

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 14.b**

Applicant: Jackson County Water Conservancy District

Water Activity Name: Structures for Water Control: Headgates and Diversion

Water Activity Purpose: Structural Water Project

County: Jackson

Drainage Basin: North Platte

Water Source: Michigan River

Amount Requested: \$128,828 (North Platte Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$13,500 (NRCS in-kind), \$12,883 (landowner contributions)

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| Staff Recommendation |
| Staff recommends approval of up to \$128,828 from the North Platte Basin Account to help complete Jackson County Water Conservancy District's Structures for Water Control: Headgates and Diversion. |

Water Activity Summary:

The Jackson County Water Conservancy District, proposes to replace four old, deteriorating headgate structures and install one new, permanent diversion structure. Each of the proposed structures is critical in the delivery of irrigation water to storage and/or to irrigated ground.

The existing headgate structures are in extremely poor condition. They are deteriorating and incapable of safely, effectively and efficiently controlling and regulating water flow into the Bostwick, Mutual, Staples 1, and Squibob ditches. In addition, there is no permanent diversion structure in the Michigan River. A temporary combination of rocks, sod, pipe, and wire panels are annually installed in order to divert water into the Richmond Ditch. The proposed new headgate structures will allow the water user's to safely, effectively, and efficiently control and regulate the amount of water entering each of the associated ditches. The proposed diversion structure will serve as a permanent check structure, thus eliminating annual damage to the streambanks and reducing sediment discharge. Installing these improved structures will not only help to maintain the current agricultural economic base, but will also help meet the identified consumptive need of increasing irrigated acres within the county. Improved water efficiency is a benefit to all consumptive and associated non-consumptive uses of irrigation water.

The structures will address both the agricultural and environmental water needs in a cost effective, collaborative way. The structures on the five different ditches provide irrigation water to nineteen different individuals and entities that irrigate over 12,000 acres of hay and pasture land in Jackson County. In addition to irrigating highly valuable hayland, the irrigation water creates 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 ditches, wetlands, and riparian areas provide a variety of recreational opportunities as well.

The Jackson County Water Conservancy District has received technical and engineering assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the survey and design of the proposed structures. NRCS will continue to provide technical support throughout the construction, revegetation, and maintenance phases of the project.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Funding Overview

The Water Right Owners are contributing 10% of the total costs occurred for project construction and installation (Task 3), totaling \$12,883. The Water Right Owners shall also be responsible for any and all cost over-rides. In addition, the NRCS is contributing in-kind services valued at \$13,500. Ninety percent of the requested WSRA funds will be used in the actual construction and installation of the new, shovel ready structure projects. The remaining ten percent of the requested funds will be used for the administration costs of the project.

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 Jackson County Water Conservancy District 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 \$128,828 from the North Platte Basin Account to help complete Jackson County Water Conservancy District’s Structures for Water Control: Headgates and Diversion.

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.