

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES – October 28th, 2020

Roll Call:

Commissioners		Absent	Present	Commissioners		Absent	Present
Amen	Karen	X		McDonald	Mike		X
Anderson	Garry		X	Miller	John		X
Batie	Donald	X		Reynolds	Michael (Mick)		X
Bradley	Lawrence		X	Schroer	Lyle		X
Clouse	Stan	X		Shields	Jim	X	
Czaplewski	Mark		X	Smathers	Scott		X
Deines	Dave		X	Steffen	Jeff		X
Dunbar	Brad		X	Strauch	Walter Dennis		X
Fornoff	Kevin		X	Taylor	Loren		X
Hadenfeldt	N. Richard		X	Wilke	Greg		X
Halligan	Bill		X				
Heaston	John		X	(Muni Prim)	Vacant		
Knutson	Thomas		X	(Livestock)	Vacant		
Kraus	Don		X	(Power Prod)	Vacant		

DNR staff in attendance:

Kent Zimmerman.

Others in attendance were:

Jon Mohr, Rick Kubat, Kent Miller & Steve Owen.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chairman Smathers called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Kearney, Nebraska, and asked Zimmerman to call the roll.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Notice of the meeting was published on the State Public Meetings Calendar and on the Natural Resources Commission (Commission) web site at <https://nrc.nebraska.gov>. A copy of Nebraska’s open meeting statutes was available in the room. The following DHHS guidelines regarding COVID-19 were implemented:

- Tell invitees not to attend if they are sick.
- Face coverings were provided and use was encouraged when not seated.
- Seating arrangements provide at least six feet of distancing between attendees and presenters.
- Food, beverages and snacks stations were not available to reduce physical proximity and community touching of common surfaces.

- Proper social distancing expectations was reviewed with the attendees related to discussions, training room entry and egress, restroom breaks, etc.
- Attendee roster was completed verbally and recorded by the meeting organizer instead of sign-in sheets.
- Minimize sharing resources/equipment such as pens, markers, presentation remotes, handouts, etc.

MINUTES

Knutson moved and Miller seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the August 12th, 2020 Commission meeting.

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen				X	McDonald	X			
Anderson	X				Miller	X			
Batie				X	Reynolds	X			
Bradley	X				Schroer	X			
Clouse				X	Shields				X
Czaplewski	X				Smathers	X			
Deines	X				Steffen	X			
Dunbar	X				Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor	X			
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan	X				(Vacant)				
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson	X				(Vacant)				
Kraus	X				TOTALS	20	0	0	4

DNR UPDATE & PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Smathers opened the floor for public comments. None was offered.

Staff announced Tom Riley had been hired for the DNR Director position and staff continue to work in both the office and remotely. To the public, phone calls and email should seem like normal operations.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chairman Wilke announced the Program Committee meet on October 14th, 2020, and asked staff to lead discussion on agenda topics pertaining to program activities. No unusual activity was reported during review of status reports for the following funds.

Resources Development Fund

The status report showed business as usual. It was noted the initial agenda contained LPNNRD revenue true-up and, like the August NRC meeting, that item was removed prior to the Commission's meeting because LPNNRD staff have not produced the revenue information necessary to process the true-up.

Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund

This is currently an unfunded program.

Soil & Water Conservation Program Fund

The status report showed business as usual.

Natural Resources Water Quality Fund

The status report showed business as usual.

Water Well Decommissioning Fund

The status report showed business as usual.

Water Sustainability Fund

The status report showed business as usual. Commissioners reviewed project status of select projects moving forward at a slow pace. The Commission also discussed how long to allow projects that have stalled out or that have not made progress to remain funded. Chairman Smathers intends to work with DNR staff to produce a document showing slowed or stalled projects, the year funded and description of the issues.

Staff noted Annual & Final Reports are available for each project on the Commission's website. In addition, staff and a few Commissioners are starting to produce a "Story Map" for the Commission. The Water Sustainability Fund is the first phase.

