

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program**  
**Water Activity Summary Sheet**  
**March 18-19, 2015**  
**Agenda Item 17(b)**

**Applicant & Fiscal Agent:** Board of County Commissioners, Elbert County

**Water Activity Name:** Elbert County Rural Water Supply Study

**Water Activity Purpose:** Needs Assessment/ Water Supply Study

**County:** Elbert

**River Basin:** South Platte

**Water Source:** To be determined

**Amount Requested/Source of Funds:** \$40,000 Metro Account  
\$40,000 South Platte Basin Account  
\$40,000 Statewide Account  
\$120,000 Total grant request

**Matching Funds:** Basin Account Match (\$80,000) = 66.6% of total grant request  
Basin Account & Applicant Match (\$100,000) = 83% of total grant request  
Applicant Match (\$20,000) = 14% of total study costs (\$140,000)  
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds*)

<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$40,000 from the Metro Account; \$40,000 from the South Platte Basin Account; and \$40,000 from the Statewide Account to help complete the study titled: Elbert County Rural Water Supply Study.

**Water Activity Summary:** Elbert County relies heavily on nonrenewable groundwater from the Denver Basin aquifers for water supply. Population growth in the county has placed increasing demands on groundwater resources, and future groundwater withdrawals are expected to increase as the population continues to grow. The proximity of Elbert County to the major urban areas of the Front Range creates challenges as to demands, but also raises the prospect of potential opportunities for collaboration in regional projects. Elbert County government is committed to developing public policy to ensure adequate water supply for Elbert County's future agricultural, municipal and industrial needs. This requires identification of options, goals, opportunities and measurable outcomes for policy development relating to this nonrenewable water resource. A comprehensive review of current rural Elbert County water needs is required to evaluate the continued use of Denver Basin groundwater through 2050, and the associated institutional and financial challenges. Grant funding will be used in 2014 and 2015 to review recent Denver basin groundwater studies and water level data to assess the sustainability of current and future use of Denver Basin groundwater by rural, suburban, metropolitan and industrial uses, and by water districts.

Study Objectives include:

1. Identify supplies and quantify long-term projected water demand for Elbert County through the 2050 planning horizon under varying projected growth scenarios.
2. Review recent Denver Basin groundwater studies and water level data for Elbert County.
3. Assess the sustainability of current and future use of Denver Basin groundwater by Elbert County's rural residents, water districts and municipalities
4. Identify water resource options, and opportunities to optimize existing and future water supply infrastructure including renewable water, reuse & water efficiency alternatives.
5. Provide comparative cost-benefit analysis for water resource alternatives and identify potential funding scenarios.
6. Identify goals, opportunities, challenges and measurable outcomes for decision makers' policy development, and time-critical thresholds for preserving options for existing and new water supply.

#### **Discussion:**

In a related effort, Elbert County has received \$96,500 in Statewide WSRA grant funding, \$12,000 from the Metro Account, and \$6,000 from the South Platte Basin Account approved by CWCB during the September 2014 meeting to support a three-year groundwater monitoring program to be performed by the USGS. This effort will help info the current proposal.

#### **Issues/Additional Needs:**

No additional issues or needs were identified.

#### **Threshold and Evaluation Criteria:**

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

#### **Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria:**

Staff has reviewed and evaluated the applicant's response to the Statewide Account Evaluation Criteria and has determined that the minimum requirements have been meet. Please refer to WSRA Application for applicant's detailed response.

#### **Funding Overview/Matching Funds:**

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
WSRA Statewide Account	\$40,000	n/a	\$40,000
WSRA Metro Account	\$40,000	n/a	\$40,000
WSRA South Platte Basin Account	\$40,000	n/a	\$40,000
Elbert County	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>

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.