

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

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Purgatoire Watershed Partnership
Water Activity Name: Trinidad River Walk Improvement Project
Water Activity Purpose: Multi-Purpose
County: Las Animas
Drainage Basin: Arkansas
Water Source: Purgatoire River
Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$14,300 Arkansas Basin Account (total grant request)
Matching Funds: Applicant/3rd Party Match (\$10,700 in-kind
• 74.8% of Basin Account request (meets 25% min)

(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends conditional approval (refer to Issues/Additional Needs section below) of up to \$14,300 from the Arkansas Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Trinidad River Walk Improvement Project.
--

Water Activity Summary: WSRF funds, if approved, will be expended to fund the administration of the project included in Task 5. This task includes support for the Flow Working Group which is the steering committee made up of stakeholders who will oversee the grant through monthly meetings. Administration of the grant also includes invoicing and producing progress and final reporting. The applicant is seeking other CWCB funding for Tasks 1-4 which is stated in the Issues/Additional Needs section below. The estimated total project cost is \$755,400 and the applicant is seeking \$425,400 from Colorado Water Plan grant funds.

Overall, the objectives of the project are as follows:

- Objective 1 – Remove non-native invasive plant species using BMP and IMP strategies along reaches 1 and 2 of the Purgatoire River project area. These reaches will be monitored and treated for invasive plant re-growth over a period of five years after project completion.
- Objective 2 – Bank stabilization following the removal of invasive species to enhance fishing activities at the project area. BMPs will be used to restore stream banks with the construction of cross-vanes and j-hooks. The restoration will include consideration for fishery habitat, human contact for recreation, education, and tourism.

- Objective 3 – Recreation and Education – Recreational uses within the Project Area include, but are not limited to, fishing, floating, bird watching, and public access to the streamside. Three subtasks anticipated are:
 - 1) Design and Permitting. Commercial development adjacent to the river corridor along with previous corridor improvements for fishery habitat suggest an integrated design for the entire corridor. The means and opportunity for public access to the stream banks in a safe manner recognizing that many persons accessing the streamside may be out-of-state tourists.
 - 2) Reduce Operations and Maintenance Costs. The City of Trinidad has an affirmative obligation to the Purgatoire Water Conservancy District (PWCD) for maintenance of the river channel. Deployment of features in the Project Area should reduce the overall cost of that obligation.
 - 3) Educate Citizens. The opportunity to educate the local community and visitors about the history of water resource development in Colorado and the values generated by a restored riparian habitat is a desired outcome of Subtask 1. Safe public access to the river corridor will include both safety warnings and educational media about the history of the community, agriculture and the importance of stewardship of natural resources.
- Objective 4 – Develop Collaborative Flow Management Program which recognizes and conforms to the requirements of the PWCD’s releases while establishing support for other flow needs between the project stakeholders.

Discussion: This project is consistent with the initiatives identified in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan for multi-partner and multi-benefit projects. The project is also consistent with the key action items, goals, and measurable objectives identified in Colorado’s Water Plan, specifically Objective F, Watershed Health, Environment and Recreation as well as Objective A, Supply Demand Gap. The project addresses local requirements regarding the Trinidad Project which is a facility with direct impacts to Colorado’s compliance under the Arkansas River Compact with the State of Kansas.

Issues/Additional Needs: Staff recommends **conditional** approval contingent upon the applicant being awarded future Colorado Water Plan Grant Environmental and Recreational Funding and Watershed Restoration Program funds or a combination of the two.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, Water Activity Eligibility, and Eligibility Based on Match Requirements.

Evaluation Criteria: This activity has undergone review and staff has determined it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria outlined in Colorado’s Water Plan, Section 9.4. Please refer to Basin Roundtable Chair’s Recommendation Letter and the Application for a detailed response.

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Working Group Members	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000
AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer	\$0	\$2,700	\$2,700
Subtotal Matching Funds	\$0	\$10,700	\$10,700
WSRA Arkansas Basin Account	\$14,300	n/a	\$14,300
Total Project Costs	\$14,300	\$10,700	\$25,000

CWCB Project Manager: Ben Wade