



# CITY OF BLAIR

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April 23, 2020

Kent Zimmerman  
Natural Resources Commission  
301 Centennial Mall South  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4676

RE: WSF 2020 Annual Report # 5252

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

The City of Blair, Nebraska appreciates the funding from the State of Nebraska Water Sustainability Fund program and offers the following update on our project.

Blair is designing a new open water intake structure for the city's water treatment plant. The project is being designed to address any future drought issues that may arise with the Missouri River providing adequate water volumes for our water treatment plant and our customers.

The new intake preliminary design was started by Burns and McDonnell in May 2018 with that phase of work completed at the end of 2019. Blair awarded a final design contract to Burns and McDonnell in January 2020. This phase of work will provide the city with working drawings for construction and necessary permitting. Currently, the final design is 90% complete with the city expecting delivery of 90% design drawings for review and comment at the end of May 2020. The overall final design is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020.

Permitting requirements for the new intake are also underway. We held a meeting with the Corp of Engineers in Omaha in January 2019 to review the necessary permits that will be required for the project. Currently, Burns and McDonnell is working on developing the necessary permit applications and getting them submitted to the proper review agencies for their comments and issuance of the necessary permit. We are working with the Corp of Engineers, Nebraska Game and Parks, Federal Fish and Wildlife, City of Blair and Coast Guard for the necessary permits.

We are planning on having the project ready for construction letting late 2020 or early 2021 with construction scheduled for 2021/22. The intake is scheduled to be ready for use by mid – 2022.

Funding for the new intake has been completely secured. The project engineer's cost estimate is \$15 million with \$6 million from the Water Sustainability Fund and the balance from the State Revolving Loan Fund administered by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE). We are currently working on the rate adjustment for our largest customer Cargill for their share of the cost of this project. We hope to have that number within the next couple of months.

This project is very important to the City of Blair allowing the city to address future drought conditions that result in a reduced Missouri River level that would not allow Blair to draw water from the river as it currently does thus running the city out of potable water. The new intake design is being completed with a lower elevation as proposed to allow Blair to draw water from the Missouri River even during a sever drought condition. The new water intake is being designed to include an interconnect with the existing intake to allow Blair to draw water only from the new intake but provide water for the entire water treatment plant. This project will allow us to keep all of our water customers with potable water providing a safe water source for residents and businesses keeping the public and jobs safe.

The project is on schedule and budget at the time of this update. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Sincerely,



Allen Schoemaker  
Director of Public Works