

## **NORTH PLATTE BASIN ROUNDTABLE**

Wm. Kent Crowder, Chair  
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June 13, 2012

Mr. Todd Doherty  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Water Supply Planning Section  
WSRA Application  
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Water Supply Reserve Account Grant Application for the Seneca Ditch Project – Structure for Water Control - \$57,539.70 Basin Account WSRA Funds

Dear Mr. Doherty:

This letter is to advise you that the grant application for \$57,539.70 in Basin Account funds for the Seneca Ditch Project - Structure for Water Control was reviewed by the North Platte Basin Roundtable (NPBRT) during its May 22, 2012 meeting, and was later evaluated utilizing the NPBRT Water Supply Reserve Account Grant Evaluation Criteria. During the June 12, 2012 North Platte Basin Roundtable meeting, seven voting members of the NPBRT voted to approve the project and the requested WSRA funding and one voting member, Tom Hackleman, abstained from voting because he is the applicant and will be a direct beneficiary of the project. A minority report is not required because there were no dissenting votes.

The NPBRT has identified the development of the full allocation of irrigated acres in the North Platte Basin allowed under the equitable apportionment Supreme Court Decree and the Three States Agreement as a very high priority consumptive need. This project will provide funding to replace an old deteriorated headgate structure that no longer has the ability to effectively regulate and control water. A new structure will allow the landowners and users to effectively and efficiently manage the amount of water entering the Seneca ditch during irrigation season, as well as provide a positive shutoff control for the ditch. This improved level of water control will improve irrigation water management and benefit all uses associated with the Seneca ditch water. Improved water efficiency is a benefit to all consumptive and associated non-consumptive uses of irrigation water. 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 the highly valuable hayland, the irrigation ditches below the structure create extremely 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 North Platte Basin Roundtable requests that this project be "fast tracked" and presented to the CWCB during the Board's July 2012 meeting. This will allow adequate time to get contracts developed and executed during the summer which should facilitate bidding and construction of the headgate by the fall of 2012. We would like to see the project on the ground this year if at all possible.

Please feel free to call me with any questions that you may have regarding the North Platte Basin Roundtable meeting or our level of support for this project.

Sincerely,



Wm. Kent Crowder, Chair  
North Platte Basin Roundtable

cc: Tom Hackleman