

NORTH PLATTE BASIN ROUNDTABLE

Wm. Kent Crowder, Chair
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March 13, 2013

Mr. Greg Johnson
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 Mutual Ditch Check/Wastegate Structure for Water Control - \$41,940.00 Basin Account WSRA Funds

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This letter is to advise you that the WSRA grant application for \$41,940.00 in Basin Account funds for the Mutual Ditch Project - Structure for Water Control (Check/Wastegate) was reviewed by the North Platte Basin Roundtable (NPBRT) during its March 12, 2013 meeting, and was evaluated utilizing the NPBRT Water Supply Reserve Account Grant Evaluation Criteria. During this meeting of the North Platte Basin Roundtable, ten voting members of the NPBRT voted to approve the project and the requested WSRA funding and one voting member, Blaine Evans, abstained from voting because he is one of the owners of water right in the Mutual Ditch 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 check/wastegate structure that no longer has the ability to effectively protect the Mutual Ditch from damage and wash out. A new structure will play an essential role in regulating and controlling the water level in the Mutual Ditch, by serving as an emergency check/wastegate during periods of high flows. This important water control structure will improve irrigation water management and benefit all uses associated with the Mutual Ditch water. The Mutual Ditch provides irrigation water to five different landowners in the western part of the county and provides water to irrigate approximately 4,900 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.

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: Greg Ray