

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

Applicant: Loban, Hackleman and Olsen LLC.

Water Activity Name: Seneca Ditch - Structure for Water Control

Water Activity Purpose: Structural Water Project

County: Jackson

Drainage Basin: North Platte

Water Source: Michigan River

Amount Requested: \$57,539.70 (North Platte Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$2,500 (NRCS in-kind), \$6,393.30 (landowner contributions), for a total of \$8,893.30 (15.4%)

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$57,539.70 from the North Platte Basin Account to reconstruct the Seneca Ditch Headgate.

Water Activity Summary:

The Seneca Ditch water right owner's propose to replace an old, deteriorated headgate at the point of diversion on the Michigan River. The headgate structure plays an important role in regulating and controlling the flow of irrigation and livestock water entering the Seneca ditch. The existing structure is run down and no longer has the ability to effectively regulate and control water. A new structure will allow the user's to effectively and efficiently manage the amount water entering the Seneca ditch during seasonal irrigation flows, as well as provide a positive shutoff control, to the ditch, at the structure. This improved level of water control will improve irrigation water management and benefit all uses associated with the Seneca ditch water.

Installation of the Structure for Water Control addresses both consumptive and non-consumptive needs in a cost effective, collaborative way. The Seneca Ditch provides irrigation water to three different landowners in the northern part of the county, which irrigate approximately 1,100 acres of hay and pasture land. In addition to irrigating hayland, some water is also allocated for livestock use. The irrigation ditches below the structure create valuable 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 area is indicated as having important wetlands and waterfowl hunting/viewing in the Roundtable's nonconsumptive needs assessment.

The water right holder's of the Seneca Ditch headgate have 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, installation, revegetation, and maintenance phases of the project.

The entire amount of the WSRA funds requested will be used in the actual construction, installation and administration of the new structure.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Funding Overview

Total project cost is \$66,433. The grant is for \$57,539.70.

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 owners do 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 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.

In addition, the area is identified as having significant wetland habitat due to irrigation management practices. Maintaining the headgate will also help maintain these wetland areas.

Issues/Additional Needs:

No issues or additional needs remain.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$57,539.70 from the North Platte Basin Account to help reconstruct the Seneca Ditch headgate.

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.

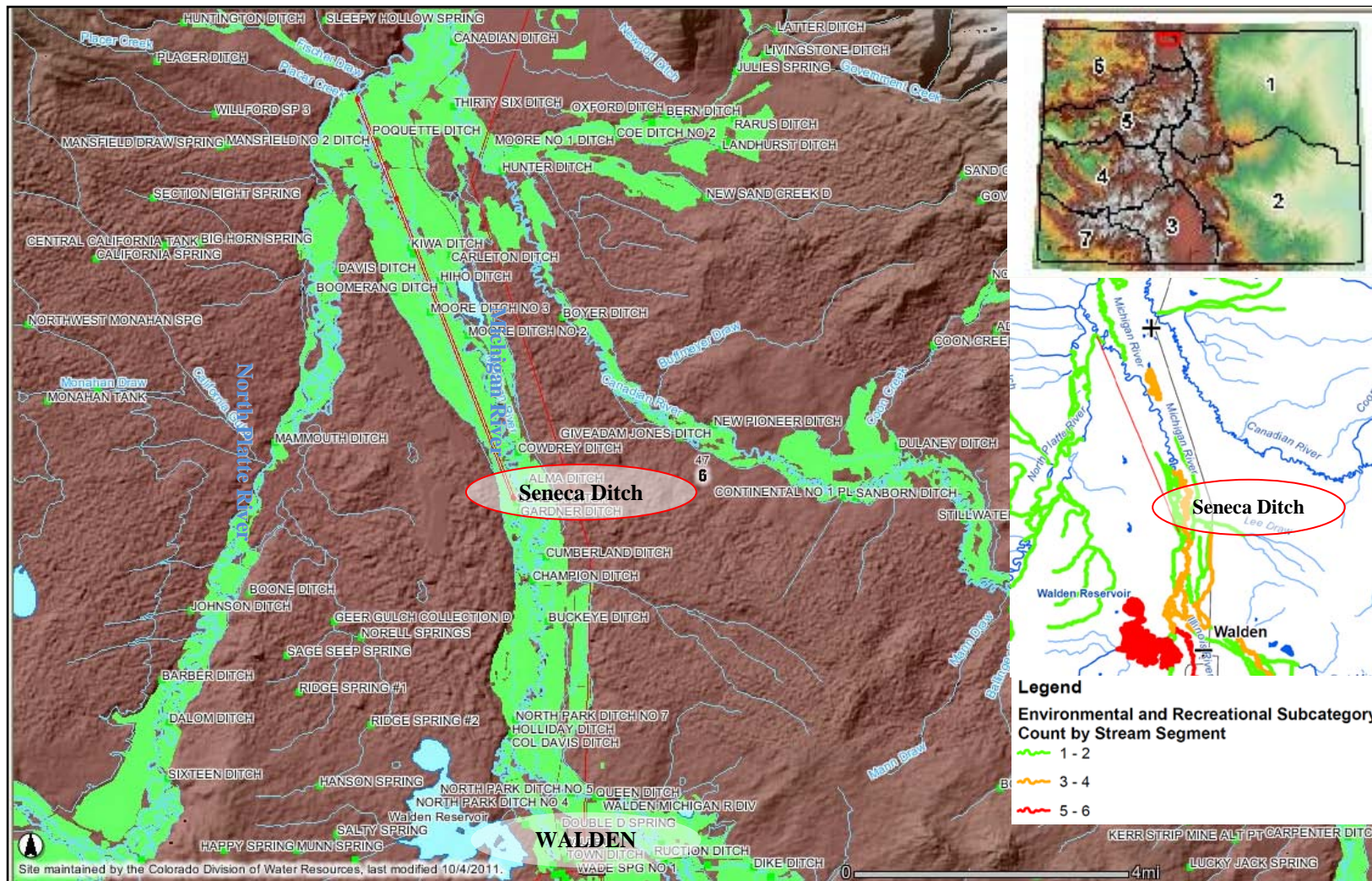


Figure 1. Seneca Ditch Location Map, including irrigated lands in green, and nonconsumptive map insert.