

Arkansas Basin Roundtable

August 5, 2017

Via Electronic Mail: ben.wade@state.co.us

Mr. Ben Wade
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Water Supply Reserve Account Grant Application: Arkansas Basin Watershed Health Initiative

Dear Ben:

At its July 12, 2017 meeting, the Arkansas Roundtable approved the Arkansas Basin Watershed Health Initiative grant application for \$23,000 in Basin Funds and \$230,000 in Statewide Funds. The Applicant, Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc. for the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, is providing \$256,000 in matching funds. There were no dissenting opinions expressed in the consensus decision.

Regarding the Colorado Water Plan, the continuation of the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative directly supports Objective G. Funding: *Develop near-term funding opportunities whereby the smallest amount of funding possible has the greatest benefit to implementing Colorado's Water Plan.*

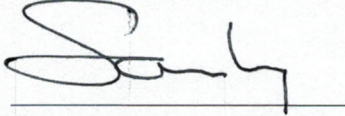
As a basin-wide Initiative, the program supports all of the critical action items of Objective F. Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation, including:

- ✓ Enhance Environmental and Recreational Economic Values: *"Protect and enhance river-based environments and recreational opportunities that support local and statewide economies and are important for the enjoyment of current and future generations of Coloradans."*
- ✓ Protect Healthy Environments: *"Understand, protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term resiliency."*
- ✓ Promote Protection and Restoration of Water Quality: *"The protection and restoration of water quality should be a key objective when planning for Colorado's current and future consumptive, recreational, and environmental water needs."*
- ✓ Protect and Restore Critical Watersheds: *"Protect and restore watersheds critical to water infrastructure, environmental or recreational areas."*

The Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative is a direct outcome of recommendations included in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. The successes derived from this effort are demonstrable, particularly with respect to local response to mitigation and restoration from the fires of 2016. We strongly encourage your continued support of this Initiative.

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 warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy", written over a horizontal line.

Michael D. (Sandy) White
Chair

Copy via email:

Applicant

ABRT Executive Committee