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

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Big Thompson Conservation District/Little Thompson Watershed

Restoration Coalition

Water Activity Name: Little Thompson River Water Supply, Use and Planning Study

Water Activity Purpose: Needs Assessment

County: Larimer, Weld & Boulder

Drainage Basin: South Platte

Water Source: Little Thompson River Watershed

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$60,000 South Plate Basin Account

\$60,000 Total grant request

Matching Funds: Applicant Match (\$8,000) = 11.7% of total project costs (\$68,000)

(refer to Funding Summary/Matching Funds section)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$60,000 from the South Platte Basin Account to help fund the project/study titled: Little Thompson River Water Supply, Use and Planning Study.

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds will expended to achieve the following objective; to develop a comprehensive analysis of the water availability and use in the Little Thompson River, and to subsequently determine the total volume of water necessary to alleviate any agricultural, domestic and environmental water deficits discovered. The assessment will include the sources of water uses in the watershed and the general impacts of their return flows, plus any potential impacts—good or bad—of changes to the historical uses of water in the basin. The research and statistics resulting from this quantitative assessment will be used to build a foundation for the identification of and timing for subsequent plans and processes related to any potential improvements of water deficits discovered. We recognize the expected increase in demands for water in northeast Colorado's water basin, and wish to conduct this study as a collaborative effort with the South Platte Basin Roundtable to obtain water supply availability data and address future water needs. The Coalition members are confident there are serious water supply issues within the Watershed. Phase One will give both a true picture of what the needs are as well as an accurate scope of work and budget for Phase Two. Phase Two will be to identify plans and processes to address the needs discovered. The Coalition recognizes and wants to expand the efforts of the CWCB to firmly establish needs before possible solutions are identified. For informational purposes only, Phase Two could explore potential small-scale watershed projects to address needs to alleviate water supply deficits and restore continuous flows in the river to improve environmental use.

Discussion: No further discussion is required

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

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria: The application meets all four Threshold Criteria

Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria: n/a

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

	<u>Cash</u>	In-kind	Total
WSRA South Platte Basin Account	\$60,000	n/a	\$60,000
Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition	<u>\$0</u>	\$8,000	\$8,000
Total Study Costs	\$60,000	\$8,000	\$68,000

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.