

## ***NORTH PLATTE BASIN ROUNDTABLE***

Wm. Kent Crowder, Chair  
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July 23, 2014

Craig Godbout - WSRA Application  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203  
[Craig.godbout@state.co.us](mailto:Craig.godbout@state.co.us)

Re: Water Supply Reserve Account Grant Application for the re-establishment of lysimeters in the North Park basin to determine high altitude, hay meadow crop coefficients - North Platte River Basin - Total of \$194,102 WSRA Funds Requested - \$97,051 Basin Account Funds and \$97,051 Statewide Account Funds

Dear Mr. Godbout:

This letter is to advise you that the grant application for WSRA funds from Basin and Statewide Accounts submitted by the Colorado Climate Center for the project to re-establish lysimeters in the North Park basin to determine high altitude, hay meadow crop coefficients was reviewed by the North Platte Basin Roundtable and was approved by a unanimous vote of the voting members present at the North Platte Basin Roundtable meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2014. Because there were no dissenting votes on project funding, a minority report is not required.

This project will re-establish lysimeter measurements in the high altitude, hay meadow environment of North Park in order for the North Platte Basin to better quantify consumptive use in the basin. Although lysimeters have been historically operated in the basin, the data collected has been deemed questionable due to site exposure, infrequent watering and possible equipment failures. The Climate Center was unable to quantify crop coefficients for the high altitude hay meadows due to various problems with these established lysimeters. This project will utilize the three existing weather stations to calculate ASCE reference ET and will build upon the 5 years of data collected already by providing ongoing support for the weather stations and installing and running new lysimeters adjacent to one of the stations in order to quantify crop consumptive use which will allow for the calculation of crop coefficients. Two lysimeters will be installed side by side for redundancy in case of failure. The conditions on the lysimeters will be treated to mimic operations in the hay meadows (same irrigation and cutting) in order to get at actual crop consumptive use in order to calculate crop coefficients.

This project will provide quantitative assessments of irrigated hay meadow consumptive use and its relationship to local weather conditions. This type of information is essential for this basin's on-going needs assessment and to better quantifying consumptive water needs. The Yampa-White roundtable has a similar project to quantify consumptive use near Hayden. These results will cover a range of elevations in the two basins and could possibly be extended to other Colorado basins. The project will help agriculture in the basin better understand the crop water use requirements from irrigated hay meadows in North Park, and may have an impact on the compact with Wyoming regarding consumptive use of irrigated meadows in the North Platte Basin.

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