

To: Southwest Basin Roundtable

From: Michael Kimball, Town of Sawpit Mayor  
Eric Bikis, PG, SGM



Date: April 4, 2019

RE: WSRA Funding Request for the Town of Sawpit - Concept Proposal

## Introduction/Purpose

The Town of Sawpit (Sawpit) and Town of Sawpit Water Activity Enterprise (TSWAE) is seeking grant funding from the Statewide Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) towards the development of a **Water Supply Plan and Water System Analysis** to ensure adequate water for future needs.

Sawpit was incorporated in 1896 and is located in San Miguel County, approximately 13-miles northwest of Telluride, Colorado. Dry conditions since 2000 and recent exceptional drought conditions over the past several years coupled with increasing population growth within the Western Slope of Colorado have placed a focus on a dependable water supply. The Town of Sawpit is no exception where Water Supply Planning is currently at the forefront.

Sawpit's water system currently serves 23 active taps and has potential to serve six additional taps within its incorporated boundary. In 2008, Sawpit completed a detailed look at the infrastructure and possible system improvements. Upgrades in 2008 included replacement of the chlorination system and springbox, as well as replacement/enlargement of the Sawpit's water storage tank. In 2010, Sawpit also replaced approximately 2,370-feet of existing water distribution lines and installed 26 individual customer water meters and service re-connections. Sawpit and TSWAE is requesting this grant funding to update their Water Supply Plan and perform a Water System Analysis for upgrades to its public water supply system and plan for future growth. Once this study is completed, Sawpit would seek grant and/or loan funding to implement the recommended and affordable findings of the study, as well as investigate potential change of water right from existing springs to a new well with an augmentation/exchange plan.

The proposed project meets the goals outlined in the Southwest Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan (SWBRT Plan) dated April 17, 2015 including:

- 1) balance all needs and reduce conflict,
- 2) meet municipal and industrial need water needs,
- 3) provide safe drinking water to Southwest Colorado's citizens and visitors, and
- 4) maintain, protect and enhance recreational values and economic values to local and statewide economies derived from recreational water uses, such as fishing, boating, hunting, wildlife watching, camping, and hiking.

There are, however, no specific identified projects and processes (IPP) outlined in the SWBRT Plan for the Town of Sawpit.

## Proposed Work

This study would rely on work previously completed, especially the 2008 water system evaluation work, and would include the following work tasks:

- Perform an inventory of the Town's municipal water supply and treatment system facilities.
- Prepare an assessment of water supply constraints and water demands.
- Conduct an analysis of the existing water system for capital improvements, replacements or upgrades.
- Perform an analysis of availability and/or potential availability for additional potable water taps to serve undeveloped lots within the Town.
- A cost analysis will be performed on the current water services and rates, and tap fees for future water service.
- Provide recommendations for instituting water conservation measures and adoption of a Water Code for the Town.
- Investigate the feasibility for construction of a new well and pump house.

The estimated cost for this work will be between \$20,000 to \$35,000. Sawpit and TSWEA will provide the required matching in-kind and financial contributions equal to 25 percent of the total project cost. The Sawpit plan and subject improvements will contribute toward implementation and completion of the SWBT Plan.