Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program Water Activity Summary Sheet Agenda Item 25.r.

Applicant: Tamarisk Coalition (TC)

Water Activity Name: Grand Valley Riparian Restoration Collaborative (GVRRC) Project

Water Activity Purpose: Non-consumptive Structural Water Project

County: Mesa

Drainage Basin: Colorado

Water Source: Colorado River Amount Requested: \$250,000

Source of Funds: \$207,274(Statewide Account) and \$42,726 (Colorado Basin Account)

Matching Funds: 177,260 (\$142,980 cash match and \$34,280 in-kind match). 41% of total project

cost. 106% match of statewide request (including basin funds).

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval upon the condition of addressing concerns specified below in the Issues/Additional Needs section of up to \$42,726 from the Colorado Basin Account and \$207,274 from the Statewide account to help fund the Grand Valley Riparian Restoration Collaborative Project.

Water Activity Summary:

The GVRRC strategizes a comprehensive approach to river restoration that includes invasive phreatophyte removal, secondary weed control, riparian re-vegetation with indigenous species, and post-implementation monitoring. The Tamarisk Coalition will coordinate many stakeholders on contiguous river parcels to improve ecologic function of the river and floodplain. Five parcels have been selected for this phase of the GVRRC. Some funding will be used for pre-project site assessments for soil analysis, groundwater monitoring well installation, and other baseline data collection. Physical implementation will be undertaken by specific land managers. TC will coordinate the planning and implementation amongst the many partners while also providing technical assistance. Project coordination amounts to 34% of the total Water Supply Reserve Account request.

Discussion:

The proposed project is designed to protect and enhance environmental and recreational values that benefit local and statewide economies. It is designed to improve channel/floodplain connections that have the potential to mitigate flood hazards while also improving habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species. TC is a technical partner for the CWCB Invasive Phreatophyte Control Program (IPCP). They agree that submitting an application to IPCP would be a conflict of interest.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- TC should work with CWCB Staff to ensure that geomorphic monitoring conforms to CWCB Measurable Results Program criteria.
- TC should work with CWCB Staff to ensure that this phase of GVRRC meets criteria outlined in IPCP.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval upon the condition of addressing concerns specified below in the Issues/Additional Needs section of up to \$42,726 from the Colorado Basin Account and \$207,274 from the Statewide account to help fund the Grand Valley Riparian Restoration Collaborative Project.

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.