

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 22-23, 2017
Agenda Item 24(i)

Applicant & Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Water Activity Name: Peterson Farm Ponds Recharge Project

Water Activity Purpose: Multi-Purpose (Agricultural, Environmental & Recreation)

County: Sedgwick

Drainage Basin: South Platte

Water Source: South Platte River & Julesberg Irrigation District

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$46,945 South Platte Basin Account
\$111,177 Statewide Account*
\$158,122 Total Grant Request

* The discrepancy between the Statewide Account request in the application, the Roundtable Chair Recommendation Letter (\$140,835), and that stated herein can be attributed to the applicant's voluntarily reducing their request to accommodate the Statewide Account shortfall.

Matching Funds: Basin Account Match (\$46,945) = 42.2% of Statewide Account request (meets 10% min);
Applicant's In-kind Match (\$325,000) = 292% of Statewide Account request (meets 10% min);
Total Match (Basin & Applicant Match of \$371,945 = 334.6% of Statewide Account request (meets 50% min).
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends **conditional** approval (contingent upon the applicant satisfying the issues in the *Issues/Additional Needs* section below) of up to \$46,945 from the South Platte Basin Account; and \$111,177 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: Peterson Farm Ponds Recharge Project.

Water Activity Summary: If approved, WSRF grant funds will assist Ducks Unlimited (DU) efforts to construct a multi-purpose aquifer recharge project in the lower South Platte River Basin to improve agricultural viability, support strong environmental and recreational opportunities, and narrow the projected Lower South Platte net water gap of 16,000 acre-feet in 2050 (p. 4-92 SPBIP). Specifically, DU proposes to construct four groundwater recharge ponds on a 100-acre tract of land in Water District 64 that was acquired by DU's land holding entity, Wetlands America Trust for this project. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) funds will be used to complete the land survey, develop the engineering plan sets, acquire and install the water infrastructure, accomplish the earthwork, and provide construction management throughout the project duration. The site will

receive delivery of recharge water through the Petersen Ditch, under Julesburg Irrigation District's (JID) administration. Through CWCB funding, the existing pumps and pipelines will be integrated with new water infrastructure, enabling delivery to four separate recharge cells which can be utilized independently or in-concert. The diversity of options will enable JID to better manage South Platte River water resources and improve agricultural viability into the future by firming up augmentation supplies for well depletions.

In addition to providing agricultural augmentation water to agricultural users in the area, the ponds will provide critical off-channel waterfowl and migratory bird habitat (Section 3.2.3.4 SPBIP). The ponds will aide in maintaining the habitat base for the significant population of non-breeding waterfowl that utilize the lower South Platte River in fall, winter and, especially, spring. The added habitat will help support recreational hunting opportunities in the South Platte, which serves more than 80% of the state's waterfowl hunters.

Discussion: This project furthers multiple goals and objectives of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (SPBIP) in accordance with Section 4.5.2.5: Cooperative and Multi-Purpose Projects, an example of which is identified as "Environmental or recreational pools or cooperative agreements with respect to storage reservoirs, providing streamflows that enhance or protect recreational or environmental instream flow needs"; and Section 1.9.1: Agriculture, with a Measurable Outcome #3 of "Support strategies to address agricultural water shortages through IPPs, new multi-purpose projects and innovative measures to maximize use of available water supplies".

With respect to Colorado's Water Plan, this project supports the Critical Goals and Actions as described in Section 10.3A: Supply and Demand Gap, "Protect and Develop Compact Entitlements and Manage Risks", and Section 10.3D: Agriculture, "Maintain Agricultural Viability".

Issues/Additional Needs: At the direction of the South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT), final approval of this grant request is contingent upon the applicant obtaining an operating agreement with the Julesburg Irrigation District prior to November 1, 2017 and entering into a grant contract with CWCB. CWCB staff will work with the SPBRT and the applicant to ensure the operating agreement is in place prior to contracting. In addition, at the request of the South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT), the grantee is required to provide annual reporting to the SPBRT for the first three years of the project, in order to report successes or failures with water supply deliveries that compare actual project benefits to currently estimated project benefits.

Eligibility Requirements:

The application meets requirements of the three subsections of the Eligibility Requirements: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, and Water Activity Eligibility.

Eligibility Based on Funding Match Requirements:

The application meets the Statewide Account Matching requirements.

Evaluation Criteria:

This activity has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to WSRF Application and Exhibit A (Statement of Work) for applicant's detailed response.

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ducks Unlimited	\$0	\$325,000	\$325,000
WSRF South Platte Basin Account	\$46,945	n/a	\$46,945
WSRF Statewide Account	\$111,177	n/a	\$111,177
Total Project Costs	\$158,122	\$325,000	\$483,122

CWCB Project Manager: Craig Godbout

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.