

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program  
Water Activity Summary Sheet  
Agenda Item 12.c**

**Applicant:** Walden Reservoir Company

**Water Activity Name:** Walden Reservoir Company Structure for Water Control

**Water Activity Purpose:** Structural Water Project

**County:** Jackson

**Drainage Basin:** North Platte

**Water Source:** Illinois and Michigan Rivers

**Amount Requested:** \$36,000

**Source of Funds:** North Platte Basin Account

**Matching Funds:** \$5,600 (applicant/landowner contribution), \$2,300 (NRCS in-kind)

<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$36,000 from the North Platte Basin Account to help complete the Walden Reservoir Company Structure for Water Control.

**Water Activity Summary:**

The Walden Reservoir Company proposes to replace a deteriorated Structure for Water Control on the current Reservoir Delivery Ditch. The structure plays a critical role in controlling the flow of water into the reservoir, as well as preventing water from back flowing out of the reservoir during peak storage levels.

Currently, the existing structure is incapable of regulating water to the control level needed. A new check structure will effectively and efficiently control the water entering into the reservoir and prevent back flow from occurring. This higher degree of control and efficiency will benefit all consumptive and non-consumptive uses of the reservoir water.

The installation of the Structure for Water Control will address both the agricultural and environmental water needs in a cost effective, collaborative way. The Walden Reservoir provides irrigation water to six different individuals, ranches and entities that irrigate approximately 5,000 acres of hay and pasture land in Jackson County. In the future, it may also supply municipal water to the town of Walden. In addition to irrigating the highly valuable hayland, the reservoir and irrigation ditches create irrigation induced wetlands and riparian areas that provide habitat for many species of big game, waterfowl and upland birds, including the Greater Sage Grouse. The reservoir, irrigation ditches, wetlands and riparian areas all provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities as well.

The Walden Reservoir Company has received technical and engineering assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the survey and design of the proposed structure. NRCS will continue to provide technical support throughout the construction, revegetation, and maintenance phases of the project. The entire amount of the WSRA funds requested will be used in the actual construction and installation of the new structure.

*Threshold and Evaluation Criteria*

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

### *Funding Overview*

The applicant and affected landowners are contributing \$5,600 and the NRCS is contributing in-kind services valued at \$2,300. The full match is \$7,900 or 18% of the total project cost of \$43,900.

### **Discussion:**

As identified in the SWSI findings, small agricultural water users often lack the financial ability to adequately address infrastructure needs without financial aid. The Walden Reservoir Company does not possess the financial resources to make the required improvements to efficiently utilize its existing water rights. In addition, the SWSI Management Objectives, of the SWSI Phase II Report: Addressing the Water Supply Gap Technical Roundtable, include to “sustainably meet agricultural demands.” That management objective is directly met through this activity. The proposed project effectively meets the objectives of HB 1177 and the consumptive needs of the North Platte Basin by rehabilitating existing infrastructure to preserve agricultural water use.

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

No issues or additional needs remain.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of up to \$36,000 from the North Platte Basin Account to help complete the Walden Reservoir Company Structure for Water Control.

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.