

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 18-19, 2015
Agenda Item 17(e)

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District

Water Activity Name: Arkansas Basin Watershed Collaborative

Water Activity Purpose: Consumptive & Nonconsumptive

County: Basin Wide

River Basin: Arkansas

Water Source: Arkansas River Basin

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$25,000 Arkansas Basin Account
\$240,000 Statewide Account
\$265,000 Total grant request

Matching Funds: Basin Account Match (\$25,000) = 19.4% of total grant request
Basin Account and Applicant Match (\$581,000) = 219% of total grant request
Basin Account and Applicant Match = 71% of total project costs (\$821,000)
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Arkansas Basin Account, and \$240,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: Arkansas Basin Watershed Collaborative

Water Activity Summary: This project is intended to stand up a collaborative organization (the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, or ARWC) as a subcommittee to the Arkansas River Basin Roundtable in order to begin addressing watershed health issues across the basin in a strategic and tactical fashion. Collaborative conservation has been shown to be an effective approach for addressing complex, cross-jurisdictional issues, such as improving forest health to reduce wildfire impacts on water supplies, or improving hydrologic function to address both consumptive and recreational/environmental uses of water. By working together, stakeholders can prioritize effective strategies and projects, leverage resources, and provide critical information to other decision-makers through mechanisms like decision support systems. The ARWC will also strive to create new and support existing sub-basin watershed organizations, such as the Purgatoire Watershed Partnership and the Headwaters of the Arkansas watershed group, to increase on-the-ground endeavors and facilitate communication between a wide array of stakeholders within the Basin. The ARWC will provide a strategic framework and public engagement to further watershed-health outcomes as described in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. Finally, to demonstrate that this is more than a planning exercise, the ARWC will engage in several collaboratively driven on-the-ground ambassador level projects in the Arkansas Basin in 2015 and beyond.

The following is a summary of objectives for the term of the grant.

- Develop the subcommittee (ARWC) of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable that functions as a collaborative organization focused on basin-wide watershed health. (0-3 months)

- Engage a wide variety of stakeholders in the development of a strategic Watershed Health Implementation Plan as outlined in the Basin Implementation Plan. (3-12 months)
- Create a structure to support the development of sub-basin collaborative organizations by way of technical, financial and/or capacity-building resources to address local watershed health issues and risks. (3-6 months).
- Develop or engage one or more sub-basin organizations that will participate in the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative as a member of the leadership team or Board. (End of year one)
- Engage in public outreach about the basin and watershed issues, including a student-oriented component with schools in the Purgatoire Watershed. (0 months – Year 1)
- Initiate work on the following on-the-ground projects by the end of year 1:
 - Purgatoire Watershed Invasive Species Removal and Rangeland Management Improvements.
 - Tennessee Creek Fuels Reduction Project: Turquoise Lake
 - East Peak Fire Rehab
- Work with partners to plan and prepare implementable projects for 2016 and beyond

Discussion: No further discussion is required.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria:

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria

Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria:

The application has undergone detailed review and evaluation subject to the Supplemental Scoring Matrix and satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Refer to application for applicant's detailed response to Evaluation Criteria.

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
WSRA Arkansas Basin Account	\$25,000	n/a	\$25,000
WSRA Statewide Account	\$240,000	n/a	\$240,000
LAVWCD	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Huerfano Water Conservancy District	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
Huerfano County	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Colorado Springs Utilities	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
Aurora Water	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
USBOR	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Xcel Energy	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
City of Pueblo	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Southeast Conservancy Water Conservancy District	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
National Forest Foundation	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Purgatoire Watershed Partnership	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
The Nature Conservancy	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Colorado State Forest Service	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total	\$821,000	\$0	\$821,000

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.