

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
July 20-21, 2016
Agenda Item 16(b)

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: The New Multa Trina Ditch Company

Water Activity Name: North Thompson Ditch

Water Activity Purpose: Agricultural

County: Garfield

Drainage Basin: Colorado

Water Source: West Divide Creek

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$20,000 Colorado Basin Account
\$20,000 Total Basin Account request

Matching Funds: Applicant Match: \$140,000 = 87.5% of the total project cost of \$160,000
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section below)

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$20,000 from the Colorado Basin Account to help fund the project titled: North Thompson Ditch.

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved, will help fund the project titled: North Thompson Ditch. Approximately 2 to 3 years ago the US Forest Service clear-cut the timber above the north collection ditch that is part of the Thompson diversion ditch system. The ditch company believes that the combination of the clear cut and the above average rainfall in the month of May 2015 caused the ground to slip taking out approximately 500 feet of ditch.

The New Multa Trina Ditch Company is going to pipe 500 feet of ditch with an inverted siphon. The work will be completed between July 1, 2016 and November 1, 2016. The outcome from the slide would cause the shareholders to lose one to two weeks of water to irrigate their agriculture land. Piping would also cut down the loss to evaporation. The shareholders of the ditch company want to avoid losing the amount of water delivered at a very crucial time of year, due to not being able to transfer the water from the north drainage that is carried by the north collection ditch of the Thompson Creek diversion project.

The long term goals of the TNMTDC are to pipe as much of the ditch as can be so to reduce water loss. When there are needed repairs pipe will be used, if feasible. Repairing the Thompson creek project will make sure that the late water needs of shareholders are met, thereby protecting the water right. The project will be funded by USDA, Colorado River Water Conservation District, cash and in kind (miles and time) from shareholders. The water is needed to preserve the ranches and farms that rely on the New Multa Trina Ditch Company for irrigation water.

Discussion: The Colorado Basin Roundtable voted unanimously at its May 23, 2016, meeting to support the New Multa Trina Ditch Company's WSRA grant request, but at the 50 percent level:

\$20,000. This is not a reflection on the merits of the project but of the fact that Severance Tax Funds are down and affecting WSRA Basin Account funding.

This project meets two major themes of the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan; 1) Sustain, Protect, and Promote Agriculture and 2) Encourage Conservation.

This project also meets additional critical actions identified in the Critical Action Plan (Chapter 10) of Colorado's Water Plan:

- **D2:** Encourage ditch-wide and regional planning to explore system-wide conservation and efficiency opportunities and tradeoffs, the potential for water sharing, and long-term infrastructure maintenance needs.
- **D3:** Provide grants, loans, and technical support to update and improve Colorado's aging agricultural infrastructure, especially where improvements provide multiple benefits.

Issues/Additional Needs: Staff will work with applicant to update budget and schedule, based on the Colorado Basin Roundtable's decision to fund this project at 50% of the request.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria: The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria: n/a

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
CRWCD	\$40,000	n/a	\$40,000
USDA	\$85,000	n/a	\$85,000
Ditch Company	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
Subtotal Matching Funds	\$135,000	\$0	\$140,000
WSRA Colorado Basin Account	\$20,000	n/a	\$20,000
Total Project Costs	\$155,000	\$5,000	\$160,000

*** Staff will work with project proponent to ensure that sufficient funds are in-hand to fully fund the project, given the CBRT decision to fund at 50%.**

CWCB Project Manager: Brent Newman

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: 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.

Final Deliverable: 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.