

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet**

Applicant: Arkansas Roundtable

Amount Requested: \$50,000.00

Water Activity Name: Arkansas Basin Water
Supply Needs Matrix

Source of Funds: Basin Account

Matching Funds: No

Water Activity Purpose:

Application indicates technical assistance but the activity appears to be a study/assessment of consumptive and non-consumptive needs

County:

Basin wide

Drainage Basin:

Arkansas

Water Source:

Not applicable

Water Activity Summary:

Under House Bill 05-1177, the Arkansas Basin Roundtable is charged, among other responsibilities, with developing a basin-wide consumptive and non-consumptive water supply needs assessment. The Roundtable and its Water Needs Assessment Committee has determined that it is very important to include SWSI I along with other reports and studies to develop a comprehensive needs matrix. We feel this can be completed in a team effort utilizing IBCC administrative funding under HB 1400 and their contractor, CDM, and contracting with the USGS utilizing water supply reserve account dollars that are the purpose of this grant application. We have included as an attachment to our letter of transmittal the actual Needs Assessment Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board and a detailed matrix on how this can be accomplished. We have worked with USGS in estimating the amount of money required to accomplish these tasks and goals.

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable
Needs Assessment Subcommittee**

Motion for development of a Needs Matrix

The Needs Assessment Subcommittee requests that the Arkansas Basin Roundtable approves the following actions and commits its resources in furtherance of assessing the consumptive and non-consumptive water supply needs of the Basin as follows:

1. Authorize the Executive Committee and the Needs Assessment Subcommittee to:
 - a. Contract with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to complete a preliminary Needs Assessment Matrix.
 - b. Engage USGS to develop a map-based method of displaying the information contained in the Matrix.
 - c. Request funding under Senate Bill 179 of Fifty Thousand and no/100 Dollars (**\$50,000.00**) for such purpose.
2. Authorize the Chairman to make a written request of the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) administrative office to commit funding under House Bill 1400 to accomplish tasks generally including:
 - a. Coordination with and collection, collation and screening of reports and studies from the Water Resource Research Institute of the Colorado State University, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Colorado Geological Survey and individual water agencies related to the Arkansas Basin.
 - b. Interface with the Arkansas Basin Needs Assessment Subcommittee and the USGS to provide the information gathered in a. above.
 - c. Organization of a “Working Group” of interested parties to develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) relational database for “*development of a common technical platform*” (IBCC Charter, Section IV ROLES OF THE COMMITTEE, item 4.).
 - d. Facilitate the meetings of the Working Group, including notices and meeting notes.

Discussion:

The Arkansas basin roundtables has adopted the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) as their preliminary needs assessment and are seeking a “tool” to help them further complete there assessment of needs that were not identified in SWSI or to refine additional information.

Issues/Additional Needs:

The application meets the threshold criteria. However, the Arkansas Roundtable is not an eligible entity to receive funding.

The application does not contain sufficient detail explaining the scope of work, deliverables, project logistics, budget, and schedule (see criteria and guidelines page 12).

The water needs matrix appears to primarily be a GIS based means of displaying information developed from a literature search and will not provide the primary data that is needed to refine the nonconsumptive and consumptive needs for the basin. Staff encourages the roundtable to further define and delineated what important resource information and needs require additional refinement (i.e., what critical questions need to be answered, where, and then what information is available or needed to answer those questions) prior to developing a literature search in the abstract. Staff also encourages the roundtable to further assess the cost versus benefit of having the literature in a GIS based format (i.e., how will that format better answer the key issues and needs required for completing the consumptive and nonconsumptive needs assessment versus the actual identification, content review and summary of the key documents and data?)

Staff Recommendation:

The application is for Basin Account money and the application meets the threshold criteria. However, the applicant is not eligible to receive funding. Staff has identified several points for the roundtable to consider which may change to focus and cost of the literature review effort. Staff recommends conditional approval of up to \$50,000.00 for the Arkansas Basin Water Supply Needs Matrix contingent on addressing the items in the issues/additional needs.

All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to 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.