Steve Owen, Superintendent, Lincoln Water System, reviewed a request he filed for a change of scope to its Lincoln Well Field project, WSF No. 4152. The sponsor is requesting continued cost share for installation of additional flood reduction measures on the City of Lincoln's well field

island in the Platte River stemming from damage received during the March 2019 flood. Owen pointed out this request does not include damaged areas that are available for FEMA funding; rather it includes areas that could potentially receive hazard mitigation funding from FEMA. The city has not made any progress with FEMA in pursuing the use of those hazard mitigation funds. Therefore, the sponsor is requesting use of some or all remaining WSF funding awarded to this project noting the original work has otherwise been completed under budget.

Smathers noted the Executive Committee reviewed this request prior to this meeting. The Committee concluded the additional work was similar in nature to that already completed in other locations within the project boundary of WSF No. 4152 and therefore viewed this as additional work rather than a change of scope. Therefore, the Committee's recommendation is to approve this request and noted a contract amendment is unnecessary.

Wilke moved and Czaplewski seconded the motion to approve sponsor's request to continue flood protection work in additional locations on the well field island described in application #4152. Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen				X	McDonald	X			
Anderson	X				Miller	X			
Batie				X	Reynolds	X			
Bradley	X				Schroer	X			
Clouse				X	Shields				X
Czaplewski	X				Smathers	X			
Deines	X				Steffen	X			
Dunbar	X				Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor		X		
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan	X				(Vacant)				
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson	X				(Vacant)				
Kraus	X				TOTALS	19	1	0	4

Program Committee Chairman Wilke led discussion for the 2020 Project Close Outs & Grant Reductions with the following motion:

Wilke moved and Kraus seconded the motion to adjust grants as described in the Proposed Close Outs and Grant Reduction table (below) by reducing the amount granted to that proposed in the Final Grant column; transfer the unused balance described in the Grant Release column to the unreserved balance of the WSF; and formally close-out each project listed in the table.

Chairman Smathers noted the returned funding can be used for future grants as the spending authority is already in place. The money will remain in the unreserved account until it is needed in either the large or small project funds.

Regarding project close-outs under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-1507 (4), transfer of unused funds into the unreserved balance of the WSF must be formally authorized by a transfer motion. In response to previous NRC direction, staff annually track and developed a “Water Sustainability Fund Proposed Close-Out and Grant Reductions” report which was distributed prior to, and copies made available at this meeting (see attachment). The following table summarizes project close-outs; and reductions to the amount granted for completed projects with remaining cash balances listed in that report:

**WSF Project Proposed Close Outs and Grant Reductions
October 28, 2020**

App No.	Year Filed	Approved Grant	Grant Released	Final Grant	Sponsor
4121	2015	235,500.00	-	235,500.00	SPNRD
4122	2015	900,000.00	58,050.00	841,950.00	LENRD
4126	2015	64,200.00	2,100.00	62,100.00	Papio
4162	2016	164,400.00	63,853.41	100,546.59	Howells
5189	2017	1,968,000.00	-	1,968,000.00	ENWRA
5197	2017	389,820.00	116,189.64	273,630.36	LBNRD
5198	2017	205,068.00	-	205,068.00	NPPD
5206	2018	250,000.00	-	250,000.00	LLNRD
Total			240,193.05		

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen				X	McDonald	X			
Anderson	X				Miller	X			
Batie				X	Reynolds	X			
Bradley	X				Schroer	X			
Clouse				X	Shields				X
Czaplewski	X				Smathers	X			
Deines	X				Steffen	X			
Dunbar	X				Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor	X			
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan	X				(Vacant)				
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson	X				(Vacant)				
Kraus	X				TOTALS	20	0	0	4

Chairman Smathers stated the City of Omaha filed a request for a variance to the July 2020 WSF application deadline.

Program Committee Chair Wilke noted the Committee had discussed this item and made the following motion:

Wilke moved and Reynolds seconded the motion to deny the request.

Bradley asked Commissioners to reconsider sighting the riots in Omaha, COVID-19 and related declines in Omaha's tax revenue as possible reasons the application had been overlooked.

Chairman Smathers added that the Executive Committee discussed this item and was not willing to set this precedent as the application period is set out in rules and affects the annual application cycle. The Executive Committee also recommended the Commission not transfer the money into another category, but rather leave it and make it available to applications for this type of project in the next application cycle.

