlet channel.
- Armor riverbanks above and below inlet channel to survive 100-year flood events.
- Reduce maintenance of the diversion structure and increase stream flows.
- Develop floodplain capacity to pass floodwaters with minimal scouring of vegetation and soils.
- Install gate structures where necessary to control water entering inlet channel.
- Discourage braiding of river channel above and below point of diversions.
- Encourage healthy riparian habitat near diversions.
- Contribute to restoration of sustainable fishery in river below the town of Mancos.
- Seek funding from other stakeholders and beneficiaries of the proposed work.
- Integrate project into flood control planning with Mancos Conservation District and landowners.
- Map all of the diversion structures.

### *Threshold and Evaluation Criteria*

The application 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 \$24,753 is requested from the Southwest Basin Account. Funding from the WSRA constitutes about 30% of the overall proposed project cost (\$82,409). The project has already been approved for a CWCB Watershed Restoration Program grant in the amount of \$30,500. However, this approved amount was a reduction from their original request to the Watershed Restoration Program of \$53,206. In addition, in-kind contributions will be provided by the San Juan RC&D (\$3,150) and the applicant (\$1,300)

### **Discussion:**

This study will assist the Southwest Basin Roundtable in identifying and addressing nonconsumptive needs within the basin. The project directly addresses the basin's nonconsumptive needs as identified by SWSI 2 and the ongoing Roundtable assessment process. By working to maximize the efficiency of six irrigation diversions the project also collaboratively addresses both consumptive and nonconsumptive needs in the basin. As a result this project is a good example of collaboration originally envisioned by the Colorado Water for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (HB 05-1177).

### **Issues/Additional Needs:**

- Either additional funding should be procured, or the scope of work adjusted to accommodate reduced funding approved from CWCB's Watershed Restoration Program (\$30,500 instead of the requested \$53,206).
- Due to deterioration one of the project's diversions, the Sheek Ditch has been diverting from Chicken Creek instead of its approved point of diversion on the Mancos River. The project should fully restore the approved point of diversion or include a water court application for an alternate point of diversion if use of the Chicken Creek structure will continue.
- Please provide a detailed scope of work, budget, and schedule as a standalone document for procurement.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

The proposed project will help identify and meet nonconsumptive water supply needs in the Southwest Basin. Staff recommends approval of up to \$24,753 from the Southwest Basin Account to partially fund the Mancos River Diversion Project, Phase I for the Mancos Conservation District contingent on resolution of the items in the issues/additional needs section.

All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to the 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 and Final Deliverable:** 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. 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 by or under the responsible charge of professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.