

17 November 2023

Sean Chambers
Chair, South Platte Basin Roundtable

RE: WSRF Fall 2023 Grant Cycle

Dear Chairman Chambers:

The South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) Needs Committee met on 17 November 2023 to review the following seven (7) applications received for the Fall 2023 Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grant cycle:

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Basin Request</i>	<i>Statewide Request</i>	<i>Other Match</i>	<i>Total Project Cost</i>
Ducks Unlimited	Tamarack State Wildlife Area: Well 17	\$75,000 (6%)	\$562,500	\$638,026	\$1,275,526
Godfrey Ditch Company	Godfrey Ditch Company Flume Replacement	\$28,000 (37%)	\$0	\$47,000	\$75,000
City of Idaho Springs	Mattie Dam Rehabilitation	\$40,000 (6%)	\$400,000	\$244,230	\$684,230
North Front Range Water Quality Planning Association	Region 2-Nonpoint Source Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 9-Element Watershed Plan	\$75,000 (38%)	\$0	\$125,000	\$200,000
St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District	2024 Northern Front Range Airborne Snow Observation Flights	\$64,000 (11%)	\$0	\$540,263	\$604,263
Sungate Systems, LLC	Automated Gated Pipe Control System Field Trial	\$28,500 (24%)	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$118,500
Water Supply and Storage Company	Larimer County Canal Delivery Headgate Automation Project	\$25,000 (20%)	\$38,200	\$63,200	\$126,400
Total		\$335,500	\$1,060,700	\$1,687,719	\$3,083,919

WSRF Balance

Based on the most recent WSRF Balance Summary (October 2023), the South Platte Basin Account Balance is **\$430,815**. There is a balance **\$0** in the "Stimulus Fund". Total available funds for the South Platte Basin Account are **\$430,815**. We are attempting to get the current total of the statewide account and will share that info as soon as we know it.

The South Platte Basin Roundtable has three reserve accounts with the following balances: BIP Reserve (\$50,000), Education Reserve (\$23,500) and General Reserve (\$50,000). After accounting for reserves, the total available funding is **\$307,815**.

Applications Reviewed by the Needs Committee

1. **Ducks Unlimited**—proposal is for the installation of a groundwater well as part of the Tamarack Managed Groundwater Recharge Project on the Tamarack State Wildlife Area to support Colorado’s obligations under the Platte River Recover Implementation Program. The committee recommends approval of this application.
2. **Godfrey Ditch Company**—proposal is for the design and construction oversight for replacing the Godfrey Ditch flume. The committee determined that this project is a deferred maintenance project and determined that the application meets the South Platte Basin’s WSRF guidance as it provides 25% match and draws upon other grant sources. The committee recommends approval of this application.
3. **The City of Idaho Springs**—proposal is for the rehabilitation and repair of Mattie Dam on Chicago Creek. The committee would like the project to consider fish passage in the design. The committee recommends approval of this application.
4. **North Front Range Water Quality Planning Association**—proposal is for the development of a nonpoint source EPA 9-Element Watershed Plan for the 208 Region 2 area, including Larimer and Weld County. The committee recommends approval of this application.
5. **St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District**—proposal is for Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) flights to collect snowpack data along the Northern Front Range from the Clear Creek basin through the Cache la Poudre River basin in 2024. This effort is part of the statewide Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement workgroup’s efforts to develop ASO flights statewide and the snow free terrain data for the Northern Front Range was collected through a 2022 Water Plan Grant and a 2023 WSRF grant through the South Platte Basin Roundtable. The proposal is for one (1) flight for the entire area at peak snowpack around April 1. The committee recommends approval of this application.
6. **Sungate Systems, LLC**—proposal is for a pilot project to test an automated irrigation pipe gate valve control system. The committee does not make a recommend on this application and leaves it up to the Roundtable to consider the application in light of the applicant’s private entity status.
7. **Water Supply and Storage Company**—proposal is for installing automated canal headgates on laterals of the Larimer County Canal. The project leverages state-wide funds and meets matching requirements. The committee recommends approval of this application.

Budget Impacts

If all projects are approved for their full amounts, the South Platte Basin account balance would be reduced by \$335,500 to \$95,315. This would reduce the reserves by \$28,185 and the committee recommends a reduction to the BIP reserve resulting in a remaining balance of \$21,815 in the BIP Reserve.

Conflicts of Interest

Joe Frank recused himself from the review of the Ducks Unlimited application due to his role as the General Manager of the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District and their relationship with the project.

Scott Griebing recused himself from the review of the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District application due to his role as an employee of the District.

Garrett Varra recused himself from the review of the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District application due to his position on the District's Board. No other committee members indicated any conflicts of interest for the reviewed applications.

Colorado Water Plan Grants

The committee reviewed 3 CWP grant applications. Dominion Water and Sanitation seeks a grant to implement a Water Efficiency Plan, CSU seeks a grant to further study and characterize Salinity in the South Platte, and Trout Unlimited/Boulder Flycasters seek a grant to continue the South Boulder Creek Watershed Restoration Project with their Phase 3. The CSU and TU/BF grants continue work that has been previously supported by the SPBRT. Dominion's project fulfills needs outlined within the Water Plan. The committee favors all 3 projects for a recommendation of approval.

Sincerely,

Garrett Varra
Needs Committee Chair