

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 24, 2013
Agenda Item 18(o)

Applicant: Delta Conservation District and Somerset Domestic Waterworks District

Water Activity Name: Somerset Diversion Improvement Study – North Fork of the Gunnison
River Corridor Project

Water Activity Purpose: Municipal/Industrial & Non-consumptive

County: Delta

River Basin: Gunnison

Water Source: North Fork of the Gunnison

Amount Requested: \$43,200 (Statewide Account); \$4,800 Gunnison Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$10,075 in-kind match (17% -various stakeholders)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$43,200 from the Statewide Account, and \$4,800 from the Gunnison Basin Account to conduct the study titled: Somerset Diversion Improvement Study – North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Project

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds will be expended to conduct a study to determine long term alternatives to maintain water flows to the Town of Somerset’s Domestic Waterworks District which supplies treated water to 59 water taps. In addition, this study will evaluate the potential to build drop structures in the North Fork to benefit recreational boating and fishing activities under various flow regimes. Currently the diversion structure which delivers water supplies to the Treatment Works has difficulty supplying adequate amounts of water under low flow condition. The existing system to control sediment entering the water treatment facility is a temporary approach operated by Oxbow Mining LLC and is not a viable long term solution. While the existing diversion structure, filtration system and one of two water storage tanks are owned by Oxbow Mining LLC – Elk Creek Mine, ownership of all these components will eventually be transferred to the Somerset Domestic Waterworks District upon cessation of mining operations. The proposed study will: define key stakeholder’s requirements for the project; and provide a preliminary project design and cost estimate, including an evaluation to determine Oxbow’s willingness to allow the potential to build drop structures in the river to benefit recreational boating and fishing activities, and the development of public access rights on the river.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria:

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Funding/Match Summary:

WSRA Statewide Account	\$43,200	74.4%
WSRA Gunnison Basin Account	\$4,800	8.2%
Delta Conservation District (in-kind)	\$2,975	5.1%
Oxbow LLC (in-kind)	\$2,500	4.3%
Co Parks and Wildlife (in-kind)	\$2,000	3.4%
Somerset Domestic Waterworks District (in-kind)	\$2,000	3.4%
Trout Unlimited (in-kind)	\$400	0.8%
Paonia Kayak Club (in-kind)	\$200	0.4%
Total Project Costs	\$58,075	100%

The application articulates how the project meets the Evaluation Criteria as summarized below:

Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation & Meeting Water Management Goals & Identified Needs:

- a. The proposed study addresses both consumptive and non-consumptive needs (domestic water supply needs, and environmental and recreational needs, respectively), and addresses the interests of multiple interests (divestiture of un-needed facilities on behalf of Oxbow Mining; the acquisition of, and control of water infrastructure facilities on behalf of Somerset Domestic Waterworks District; and the improvement of public access and recreational opportunities on behalf of the public).
- b. The proposed study represents a high degree of cooperation and collaboration among traditional consumptive water interests and non-consumptive interests represented by private and public entities, and non-governmental organizations, as is demonstrated by the in-kind contributions on behalf of most parties involved.
- c. The proposed study and potential improvements will address needs identified in the North Fork of the Gunnison Watershed Assessment.

Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation:

- d. Receiving funding for this study will enable the North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Project to proceed and addresses multiple issues affecting the health of the river corridor while promoting greater awareness and greater public recreational access to the river.
- e. The combined in-kind match \$10,075 on behalf of the participants represents approximately 17% of total project costs of \$58,075 and demonstrates an appropriate commitment to the project.

Tier 3: The Water Activity Addresses Issues of Statewide Value and Maximizes Benefits:

- f. The water activity has the potential to improve environmental and recreational needs by including the possibility of the construction of drop structure that could enhance fish habitat and recreational boating opportunities, and increased river access for the public.
- g. The water activity promotes the maximum utilization of state water by improving diversion efficiencies.
- h. n/a
- i. The water activity has the potential to provide a high level of benefit to Colorado in relationship to the amounts of funds requested due to an improvement in domestic water delivery and quality, improved environmental and recreational opportunities.
- j. The water activity has the potential to compliment CWCB' Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund(ing) efforts to mitigate the impacts of existing water supply facilities and helping to preserve a balance between development of the state's resources and the protection of the state's fish and wildlife resources by including the possibility of constructing drop structures in the river that could enhance fish habitat.

Discussion:

No additional discussion is needed.

Issues/Additional Needs:

No additional issues or needs were identified.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$43,200 from the Statewide Account, and \$4,800 from the Gunnison Basin Account for project titled: Somerset Diversion Improvement Study – North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Project.

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 and Final Deliverable: 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. 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.