

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE

October 20, 2015

Craig Godbout
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Re: WSRA grant application - Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF)
Implementing the Education & Outreach Goals of the ArkBIP

Dear Craig:

At October's regular meeting the Roundtable evaluated and approved by unanimous agreement the Water Supply Reserve Account grant application from the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF) for implementing the Education & Outreach Goals of our Basin Implementation plan.

In collaboration with our PEPO committee, ARBWF requests funding to provide leadership in water education and promote education to action projects/programs that address four categories of need identified in the Basin Implementation Plan: storage, agriculture, municipal and environment/ recreation. Funding will be utilized to address these concerns, provide education and promote action through multiple outreach mechanisms geared to engage a vast audience. Those mechanisms include: the development and distribution of a basin documentary and webisodes, water festivals, summer library activity books, and education-to-action programs highlighting specific projects. To ensure the smooth functioning of all this, ARBWF/PEPO plans to hire a part-time Project Coordinator. The Project Coordinator will work as a liaison to the ARBWF, PEPO and the Arkansas Basin Roundtable and will be responsible for organizing, coordinating and reporting on all proposed projects.

This project is important to the Arkansas Basin for a variety of reasons, including

- Compliance with the purposes of the public education, participation, and outreach working group functions under C.R.S. § 37-75-106.
- Furtherance of the goals described in the Colorado Water Plan, 2nd Draft, § 9.5, "Outreach, Education and Public Engagement."
- Accomplishment of the goal described in § 4.1.4 of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan (April 2015) to "undertake a structured public relations effort to maintain and improve relationships with individuals and organizations who have been engaged to date, while enhancing efforts to educate various stakeholder groups on the purpose and progress of the water planning process in the Arkansas Basin."

As a result, the Roundtable approved the request of \$150, 000 (\$50,000 for each of three years), all of which will come from the Basin-wide account.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me either by telephone, 719-742-6164, or by email, sandy@white-jankowski.com.

With warmest regards,

Michael D. (Sandy) White
Chair

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