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen				X	McDonald	X			
Anderson	X				Miller	X			
Batie				X	Reynolds	X			
Bradley		X			Schroer	X			
Clouse				X	Shields				X
Czaplewski	X				Smathers	X			
Deines	X				Steffen	X			
Dunbar	X				Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor	X			
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan	X				(Vacant)				
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson	X				(Vacant)				
Kraus	X				TOTALS	19	1	0	4

WSF APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chairman Czaplewski thanked DNR staff and members of the committee for their time and dedication. Members include Batie (alternate), Clouse, Deines, Hadenfeldt, Heaston (Vice Chair), Miller, Schroer, Shields, Strauch, and Wilke. Czaplewski stated the Committee met here in Kearney in September and Commissioners followed the same procedures for the 2020 WSF application review process as have been used in the past.

Czaplewski led discussion for obligation of the remaining funding to Lower Platte South Natural Resources District's Deadman's Run project, No. 5253. Czaplewski noted the need for an obligation of \$2,564,141.04 to fully fund this project and offered the following motion:

Czaplewski moved and Anderson seconded the motion to obligate \$2,564,141.04 to WSF project No. 5253 bringing the Total Grant to \$5,857,792.00.

Chairman Smathers noted this was approved last year and partially funded through use of the "cap" in accordance with the rules (Title 261) and statutes Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-1507 (4).

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen				X	McDonald	X			
Anderson	X				Miller	X			
Batie				X	Reynolds	X			
Bradley	X				Schroer	X			
Clouse				X	Shields				X
Czaplewski	X				Smathers	X			
Deines	X				Steffen	X			
Dunbar	X				Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor	X			
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan	X				(Vacant)				
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson	X				(Vacant)				
Kraus	X				TOTALS	20	0	0	4

Chairman Smathers noted Czaplewski would make the recommendations of the Application Review Committee starting with the “Smalls” then moving to the “Large Ones”. Once each motion has been seconded, Commissioners may discuss any score for any application.

Prior to this meeting the Application Review Committee’s 2020 Recommendations for scoring and funding were sent to Commissioners along with recommendations that funding of certain projects be subject to specific conditions. Those two documents, “2020 NRC Application Review Committee Recommendation” and “2020 Application Review Committee Recommended Contract Conditions for Approval” are attached to and made part of these Minutes.

Czaplewski moved and Steffen seconded the motion to approve the Application Review Committee’s recommended scores and fund all small project requests with a score of 39 or higher subject to the conditions proposed by the Application Review Committee.

Those applications are # 5283 – score 47; # 5301 – score 42; # 5304 – score 40; and # 5303 – score 39.

Conditions for WSF # 5283; # 5303; & # 5304

A grant award from the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) is contingent upon the following provision being included in the grant award agreement between applicant and the Department of Natural Resources:

Coordination, Communication, and Data Sharing with the Department.

- A. Throughout the Project timeline, Sponsor shall coordinate and communicate with the Department on the Project's compatibility with water management goals, objectives, and action items resulting from the joint planning efforts between Sponsor and the Department.
 - i. Within sixty (60) days following the execution of this Agreement, Sponsor and Department shall meet to further mutually define the scope of this coordination and communication requirement.
- B. Sponsor shall share with the Department all data that is generated as a result of this Project in a form that includes documentation and metadata and that is mutually agreed upon by Sponsor and Department.

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen				X	McDonald	X			
Anderson	X				Miller	X			
Batie				X	Reynolds	X			
Bradley	X				Schroer	X			
Clouse				X	Shields				X
Czaplewski	X				Smathers	X			
Deines	X				Steffen	X			
Dunbar	X				Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor	X			
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan	X				(Vacant)				
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson	X				(Vacant)				
Kraus	X				TOTALS	20	0	0	4

Committee Chairman Czaplewski introduced projects in the “Large” project category (requests exceeding \$250,000) and brought forth the following motion:

Czaplewski moved and Knutson seconded the motion to approve the Application Review Committee’s recommended scores and fund all large project requests with a score of 43 or higher subject to the conditions proposed by the Application Review Committee.

