

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program**  
**Water Activity Summary Sheet**  
**Agenda Item 13.a**

**Applicant:** Colorado Water Institute

**Water Activity Name:** Agricultural Economics and Water Resources: Methods, Metrics and Models – A *Specialty Workshop*

**Water Activity Purpose:** Education

**County:** All

**River Basin:** Arkansas

**Water Source:** Arkansas

**Amount Requested:** \$9,746 (Arkansas Basin Account)

**Matching Funds:** \$2,154 (in-kind/salary match)

<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$9,746 from the Arkansas Basin Account to fund the Agricultural Economics and Water Resources: Methods, Metrics and Models – A <i>Specialty Workshop</i>

**Water Activity Summary:**

The project will convene a Specialty Workshop in Colorado Springs, CO to gather experts on the subject of Agricultural Economics and Water Resources. The venue for the Workshop will most likely be at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. Experts will be paid travel expenses and an honorarium for their participation. Particular attention will be paid to the presentation of methods, metrics, and models for valuing agriculture and its relationship to water supplies, both consumptive and non-consumptive.

The Specialty Workshop will be formal in nature. The Colorado Water Institute will research prominent experts in the field of Agricultural and Resource Economics. The most notable of these experts will be invited on the basis of their interest and potential contribution to an “informed dialogue” on the manner by which agriculture can be assessed in terms of its value within a basin-wide, regional, or state economy.

The two basic groups of questions to be considered at the workshop are:

1. How do we talk about the economics of agriculture? Is there a conventional dialogue that can be used to maintain an informed discussion on this subject? What are the available metrics and methods that exist in the body of research on this topic?
2. How do we translate metrics and methods into a model that relates agriculture’s value to larger statewide economy? How do these metrics and methods help us understand the economic relationship between agriculture and water resources?

The Specialty Workshop will be moderated by faculty at the Colorado State University Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (Prof. James Pritchett and/or Prof. Chris Goemans). A moderated “long-panel” format is suggested for the workshop. The program structure will be designed to maximize interaction with the panelists. The project deliverable will be a Proceedings Document available from the Colorado Water Institute in \*.pdf format. The event is expected to be presented in June of 2013.

### *Threshold Criteria*

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

### **Discussion:**

Staff is supportive of this effort and believes that it can help inform the CWCB's efforts in the SWSI 2016 update, especially as it relates to defining Colorado's "Agricultural Gap". The CWCB's Water Supply Planning section is currently working directly with the Colorado Water Institute regarding ag valuation and requests that the staff be involved in the planning of this workshop.

### **Issues/Additional Needs:**

Please include CWCB staff in the planning of the workshop.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of up to \$9,746 from the Arkansas Basin Account to fund the Agricultural Economics and Water Resources: Methods, Metrics and Models – *A Specialty Workshop*. This approval is contingent upon the applicant addressing the issues identified in the Issues/Additional Needs of this summary sheet.

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 and Final Deliverable:** 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. 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.