



FINAL REPORT
Arkansas River Basin Water Forum
WSRA Grant – PO 2016-687

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On February 9, 2016, the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF) received a CWCB Water Supply Reserve Account grant in the amount of \$50,000 for implementation of the Public Education, Participation and Outreach (PEPO) programs associated with the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. This is the final report on the deliverable associated with this funding. We also would like CWCB to be aware that the PEPO Workgroup has contributed \$75,880.68 from in-kind time that has supported these projects.

Task 1: Arkansas Basin Documentary

ARBWF, PEPO Workgroup, and the Arkansas Basin Roundtable Executive Committee have partnered with CSU- Pueblo to produce an hour-long documentary video that will be submitted to Rocky Mountain PBS) for broadcast and will be distributed throughout the Ark Basin. The program will explore the economic and social benefit of the Arkansas River from Leadville to Lamar. Several complementary webisodes will be created that will address topics and areas of concern identified in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan.

Dr. Sam Ebersole with CSU-Pueblo contracted with the ARBWF to perform the scope of work. He is on task and ahead of schedule. Dr. Ebersole anticipates completing the PBS documentary by the end of 2017, instead of 2018. He has also completed a webisode depicting the benefits of the Voluntary Flow Management Program in the Upper Arkansas Basin. Dr. Ebersole has documented more than 900 hours of time towards this worthwhile project and spent \$17,361 on the development of the documentary and webisode. Funding to complete the scope of work will come from WSRF funds POGGi 2017-870.

Task 2: Water Festivals

The PEPO Workgroup participated in the development and implementation of two local water festivals. On August 13, 2016, a Community Water Festival was held in Salida, CO. Festival participants included representatives from the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Cañon City Water Department, the Arkansas Basin Roundtable PEPO Workgroup, the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association, the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, CSU Extension, San Isabel Land Protection Trust, Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas, Chaffee County Oral Health Program, Colorado Rural Water Association, Small Hydropower Engineering, and other local and regional organizations and businesses. Displays and demonstrations encompassed source water protection, fishing, plant water usage, water conservation, river health, agricultural water usage and return flows, water storage, hydroelectric power generation, transbasin diversions, water rights and much more. Attendance included more than 300 adults and children of all ages.



On May 16, 2017, the PEPO Workgroup participated in the development and implementation of a Children's Water Festival in Colorado Springs. Festival partnerships included School District 11, Colorado Springs Utilities, The City of Colorado Springs, Fountain Creek District, State Parks and Wildlife, the PEPO Workgroup, the Catamount Institute, Pikes Peak Regional Library District, El Paso County and many more who were festival presenters. Displays and demonstration encompassed stormwater, transbasin diversion, water quality & health, wildlife diversity, water sharing, source water protection, Colorado Water Plan & Basin Implementation Plan, etc. Attendance included over 90 presenters, sponsors, & dignitaries and 530 4th grade students. WSRA funds for this task amounted to \$3,110.10.

Task 3: Library Summer Reading Program

In May of 2016 The PEPO Workgroup in partnership with Colorado Springs Utilities to distribute 6,000 Water Warrior Activity Books to 16 individual libraries in the Ark basin and to multiple libraries in El Paso and Pueblo Counties. The feedback survey from the libraries indicated the program was a success with 80% stating the books supported their summer reading programs and 100% reporting the contents aligned with their summer reading program. WSRA funds used were \$3,840.

Task 4: Education to Action Events

The PEPO Education to Action Program provides education & outreach for identified projects in the Colorado Water Plan / Basin Implementation Plan. The PEPO Workgroup has provided a platform to help move projects into implementation &/or to gain partnerships to either engage the public or to seek additional funding sources. We have worked with project sponsors to identify their educational needs & assist them in developing outreach mechanisms & logistics. The projects supported with \$5,588 of WSRA funds include the following:

- Sponsored and partnered with the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Quality Workgroup & the Colorado Watershed Assembly on a Water Quality Workshop in the lower Arkansas Valley
- Sponsored and partnered with participants to develop, publish, & distribute a brochure depicting the benefits of the Voluntary Flow Management Program in the upper Arkansas basin
- Sponsored and partnered with the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative on a Wildfire Decision Support System meeting for water providers that have infrastructure in the National Forests
- Sponsored and partnered with the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District on a tour of a Multi-Purpose Water Project to educate the public and potential funders about the project

Task 5: PEPO Coordinators

The ARBWF contracted with two part-time coordinators to ensure the success of the grant scope of work. The PEPO Coordinators acts as a liaison to the ARBWF, PEPO Workgroup, and Executive Committee of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable. The PEPO Coordinators are responsible for organization, coordination, task management and reporting on all scope of work projects. The PEPO Coordinators are also responsible for grant management, deadlines, and task management, and for outreach, implementation, organization and management of all educational components associated with the scope of work. The PEPO Coordinators utilized \$20,000 from WSRA grant funding to successfully



implement the administration and task management of all grant programs, partnerships, and outreach objectives to complete this scope of work.