

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 25.m**

Applicant: Robinson Ditch Company

Water Activity Name: Robinson Ditch Piping Improvements

Water Activity Purpose: Structural Water Project

County: Eagle County

Drainage Basin: Colorado River

Water Source: Roaring Fork River

Amount Requested: \$120,000

Source of Funds: Colorado Basin Account

Matching Funds: \$140,000 (applicant)

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$60,000 from the Colorado Basin Account to help complete the project titled: Robinson Ditch Piping Improvements, on the condition that the issues and additional needs are met.

Water Activity Summary:

The Robinson Ditch Company provides irrigation water to its shareholders who include many agricultural ranches and two tree nurseries. The Robinson Ditch is decreed for 40.26 cubic feet per second (cfs) and diverts off the north bank of the Roaring Fork River.

Since the mid-1950's, homeowners and business have encroached above and below the ditch. Cottonwood trees and willows that have grown into the side banks of the ditch are near the end of their life span. As the trees die, the roots of the tree that have penetrated the ditch banks decay and potentially provide a conduit for leaks. In turn, the leaks have a strong potential to increase the breach risk which in turn creates an unsafe condition for those homes and business now located below the ditch.

To address this issue, the Robinson Ditch Company has been piping high risk and unsafe portions of the Ditch over the last several years. Piping of the ditch significantly increases safety for the homeowners and business below the ditch. Piping of the ditch also has the additional benefits of conveying water more efficiently and conserving water by stopping leakage and evaporation (ditch loss). Funding will be used to pipe approximately 1,000 lineal feet of the Robinson Ditch over a four year period.

The grant lists the following objectives:

- Increase safety for the homes and business located below the ditch;
- Increase the efficiency of the ditch; and
- Water conservation due to increased ditch efficiency.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Discussion:

There was significant discussion at the roundtable about this project. Many roundtable members believed that the project had potential to be a multi-purpose project by using the efficiency savings for other needs. Other members believed that the project could be expedited through a combination of grants and loans. Some members believed this project was primarily a safety project and not appropriate for WSRA funding. There was also concern raised about the cottonwoods along the ditch dying and there not being a vegetation management plan or outreach to the

community about how the plans of the ditch could affect the cottonwoods. In the end, the roundtable voted to approve funds of \$60,000 to the applicant and encouraged them to seek loan funding for the remaining amount. There was one dissenting opinion due to the fact that there was no community outreach or revegetation plan.

Issues/Additional Needs:

Please provide the following:

- A revised scope of work and schedule for how the project will be successful with only \$60,000 in funds, since the applicant has indicated that they do not need loan funding.
- Confirmation that neighboring property owners will be notified of construction adjacent to their property.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval, on the condition that the issues and additional needs are met, of up to \$60,000 from the Colorado Basin Account to help complete the project titled: Robinson Ditch Piping Improvements.

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.