

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

**Applicant:** Grand River Ditch Company

**Water Activity Name:** Grand River Ditch Pipeline

**Water Activity Purpose:** Structural Activity

**County:** Garfield

**Drainage Basin:** Colorado

**Water Source:** Colorado River

**Amount Requested:** \$200,000

**Source of Funds:** \$175,000 (Statewide Account) and \$25,000 (Basin Account)

**Matching Funds:** Yes

<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Colorado Basin Account and denial of the request of \$175,000 from the Statewide account to help fund the Grand River Ditch Pipeline project. Recognizing that the CWCB has awarded a loan to the Grand River Ditch Company, staff also recommends that Board reduce the loan amount by the grant amount (\$25,000) at the November 2010 CWCB meeting.

**Water Activity Summary:**

In response to approximately 60 feet of a retaining wall that protects the Grand River Ditch collapsed due to an extended high-water season in the spring runoff period. The wall has been in place for over 100 years. The river runs very close to the ditch bank on the north side of the river and is at risk of failure as the river moves ever closer and the ditch seeps and slides into the river. The proposal is to pipe the damaged section, riprap and install rock jetties to divert some of the energy away from the proposed pipe. The pipeline will prevent ditch seepage and saturation of the bank between the ditch and the river. The project consists of a concrete water control structure, about 1400 feet of two 48 Inch pipes and related rock protection of both the pipe and structure. Without controlling the seepage from the ditch the bank will saturate having the potential to repeat the damage with debris and rocks sliding back into the river.

**Discussion:**

Staff reviewed the application to determine how well the project meets the statewide evaluation criteria within the WSRA criteria and guidelines. While the project appears to have immediate need due to the encroachment of the river and its impending failure, it does not appear to meet many of the statewide evaluation criteria. Primarily, the applicant did not directly answer the questions related to how their project meets the evaluation criteria rather listed how well the project addresses the SWSI findings. Specifically, the evaluation criteria's three tiers are:

1. Promoting collaboration/cooperation and meeting water management goals and identified water needs;
2. Facilitating water activity implementation; and
3. The water activity addresses issues of statewide value and maximizes benefits.

While the project meets some of the criteria such as facilitating water activity and assisting in funding projects, staff feels that the Statewide Account is not the appropriate funding source for this project. It is important to note that the Grand River Ditch Company was awarded a CWCB loan at the July 2010 meeting for approximately \$543,000 to finance the construction of this project. It is also important to note that the Colorado Basin Roundtable voted 12-8 in favor of the grant. Below is a summary of what the basin roundtable dissenters said of the Grand River project:

- Not enough money is in the Basin Account to do both grants and ensure funds are available for future requests.
- Benefactors should assess themselves at a higher rate, assessments have been too low for years, benefits private interests.
- We should save our money to complete mandated Consumptive and Nonconsumptive studies.
- It is a maintenance project that does not increase supplies.

**Issues/Additional Needs:** No additional needs/issues have been identified.

**Staff Recommendation:**

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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.