

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 9.c**

Applicant: Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District

Water Activity Name: Yellow Jacket Water District Water Storage Feasibility Study

Water Activity Purpose: Study of a structural water project

County: Rio Blanco County; small portions of Moffat and Garfield Counties

Drainage Basin: Yampa/White Basin

Water Source: various

Amount Requested: \$220,800 (Yampa/White Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$55,200 (20%; source not defined)

Staff Recommendation
The proposed project will examine up to three reservoir sites and determine one to be most effective. Staff recommends approval of up to \$220,000 from the Yampa/White Basin Account to help complete this project.

Water Activity Summary:

The applicant holds nine conditional direct flow water rights for a total of 1,986 cfs, and four conditional storage rights for a total of 170,340.6 acre-feet. The applicant seeks to analyze its water rights portfolio and determine an appropriate storage project to meet the needs of agricultural, municipal, industrial, wildlife and recreational uses.

As stated in the application, the scope of work includes the following three phases:

- 1) Review of Yellow Jacket's water rights portfolio
 - a. Review and assessment of all of the District's conditional water rights
 - b. Recommendation of 3 water rights/storage sites that currently meet logistical, environmental, water quantity and quality, feasibility and potential water storage capacity.
- 2) Analysis of 3 sites with recommendation of final proposed storage project
 - a. Assess overview of hydrological, geological, geographical, environmental factors for the three sites with resulting recommendation of one site to move to Phase III analysis.
 - b. Compare and assess sites to determine potential site with the greatest water storage capacity, which will yield greatest benefit to the overall District.
- 3) Analysis and outline for proposed water storage project
 - a. In-depth analysis and outline of action steps and timeline for a water storage project.
 - b. Detailed report to include inclusive environmental review, geological review (core drilling – soil samples), real estate acquisition and access assessment, and preliminary design and build costs.
 - c. Detailed assessment of storage capacity and corresponding beneficial uses.
 - d. Assessment of community support, involvement and cooperation.
 - e. Assessment of funding mechanisms to include review of public and private funding partnerships.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application/project meets all four Threshold Criteria, though further explanation of how it relates to the needs assessment will be necessary. No Statewide funds are being requested, therefore the evaluation criteria does not apply.

Funding Overview

Grant funding in the amount of \$220,000 is being requested from the Yampa/White Basin Account. Match includes \$55,200 of matching funds. No identified sources for match have been identified and \$46,000 of the total project budget is considered a contingency.

Discussion:

The Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District operates on an annual budget between \$22,000 and \$26,000, the majority of which goes to supporting USGS gaging operations. SWSI indicated that assistance to small rural water providers is needed. The Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District has been looking at a project for a number of years, including some of those for which they have described storage rights. The applicant has not specifically addressed the purpose and need for this project, but does have full basin roundtable support for it. The applicant does briefly indicate that industrial uses, such as oil shale are what is driving the timing of looking at a project now.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- All issues and additional needs have been resolved with the applicant.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$220,000 from the Yampa/White Basin Account to enable the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District Water Storage Feasibility Study.

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.