

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 22b**

Applicant: La Plata River and Cherry Creek Ditch Company

Water Activity Name: La Plata Cherry Creek Ditch Headgate Improvement Project

Water Activity Purpose: Structural Activity

County: La Plata County

Drainage Basin: La Plata River

Water Source: La Plata River/Cherry Creek

Amount Requested: \$25,000 (Southwest Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$119,000 (NRCS, SWCD and Ditch Company)

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to assist in the funding of the La Plata River and Cherry Creek Ditch Headgate Improvement project contingent upon the resolution of the issues and additional needs identified in this summary.

Water Activity Summary:

This project seeks to reconstruct the La Plata Cherry Creek Ditch headgate to provide for more efficient diversions. The point of diversion is located on the La Plata River upstream of the Town of Hesperus. The existing headgate is a gravel berm which diverts water from the La Plata River into a 10-foot wide channel containing a 5 foot Parshall flume which typically washes out in the spring run-off. The proposal is to construct a more permanent diversion structure, sluiceway and headgates. The existing diversion structure is currently unable to divert water when flows are below 30 cfs. By constructing a new headgate, the water users will be able to divert their legally entitled water when they otherwise would be limited by the physical limitations of the existing structure.

Discussion:

Staff supports the modernization of Colorado's water resources infrastructure to help optimize its use and maximize the beneficial use of the resource. It should be highlighted that the applicant is leveraging these grant funds significantly with approximately \$119,000 from other sources. Aside from the benefits to the agricultural users, the Division Engineer has found the diversion of water through the La Plata Cherry Creek Ditch and subsequently into Cherry Creek, a tributary of the La Plata River, is an efficient method to delivery water to the New Mexico state-line gage. In trials, the seepage losses via the ditch and Cherry Creek were 20% compared to losses as high as 90% utilizing the La Plata River channel.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- The total project cost is stated to be \$144,000, while a 2009 Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) cost estimate for the project was \$120,000. Please provide a revised budget detailing the project's costs.
- It appears that all of the funding sources identified in the application have not been secured at this time. Staff recommends that this grant request is contingent on the applicant securing the funds identified in the application.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to assist in the funding of the La Plata River and Cherry Creek Ditch Headgate Improvement project contingent upon the resolution of the issues and additional needs identified in this summary.

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.