Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program Water Activity Summary Sheet September 15-17, 2015 Agenda Item 18(b)

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Huerfano County Water Conservancy District

Water Activity Name: Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage Study

Water Activity Purpose: Needs Assessment

County: Huerfano

Drainage Basin: Arkansas

Water Source: Cucharas River

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$25,000 Arkansas Basin Account

\$195,000 Statewide Account \$220,000 Total Grant Request

Matching Funds: Basin Account Match (\$25,000) = 11.4% of total grant request (meets 5% min);

Basin Account & Applicant Match (\$55,000) = 25% of total grant request (meets

25% min);

Applicant/ 3^{rd} Party Match (\$30,000) = 12% of total project costs (\$250,000)

(refer to Funding Summary/Matching Funds section)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Arkansas Basin Account, and \$195,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the needs assessment titled: Huerfano County Water Conservancy District: Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage Study.

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved, will be expended to fund the Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage Study (the Project). Participants in the Cucharas Storage Collaborative include 10 entities representing consumptive and non-consumptive interests, and water rights administration. Members are: US Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado State Forest Service, Cucharas Sanitation and Water District, Town of La Veta, City of Walsenburg, Huerfano County Water Conservancy District, Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners, and Colorado Division of Water Resources.

The Project will identify, at a reconnaissance level, the most effective manner of meeting storage needs within the basin including, perhaps: the construction of new storage, the rehabilitation of aged infrastructure, or the decommissioning of consolidation of existing facilities, as well as the joint use of common structures.

The Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage Study, listed in the Major Needs List of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan as ARK-2015-0007, has two major parts: a storage needs assessment within the basin, and a reconnaissance-level study of potential storage options to meet those needs.

Objectives:

The storage needs assessment will:

- confirm whether each Collaborator's storage needs exceed the yield of its current storage rights and facilities
- determine whether a shortfall in storage yield can be offset by conservation measures
- or, that shortfall requires an increased storage yield from the expansion or repair of existing storage or the development of new facilities

The reconnaissance-level study will:

- identify feasible options to meet the Collaborators' storage needs (including completion of a water budget for the Cucharas basin, development of water resources modeling, and a climate change analysis)
- each recommendation will address necessary permitting and likely sources of funding

Discussion: The proposed needs assessment aligns with concerns identified in the Arkansas BIP as inadequate storage contributes to the gap in all consumptive and non-consumptive water needs.

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:

Staff has reviewed and evaluated the applicant's response to the Statewide Account Supplemental Scoring Matrix and has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to WSRA Application for applicant's detailed response.

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cucharas Sanitation and Water District	\$5,000	\$5,000
Town of La Veta	\$5,000	\$5,000
City of Walsenburg	\$5,000	\$5,000
Huerfano Board of County Commissioners	\$5,000	\$5,000
Huerfano County Water Conservancy District	\$10,000	\$5,000
Sub-total matching funds	\$30,000	\$30,000
WSRA Arkansas Basin Account	\$25,000	\$25,000
WSRA Statewide Account	\$195,000	\$195,000
Total	\$250,000	\$250,000

CWCB Project Manager: Andy Moore

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.