

Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
July 19-20, 2017
Agenda Item 15(d)

Applicant & Grantee: Big Stick Ditch Company
Water Activity Name: Lightner Creek Canal Improvement and Water Efficiency Project
Water Activity Purpose: Agricultural Implementation
County: La Plata
Drainage Basin: Southwest / La Plata
Water Source: La Plata River
Amount Requested: \$30,000 Southwest Basin Account
Matching Funds: Applicant Match (cash & in-kind) = \$60,100

- 200% of Basin Account request (meets 25% min)
- 67% of total project cost of \$90,100

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$30,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Lightner Creek Canal Improvement and Water Efficiency Project.
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Water Activity Summary: This WSRF grant, if approved, will assist the Big Stick Ditch Company in cleaning and regrading 8,000 ft. of the Lightner Creek Canal within its existing right of way from the Sawmill Canyon headgate to the La Plata River. The current system experiences over 70% loss due to seepage. Efforts will line sections of the canal ditch bottom and sides with soil amendments of bentonite and lime, while portions traveling through gravel and fractured rock will be treated with sac-crete to prevent further seepage. Five culvert pipes with hand-wheel controlled gates will be installed along the ditch to allow draining in winter months, helping to prevent ditch backup and erosion. The project contractor will survey and stake the canal to accurately define ditch elevation and ensure proper alignment and grade. The Big Stick Ditch Company's annual budget is around \$12,800; funds are spent on existing operations and management commitments leaving little budget for canal maintenance.

Discussion: The proposed work will promote maximum utilization of state waters by improving the delivery system to benefit local irrigators. As described in the Southwest Basin Roundtable Chair's Recommendation Letter, this project supports the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan (SWBIP) IPP #12-LaP because the improvement project brings water from a tributary of the Animas River (considered water abundant) to help meet irrigation demands in La Plata Basin (considered water short). The project supports IPP #13-LaP because the added source will support additional deliveries from the Big Stick Ditch using canal improvement methods to increase efficiency and use existing infrastructure to conserve water used for irrigation. The project meets three of the seven SWBIP goals including: balance all needs and reduce conflict, meet agriculture needs, and environmental needs through increased La Plata River base flows.

This project also assists in satisfying Colorado's Water Plan Critical Goals and Actions as identified in *Chapter 10.3.D: Agriculture* to support agriculture conservation and efficiency.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, Water Activity Eligibility, and Eligibility Based on Match Requirements.

Evaluation Criteria: This activity has undergone review and staff has determined it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria outlined in Colorado's Water Plan, Section 9.4. Please refer to Basin Roundtable Chair's Recommendation Letter and the Application for a detailed response.

Funding Summary / Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-Kind</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Status</u>
Southwestern Water Conservation District	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	Secured
Big Stick Ditch Board	\$11,900	\$6,000	\$17,900	Secured
Jeff Helmer, surveyor	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	Secured
Tony Meador, contractor	\$0	\$2,200	\$2,200	Secured
Subtotal Matching Funds	\$41,900	\$18,200	\$60,100	
WSRF Southwest Basin Account	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	
Total Project Costs	\$71,900	\$18,200	\$90,100	

CWCB Project Manager: Megan Holcomb