

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
May 18-19, 2016
Agenda Item 18(a)

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District

Water Activity Name: Pueblo Channel Debris Removal and Habitat Restoration Project

Water Activity Purpose: Multipurpose

County: Pueblo

Drainage Basin: Arkansas

Water Source: Fountain Creek

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$5,000 Arkansas Basin Account (total grant request)

Matching Funds: Applicant/3rd Party Match (\$274,000) = 98.2% of total project costs (\$279,000)
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends <u>conditional</u> approval (refer to Issues/Additional Needs section below) of up to \$5,000 from the Arkansas Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Pueblo Channel Debris Removal and Habitat Restoration Project.

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved, will be expended to fund the project titled: Pueblo Channel Debris Removal and Habitat Restoration Project. The purpose of this project is to remove debris from the Fountain Creek channel within the City of Pueblo and to restore habitat areas within the channel that have been degraded by recent flood activity. In 2012 and again in 2013, significant wildfires occurred in the upper reaches of Fountain Creek. Subsequent flood events, and to some extent even ordinary heavy rains, have caused deposition of debris within the channel. The project's multiple purposes include incremental restoration of possibly degraded habitat (environmental), but also increased public safety (municipal) and reduction of flood risk.

The Basin Fund account request of \$5,000 has two purposes: 1) To engage the Arkansas Basin Roundtable in the initial phase of what is hoped to become a multi-year, multi-project initiative to fully restore the Fountain Creek corridor within the City of Pueblo, and; 2) Through that awareness, develop enthusiasm for a subsequent WSRA grant request requesting Basin and Statewide funds in the third quarter of 2016.

The objectives of the project are as follows:

- Objective 1 – Coordinate the debris removal/habitat restoration activity with interested agencies, including procurement of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“COE”) Nationwide Permit #27, *Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment and Enhancement Activities*.

- Objective 2 –Removal of flood-placed debris, trash and other foreign matter currently residing in the stream channel and banks of Fountain Creek between the Highway 47 bridge (north) downstream to approximately 8th Street (south) in Pueblo, Colorado, resulting in restored aquatic habitat and increased public safety.
- Objective 3 – Manage the project through construction to completion, with a final report submitted to funding and permitting agencies.

Discussion: This project is consistent with the goals and actions identified in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. 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: **Staff recommends conditional approval contingent upon the applicant providing their respective Basin Roundtables the opportunity to re-visit and re-affirm their approval given the current Tier II Severance Tax projections and status of the Roundtable Basin Account Balances.**

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

Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria: n/a

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pueblo County	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Fountain Creek District	\$74,000	\$0	\$74,000
LAVWCD	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Subtotal Matching Funds	\$274,000	\$0	\$274,000
WSRA Arkansas Basin Account	\$5,000	n/a	\$5,000
Total Project Costs	\$279,000	\$0	\$279,000

CWCB Project Manager: Brent Newman

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.