Note: Those applications are # 5306 – score 47; and # 5269 – score 43.

Conditions for WSF # 5269 NPPD’s SP Supply Canal Restoration

A grant award from the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) is contingent upon the following provision being included in the grant award agreement between applicant and the Department of Natural Resources:

- The Department will enter into a grant award agreement with NPPD contingent upon receiving a certification that they have all necessary land rights to underdo the project, and upon receiving the 404 permit from the USACE.
- The funding for this project will be contingent upon the dredge and pipe being considered permanent infrastructure and will remain with the project or cost recovery measures will be enforced.
- Once the retimed water benefits as described in Section B, subparagraph 9 of the grant application are determined, the Sponsor shall set a meeting with the Department on the quantification and availability of those retimed water benefits to support the states integrated water management planning activities.

Taylor stated that he scored No. 5306 much more conservatively because the Peru water pipeline has nothing to do with water sustainability. Czaplewski noted the questions which received high scores and stated that among the committee members, scores were very consistent. Strauch pointed out that the fund is also used for things like water quality and supply, noting this project is similar in that respect to the Hastings project which scored very high. Kraus pointed out the first question is remediates or mitigates threats to drinking water. Steffen noted the Commission is subject to the criteria set out in statute. Taylor said he sees this as a municipality issue and believes the fund should be used to capture and store water above and below ground. McDonald noted several reasons for tremendous water need in this area of the state.

Smathers noted with a 27-member body there is always lively discussion as each member has stake holder interests in mind. That is why the Application Review Committee is set up with equal numbers of appointed and elected members. In the end, we have to follow scoring and values established by the legislature and this system works well. Seeing no additional comments, Chairman Smathers asked to call the vote.

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen				X	McDonald	X			
Anderson	X				Miller	X			
Batie				X	Reynolds	X			
Bradley	X				Schroer	X			
Clouse				X	Shields				X
Czaplewski	X				Smathers	X			
Deines	X				Steffen	X			
Dunbar	X				Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor		X		
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan	X				(Vacant)				
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson	X				(Vacant)				
Kraus	X				TOTALS	19	1	0	4

Smathers thanked Czaplewski and members of the Application Review Committee for all of their hard work and dedication.

Committee Chairman Czaplewski noted the following topics were identified as areas of concern within the Application Review Committee. Czaplewski suggested the full Commission should discuss these items going forward, prior to the next application review.

- Use of the federal mandate bonus - define what constitutes a Federal Mandate.
- Applications funding studies - concern that sponsors take the next step to use and address the results of the study to achieve water sustainability goals.
- Orientation, background and past interpretations - work with DNR staff to provide Commission members, especially ones that have not participated in scoring in the past, better guidance in advance of application reviews.

Heaston added that he senses a blurry line between study type projects and projects for collecting data to make better water management decisions. Heaston would like digital information to be

transparent and available so that over time multiple project's work products are available and can be utilized to gain better water knowledge and management benefits.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Smathers stated the Executive Committee met prior to this meeting on October 28th, and brought forward the following for discussion:

- Public hearings on Commission rules Titles 257, 259, 260, 262 and 263 are scheduled for November 3, 2020, at the DNR office in Lincoln.
- No news yet on appointment/reappointments to the NRC by the Governor.
- Caucuses for the Elkhorn, Little Blue, Middle Platte, Niobrara, North Platte, and Republican River basins will be held in January 2021.
- Staff and a subgroup of the Legislative Committee are working to develop a "Story Map" for the Water Sustainability Fund and other Commission activities. This informational tool will be used for meetings with members of the Legislature as well as for new NRC members.

