

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 32.k**

Applicant: Rural Water Authority of Douglas County (RWADC)

Water Activity Name: Rural Douglas County groundwater-level monitoring network

Water Activity Purpose: Study

County: Douglas County

Drainage Basin: Metro Basin Roundtable

Water Source: Denver Basin Aquifers

Amount Requested: \$113,055 (\$84,792 Statewide Account; \$28,263 Metro Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$60,880 (USGS, 54%)

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| Staff Recommendation |
| Staff recommends funding of up to \$113,055 (\$84,792 Statewide Account; \$28,263 Metro Basin Account). |

Water Activity Summary:

The primary objective of this study is to establish a county wide groundwater-level monitoring network for the long-term monitoring of the water resources of Douglas County, Colorado. The network will consist of approximately 30 existing wells throughout the county. Water levels will be measured monthly in all wells and five sites will be equipped with pressure transducers for continuous monitoring. Water levels measured from wells in the network will provide an assessment of the current water resource and provide the basis from which to monitor long-term changes of the hydrologic system.

As stated in the scope of work, the study has four main tasks:

1. **Identifying Target Monitoring Areas and Selecting Water-level Monitoring Sites:** Overlay existing aquifer maps with well location maps and simulated drawdown maps within each service district to assist in identifying areas of interest for future water-level monitoring.
2. **Field Visit and Site Survey:** Conduct site visits for identifying wells suitable for water-level monitoring. Final selection will be based on well screened interval, well access, primary use, frequency of use, and well owner cooperation.
3. **Monthly Water- Level Measurements and data Management:** Water levels in selected wells will be measured on a monthly basis and recorded.
4. **Report Preparation:** A standard USGS Scientific Investigation Report (SIR) will be prepared to summarize the year of water-level monitoring results, including comparison of the results to other existing data.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

The application articulates how the project meets each of the Evaluation Criteria. This water activity does an outstanding job of meeting the following Evaluation Criteria:

Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation & Meeting Water Management Goals & Identified Water Needs:

There are approximately 8,000 individual wells and 15 small water system providers represented in the application, and the project will promote cooperation and collaboration among these interests.

In addition, the United State Geological Survey (USGS) is cooperating and collaborating in this data collection effort. The project assesses a recognized intrabasin need (water needs evaluation).

Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation: Funding from the Basin and State-wide accounts is critical for project implementation. Collective groups of water providers and investors have the resources to move projects forward with coordinated efforts and mechanisms for financial returns to pay off dept. To date, there is a deficiency of similar opportunities for individual well users to either assess their needs or move forward towards acquiring a sustainable resource. A further understanding of the nature and extent of the existing water conditions in rural areas is important in identifying future needs. Developing water resources is complex and time intensive.

Funding Overview

The applicant is applying for a total of \$113,055 – \$84,792 of which from the Statewide Account and \$28,263 from the Metro Basin Account. As part of their application, USGS is providing matching in-kind work valued at \$60,880, which is equivalent to 54% of the funds being applied for.

Discussion:

In addition to this grant, the USGS applied for a severance tax grant (funds available 7/1/2011) to extend the groundwater-level monitoring network. The total cost of the project was \$83,600 (\$62,600 CWCB grant; \$21,000 in match). \$20,000 is being recommended with a high priority by CWCB staff. In working with the Water Information Section, it was determined that there is no overlap between the two grants.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- No issues were identified at this time.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding of up to \$113,055 (\$84,792 Statewide Account; \$28,263 Metro Basin Account) to fund the Rural Douglas County groundwater-level monitoring network.

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: 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 by or under the responsible charge of professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.