

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 16-17, 2016
Agenda Item 14(d)

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Huerfano County Water Conservancy District

Water Activity Name: Water Infrastructure Improvements – Huerfano River Basin

Water Activity Purpose: Water Administration Improvements

County: Huerfano

Drainage Basin: Arkansas

Water Source: Cucharas River and Huerfano Rivers

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$20,000 Arkansas Basin Account
\$93,400 Statewide Account
\$113,400 Total Grant Request

Matching Funds: Basin Account Match (\$20,000) = 17.6% of total grant request (meets 5% min);
Applicant/3rd Party Match (\$199,000) = 175% of total grant request (meets 5% min)
Basin Account & Applicant Match (\$219,000) = 193% of total grant request (meets 25% min)
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$20,000 from the Arkansas Basin Account, and \$93,400 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: Water Infrastructure Improvements – Huerfano River Basin.

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved, will be expended to fund the project titled: Water Infrastructure Improvements – Huerfano River Basin. This project will provide technical information via real-time data encompassing a comprehensive assessment of physical conditions needed to make best management decisions regarding river calls in the Huerfano-Cucharas Basin. Listed as project #ARK-2015-0004 in the Basin Implementation Plan Master Needs List, this project will meet several objectives identified in the Arkansas River Decision Support System Feasibility Study Final Report (November 2011) for development of a decision support system and will create administration enhancements that impact decisions about delivery of water downstream to honor a senior call, including a determination that such an effort would be futile and would deprive upstream rights or a chance to use or store water.

This project will enhance the ability of water users to be aware of opportunities to divert water in-priority, under rapidly changing river conditions, by providing better stream gage data in critical areas on the Cucharas and Huerfano Rivers. This project will include installation of monitoring wells in key locations that will serve a dual role of providing data related to alluvial aquifer conditions and

their interrelationship to streamflow conditions as well as providing the opportunity to gain valuable data about aquifer characteristics.

This project has several components: (1) rehabilitation of existing river gages, (2) construction of new river gages, (3) construction of groundwater monitoring wells, (4) collection of historical diversion, storage, call, and river flow data consistent with the needs of CDSS, and (5) development and operation of a spreadsheet model to assist the Division Engineer and his Water Commissioners in making futile call determinations on the Cucharas and Huerfano rivers.

This project is a cooperative effort between the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District (HCWCD; main sponsor), the Colorado Division of Water Resources (Water Division 2), and the Interstate and Federal Section of the CWCB (DSS), with additional support from the funding sources listed above.

Discussion: This project was identified on the Master Needs List of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan, and meets several of the goals and measurable objectives identified in that BIP. As stated in the basin's 2015 BIP, "In order to administer surface water in Colorado and the Arkansas Basin, data on streamflow is required in order to make administrative decisions regarding specific surface water diversions that are allowed to divert water according to their priority." § 3.2.3, p. 115. Consequently this application is in direct response to the Arkansas Basin's needs assessment described in C.R.S. §37-75-104(2) and appearing as ARK-2015-0004 in the Master Needs List of the Arkansas BIP.

The project is also consistent with the key action items, goals, and measurable objectives identified in Colorado's Water Plan, specifically critical action items identified in Chapter 10 which direct the CWCB to work with BRTs and project proponents to fund projects which have been prioritized by basin roundtables.

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:

This activity has under gone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to WSRA Application for applicant's detailed response.

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
CWCB - DSS	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
DWR	\$26,000	\$44,000	\$70,000
HCWCD	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
HCBOCC	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
CSWD	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
HCFMLD	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
La Veta	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Walsenburg	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Water Users	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Subtotal Matching Funds	\$155,000	\$0	\$199,000
WSRA Arkansas Basin Account	\$20,000	n/a	\$20,000
WSRA Statewide Account	\$93,400	n/a	\$93,400
Total Project Costs	\$268,400	\$44,000	\$312,400

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.