



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Farmers Independent Ditch Company
Name of Water Project	Farmers Independent Ditch Lining Project Feasibility Study
Grant Request Amount	\$37,000.00
Primary Category	\$37,000.00
<i>Agricultural Projects</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$12,350.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$6,175.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$6,175.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00
Total Project Cost	\$49,350.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Farmers Independent Ditch Company
 Mailing Address: 3005 West 29th Street, Suite G-1 Greeley CO 80631
 FEIN: 840,200,745

Organization Contact: Terry Wiedeman
 Position/Title: Email: krepswiedeman1@aol.com
 Phone:

Organization Contact - Alternate: Ed Armbruster, P.E.
 Position/Title: Ditch Company Engineer Email: ed.armbruster@whitesandswater.com
 Phone: 303-570-3117

Grant Management Contact: Terry Wiedeman
 Position/Title: Email: krepswiedeman1@aol.com
 Phone:

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Ed Armbruster, P.E.
 Position/Title: Ditch Company Engineer Email: ed.armbruster@whitesandswater.com
 Phone: 303-570-3117

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

Type of Eligible Entity

- Public (Government)
- Public (District)
- Public (Municipality)
- Ditch Company

- Private Incorporated
- Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- Non-governmental Organization
- Covered Entity
- Other

Category of Water Project

- Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- Water Storage & Supply
Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	40.206705
Longitude	-104.826991
Lat Long Flag	Ditch diversion structure location: Coordinates based on ditch's diversion structure
Water Source	South Platte River
Basins	South Platte
Counties	Weld
Districts	2-South Platte: Denver Gage to Greeley

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Agricultural
Type of Water Project	Design / Engineering
Scheduled Start Date - Design	3/15/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	

Description

The Farmers Independent Ditch Company (FIDCo) owns and operates the Farmers Independent Ditch. The Farmers Independent Ditch diverts water from the South Platte River near the Town of Platteville in Weld County, Colorado to approximately 50 shareholders for irrigation of approximately 7,0000 acres of farmland. The principal crops grown under the Ditch include corn, alfalfa, sugar beets and vegetables. The amount of water available to FIDCo under their senior water rights is insufficient to fully meet crop water demands of its shareholders. The earthen Farmers Independent Ditch is approximately 14 miles in length. The first three miles below the measurement flume that is used to administer FIDCo's water rights experiences excessive seepage losses because of underlying sand and gravel deposits (up to 10 percent). FIDCo is interested in installing a ditch liner in these first three miles of the Ditch to reduce seepage losses. The liner may include synthetic geomembrane,

concrete or other materials. Lining the Ditch will result in more water available for FIDCo shareholders. This grant request is to help FIDCo with costs associated with a feasibility study to examine different options and costs for the lining project.

Measurable Results

0	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
0	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
0	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
0	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
0	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
0.00	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
1,800	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
0	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
5,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

The feasibility study will investigate lining of approximately 3.0 miles of the Farmers Independent Ditch.

Water Project Justification

The Farmers Independent Ditch diverts water from the South Platte River to irrigate approximately 7,000 acres in Weld County. The Ditch operates using two senior water rights dating back to 1865 and 1876, and diverts an average of approximately 18,200 af per year. The principal crops grown under the Ditch include corn, alfalfa, sugar beets and vegetables. Although many shareholders in the Ditch have converted to more efficient sprinkler irrigation methods, water supplies are still not sufficient to fully meet crop irrigation demands.

The earthen Farmers Independent Ditch is approximately 14 miles in length and experiences seepage losses along its course. The top end of the Ditch lies close to the South Platte River where there are extensive geologic deposits of sands and gravels, and this results in high seepage losses from the Ditch. While along the entire course of the Ditch (14 miles) seepage losses are typically about 25 percent of the amount diverted from the River, losses in the first three miles of the Ditch have been measured at approximately 10 percent or higher. Farmers Independent Ditch lining project will reduce seepage losses and make more water available for agricultural producers. The project “fits” with goals and objectives outlined in the Colorado Water Plan primarily because it will stretch available water supplies needed to sustain agriculture, enhance food production and help to maintain profitability for area farmers. The economic success of produces has many ancillary benefits for several rural agricultural communities including LaSalle, Peckham and Gilcrest, Colorado. Specifically, the project aligns well with: Wise Water Use (conveyance efficiency improvements that increase water delivery and predictability), Meeting Future Water Needs (rehabilitation and modernization of farming and ranching infrastructure to help agriculture be more efficient and protect our existing agricultural economy and irrigated acres), Maximize Development of Native South Platte Supplies, and Maintain and Improve Irrigated Agriculture.

Related Studies

There are no prior formal studies concerning seepage losses from the Farmers Independent Ditch. However, the Farmers Independent Ditch Company has periodically measured flows along the Ditch to develop a sense of losses along different sections. We believe a lining project is complementary to and assists implementation of several aspects of the Colorado Water Plan because of the water savings that will be realized.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

There are no TABOR issues for the Farmers Independent Ditch Company.