

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 19-21, 2017
Agenda Item 22(c)

Applicant: Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc. for Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative

Water Activity Name: Arkansas Basin Watershed Health Initiative

Water Activity Purpose: Other – Arkansas Basin scale watershed health collaborative projects, working with sub-basin coalitions and basin-wide partners

County: Basin-wide

Drainage Basin: Arkansas

Water Source: Arkansas River & Sub-basins

Amount Requested/Source of Funds:

\$23,000	Arkansas Basin Account
<u>\$230,000</u>	<u>Statewide Account</u>
\$253,000	Total Grant Request

Matching Funds:

Basin Account Match (\$23,000) = 10% of Statewide Account request (does not meet 10% min);

Applicant's Cash Match (\$400,000) = 174% of Statewide Account request (meets 10% min);

Total Match (Basin & Applicant Match of \$423,000 = 184% of Statewide Account request (meets 50% min).
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$23,000 from the Arkansas Basin Account; and \$230,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: Arkansas Basin Watershed Health Initiative

Water Activity Summary:

If funded, the objectives of this project are to begin implementing projects identified in the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) Strategic Plan. These projects include:

1.) Work with the Lower Ark Water Quality Working Group on at least three on-farm soil health/improved irrigation demonstration projects that engage irrigated agricultural producers in projects to reduce selenium, uranium, salinity and nutrients through demo projects across the basin below Pueblo Reservoir. Water quality is negatively impacted to such an extent that Kansas has threatened a Clean Water Act suit if Colorado does not make a diligent effort to improve water quality at the state line. Local county commissioners have indicated during ARWC's strategic planning listening session in the lower basin that they see water quality as a significant economic issue within their communities due to negative impacts to drinking water and agricultural yields.

2.) Coordinate outreach and education with PEPO committee for watershed health purposes. Conduct at least 5 watershed health outreach operations, including but not limited to events like the Arkansas Forum, PEPO functions, and the Sustaining Colorado Watershed Conference.

3.) Work with at least five water utilities and/or conservancy districts to prioritize and input their infrastructure into the federal Wildfire Decision Support System. Mitigate at least 200 acres of prioritized forest areas to reduce post 2016 wildfire impacts on water supplies and infrastructure in the Upper Ark basin. Forest mitigation work will be based on prioritization in partnership with the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Forest Service, and water stakeholders as associated with the Wildfire-Watershed plans that identify key zones of concern.

Mitigation treatments of at least 200 acres will be performed by either hand crews or logging contractors, implementing treatment polygons laid out by a professional forester and using prescriptions based on best available science. Post-fire work will focus on prioritizations that have already been completed and supported by the key stakeholders, based on approaches developed in Hayman, Waldo, and other fires.

5.) Assist and support local stakeholders in the development of at least two Stream Management Plans in the Arkansas Basin.

6.) Incorporate ARWC into a nonprofit organization and pursue 501(c)3 designation to “build governance” and capacity for both ARWC and sub-basin collaboratives.

Discussion: The continuation of the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative is a direct outcome of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. The ARWC directly supports Objective G, Funding by *“developing near-term funding opportunities whereby the smallest amount of funding possible has the greatest benefit to implementing the Colorado Water Plan”*. The ARWC also supports Objective F, Watershed Health, Environment and Recreation. Through coordination of basin-wide projects, the ARWC is supporting the enhancement of environmental and recreational economic values, protecting healthy environments, promoting protection and restoration of water quality and critical watersheds.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Eligibility Requirements:

The application meets requirements of the three subsections of the Eligibility Requirements: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, and Water Activity Eligibility.

Eligibility Based on Funding Match Requirements:

The application meets the Statewide Account Matching requirements.

Evaluation Criteria:

This activity has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to WSRF Application for applicant’s detailed response.

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000
WSRF Arkansas Basin Account	\$16,000	n/a	\$16,000
WSRF Statewide Account	\$240,000	n/a	\$240,000
Total Project Costs	\$656,000	\$0	\$656,000

CWCB Project Manager: Ben Wade