

WSF 2020 Annual Report

Grant Application No. 5249

Titled: MRNRD Hydrogeologic Mapping

Grant Amount: \$900,111.60

Project Progress:

Year one for this project consists of securing the AEM contract with Aqua Geo Frameworks and getting them to agree to a price for the scope of work we have planned. MRNRD signed a contract with AGF that matched our estimated costs to accomplish the AEM flights and data analysis. The total amount the AEM portion of this project will cost \$670,600. They required 50% of the payment before the beginning of the data collection, which we have paid. The rest of the payment will be due after data processing has been finished and MRNRD receives the final data. The AEM flight paths must be plotted so that we don't have any interference from flying parallel with a power line. MRNRD has reached out to the three different power companies and has sent power line locations to AGF.

Project Activities for coming year:

The activities for the coming year begin with determining our flight lines. AGF has received all power line locations and is currently plotting flight paths to minimize interference from them. After the flight path is determined, AGF will begin planning the logistics of getting the flight done as efficiently as possible. Weather is the determining factor of how quickly the flights can be done, but they have given us a rough estimate of 10 days to a month to complete. The remainder of the data collection and processing will be done by AGF and UNL. As of now the timeframe to have completed data will be by June 2021.

Reassessment of the Project Benefits:

There has not been any reassessment of the project benefits. There is still potential to see additional benefits from this project as it progresses, it is just too early to recognize what the additional benefits will be.

Summary:

The MRNRD is on track for completing this project on time and hasn't had any major changes in the process or timeline. We have gotten the ball rolling on the major components of this project and we look forward to seeing what sort of information it can provide. Aqua Geo Frameworks has everything they need from the MRNRD and is in the process of creating a flight plan to collect data. The MRNRD hasn't worked directly with AEM data yet and it will be a great learning experience seeing this data be collected and processed. Our hope is to continue to assess the needs of our producers and maintain the aquifer for future generations. We believe at the end of this project we will have a valuable tool to meet those needs.