

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 29.a**

Applicant: Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority

Water Activity Name: Rotating Agricultural Fallowing Public Policy Work Group

Water Activity Purpose: Non-Structural Activity

County: Various

Drainage Basin: Various

Water Source: Various

Amount Requested: \$20,000

Source of Funds: Arkansas basin account (\$20,000)—potentially other basins contributing

Matching Funds: No

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$20,000 from the Arkansas basin account to help fund the Rotating Agricultural Fallowing Public Policy Work Group. Other basin roundtables will be asked to contribute their basin funds towards the project. If received, the Arkansas basin contribution will be reduced accordingly.

Water Activity Summary:

The applicant is requesting a grant to help fund a facilitated dialogue with interested stakeholders regarding the need for legislation to facilitate alternative agricultural water transfers (e.g. agricultural fallowing) based on research into existing statutes. This proposal is partly in response to the proposed yet unsuccessful legislation (HB 1068) proposed last legislative session. The Arkansas basin roundtable is committed to furthering alternative water transfer methods and hopes to have an active fallowing program in their basin to help minimize their water supply gap. The goals of the working group are straight forward and are listed below:

- Review existing statutory law concerning agricultural transfers;
- Identify pertinent citations that might be modified for expediting agricultural transfers;
- Conduct a facilitated dialogue with the stakeholders; and
- Produce a summary report of the process.

Discussion:

This proposal is supported by staff as it will help identify areas of legislation regarding alternative agricultural water transfers, if any. Last legislative session, HB 1068 was a bill that would have permitted the SEO to provide administrative approval for temporary water transfers occurring in the Arkansas basin. Various concerns were raised with this legislation. Amongst these, was the concern that insufficient outreach was undertaken with water users in the basin. This public policy working group is an attempt to have a facilitated dialogue with the interested stakeholders.

Issues/Additional Needs: None identified.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$20,000 from the Arkansas basin account to help fund the Rotating Agricultural Fallowing Public Policy Work Group. Other basin roundtables will be asked to contribute their basin funds towards the project. If received, the Arkansas basin contribution will be reduced accordingly.

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

In accordance with the revised WSRA Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements. The specific requirements are provided below.

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the scope of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

Engineering: All engineering work (as defined in the Engineers Practice Act (§12-25-102(10) C.R.S.)) performed under this grant shall be performed by or under the responsible charge of professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.