

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Request for Change of Fiscal Agent
March 16-17, 2015
Agenda Item 14 (ad)

Current Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Ducks Unlimited

Proposed Fiscal Agent: United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Water Activity Name: MacFarlane Dam Rehabilitation

Water Activity Purpose: Reservoir Rehabilitation

County: Jackson

Drainage Basin: North Platte

Water Source: Soap Creek

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$500,000 North Platte Basin Account
\$100,000 Statewide Account
\$600,000 Total Grant Request

Matching Funds: Basin Account Match: \$500,000 = 83% of total grant request (meets 5% min);
Basin Account & Applicant Match: \$1,586,465 = 264% of total grant request (meets 25% min);
Applicant & 3rd Party Match: \$1,086,465 = 64% of total project costs
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds*)

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of change of fiscal agent from Ducks Unlimited to the United States Fish & Wildlife Service for the project titled: MacFarlane Dam Rehabilitation

Water Activity Summary: Built in 1915, and reconstructed in 1962, MacFarlane Dam impounds at least 6,500 AF of water. This water is decreed for irrigation, recreation, wildlife habitat, and piscatorial purposes, and is used to irrigate more than 1,600 acres of pasture and wet meadow in North Park. Thousands of acres of wetlands and wet meadow are associated with the water stored and delivered from the reservoir. DU believes that this area contains some of the highest quality waterfowl and sage grouse production areas in the state. The MacFarlane Reservoir is owned by the Evans Land and Cattle, Inc (ELC) (50%) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) (50%) including United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

WSRA funds, if approved, will be expended to fund this collaborative effort for the MacFarlane Dam Rehabilitation Project (the Project), which will repair the outlet pipe and toe drains as necessary to avoid a State Engineer's Office, Dam Safety storage restriction order. MacFarlane Dam has a history of seepage and slope stability problems, including a slope failure near the left abutment of the dam which was repaired in 1975. A 2014 field investigation noted several dam safety deficiencies

including: (1) Wave erosion damage along the upstream slope of the north embankment; (2) Inadequate seepage control along both embankments; (3) Localized slope instability in the downstream slope of both embankments; (4) A severely deteriorated outlet works terminal structure; and, (5) No emergency spillway control section to minimize scour during large spillway discharges.

The Project goal is to address the identified dam safety deficiencies. The following are objectives to meet that goal: (1) Ensure dam safety by repairing the existing embankment and associated outlet structures; (2) Ensure longevity of the dam by reconstructing the emergency spillway; (3) Provide adequate storage volumes matching existing water rights; and, (4) Provide reliable access to the site.

Discussion: Subsequent to several project coordination meetings among the applicant, the fiscal agent, USFWS and CWCB staff it has been determined that a change in fiscal agent from Ducks Unlimited to the USFWS would better serve the project objectives by reducing the number of participants involved in the reimbursement process and provide a leaner managerial structure.

CWCB Project Manager: Jonathan Hernandez