

From: Tyler Weishahn, LBBNRD Assistant Manager

Date: March 15, 2024

RE: Water Sustainability Fund Final Report – LBBNRD-AEM1 #10036

A brief timeline of LBBNRD Board action regarding the project in relation to the Water Sustainability Fund:

- June 21-23, 2023 – Data acquisition and preliminary data delivery to LBBNRD
- August 24, 2023 – Aqua Geo Frameworks (AGF) presentation of preliminary results to LBBNRD Board
- January 23, 2024 – Delivery of Final Report and Products
- March 14, 2024 – AGF presentation of Final Report to LBBNRD Board and final payment issued.

This report is for the period between April 1, 2023, and the end of the project.

- 1) Project progress to date for the first report, then progress since the last annual report for future projects, including where you are relative to completing the project.
  - a. Flights and data acquisition occurred June 21-22, 2023.
  - b. Preliminary data delivery to LBBNRD occurred on June 22-23, 2023.
  - c. Final data was received from SkyTEM on August 8, 2023.
  - d. Jared Abraham of AGF presented final data to the LBBNRD Board on August 24, 2023.
  - e. Final inversions were completed on September 14, 2023.
  - f. The project is complete, with final delivery occurring on January 23, 2024, explanation of results to staff occurring on January 30, 2024.
  - g. Presentation of Final Report and deliverables to the Board of Directors by Jared Abraham of AGF occurred on March 14, 2024.
  - h. Final payment to AGF was issued on March 14, 2024.
- 2) List project-related activities planned for the coming year.
  - a. The NRD had already been utilizing preliminary results and data in informing and educating the public.
  - b. Staff continue to reference deliverables for well permitting and development of irrigated acres projects, as well as for understanding potential community wellfield impacts.
  - c. Amid a districtwide moratorium, AEM has been utilized in delineating aquifer formations and management districts, as well as when considering variances to the moratorium.
- 3) Forecast or projected cash flow for remainder of the project. This should be high level, not a detailed list, to give the Commission a projection of the fund's cash flow.

- a. February 21, 2023 - \$108,000 (WSF - \$64,800 + LBBNRD - \$43,200) check was sent to contractor for 30% down payment of the project. Claim #1 for WSF reimbursement was submitted May 4, 2023.
  - b. July 18, 2023 - \$162,000 (WSF - \$97,200 + LBBNRD - \$64,800) was sent to contractor upon completion of the data acquisition. Claim #2 for WSF reimbursement was submitted July 18, 2023.
  - c. March 7, 2024 - \$90,000 (WSF - \$54,000 + LBBNRD - \$36,000) was given to contractor upon delivery and presentation of the completed final report by the contractor. Claim #3 for WSF reimbursement was submitted March 15, 2024.
- 4) Reassessment of the likelihood that benefits projected in the application will be realized and, for the “Final Report,” a description of benefits realized or reasonably expected to be realized as compared to those stated in their application.
- a. The benefits projected in the application have been realized, specifically:
    - i. work toward establishing a hydrogeologic framework (bedrock geology, aquifer type and extent, estimated aquifer volume and water in storage, transmissivity, and specific capacity)
    - ii. a more robust understanding of water level declines, groundwater uses and aquifer vulnerabilities spatially
    - iii. augmentation of the District’s groundwater quantity and quality monitoring programs (management decisions regarding control areas and recharge areas)
    - iv. siting new test wells and production wells (sustainability and economics).

List of public outreach and WSF acknowledgement efforts:

- KLKN-TV Report: *Why a helicopter is pulling a hoop over Gage and Jefferson Counties* by Jessica Blum, June 21, 2023.
- *The Blue Buzz* Lower Big Blue NRD Newsletters prior to and during the project