OTHER BUSINESS

None was offered.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Attachments

"2020 WSF Project Proposed Close Outs and Grant Reductions"

"2020 NRC Application Review Committee Recommendation"

"2020 Application Review Committee Recommended Contract Conditions for Approval"



Scott Smathers, Chairman



Thomas E. Riley, P.E., Director

**WSF Project Proposed Close Outs and Grant Reductions
October 28, 2020**

App No.	Year Filed	Approved Grant	Grant Released	Final Grant	Sponsor
4121	2015	235,500.00	-	235,500.00	SPNRD
4122	2015	900,000.00	58,050.00	841,950.00	LENRD
4124	2015	249,900.00	-	249,900.00	CPNRD
4126	2015	64,200.00	2,100.00	62,100.00	Papio
4162	2016	164,400.00	63,853.41	100,546.59	Howells
5189	2017	1,968,000.00	-	1,968,000.00	ENWRA
5197	2017	389,820.00	116,189.64	273,630.36	LBNRD
5198	2017	205,068.00	-	205,068.00	NPPD
5206	2018	250,000.00	-	250,000.00	LLNRD

Total 240,193.05

2020 Applications Review Committee

Recommended Contract Conditions for Approval

5269 NPPD's SP Supply Canal Restoration

A grant award from the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) is contingent upon the following provision being included in the grant award agreement between applicant and the Department of Natural Resources:

- The Department will enter into a grant award agreement with NPPD contingent upon receiving a certification that they have all necessary land rights to underdo the project, and upon receiving the 404 permit from the USACE.
- The funding for this project will be contingent upon the dredge and pipe being considered permanent infrastructure and will remain with the project or cost recovery measures will be enforced.
- Once the retimed water benefits as described in Section B, subparagraph 9 of the grant application are determined, the Sponsor shall set a meeting with the Department on the quantification and availability of those retimed water benefits to support the states integrated water management planning activities.

5283 WWUM Modeling

A grant award from the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) is contingent upon the following provision being included in the grant award agreement between applicant and the Department of Natural Resources:

Coordination, Communication, and Data Sharing with the Department.

A. Throughout the Project timeline, Sponsor shall coordinate and communicate with the Department on the Project's compatibility with water management goals, objectives, and action items resulting from the joint planning efforts between Sponsor and the Department.

i. Within sixty (60) days following the execution of this Agreement, Sponsor and Department shall meet to further mutually define the scope of this coordination and communication requirement.

B. Sponsor shall share with the Department all data that is generated as a result of this Project in a form that includes documentation and metadata and that is mutually agreed upon by Sponsor and Department.

5301 Upper Republican NRD Soil Moisture Probe Program

None

5303 PMRNRD and LPNDRD 3D AEM Hydrogeological Framework and Assessment

A grant award from the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) is contingent upon the following provision being included in the grant award agreement between applicant and the Department of Natural Resources:

Coordination, Communication, and Data Sharing with the Department.

A. Throughout the Project timeline, Sponsor shall coordinate and communicate with the Department on the Project's compatibility with water management goals, objectives, and action items resulting from the joint planning efforts between Sponsor and the Department.

i. Within sixty (60) days following the execution of this Agreement, Sponsor and Department shall meet to further mutually define the scope of this coordination and communication requirement.

B. Sponsor shall share with the Department all data that is generated as a result of this Project in a form that includes documentation and metadata and that is mutually agreed upon by Sponsor and Department.

5304 Twin Platte NRD Advanced Aquifer Monitoring System

A grant award from the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) is contingent upon the following provision being included in the grant award agreement between applicant and the Department of Natural Resources:

Coordination, Communication, and Data Sharing with the Department.

A. Throughout the Project timeline, Sponsor shall coordinate and communicate with the Department on the Project's compatibility with water management goals, objectives, and action items resulting from the joint planning efforts between Sponsor and the Department.

i. Within sixty (60) days following the execution of this Agreement, Sponsor and Department shall meet to further mutually define the scope of this coordination and communication requirement.

B. Sponsor shall share with the Department all data that is generated as a result of this Project in a form that includes documentation and metadata and that is mutually agreed upon by Sponsor and Department.

5305 Inglewood Sanitary Flood Repair, etc.

A grant award from the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) is contingent upon the following provision being included in the grant award agreement between applicant and the Department of Natural Resources:

- The Department will enter into a grant award agreement with applicant contingent upon receiving proper documentation verifying that the applicant has the necessary land rights to undergo the project.

5306 City of Peru
None

2020 NRC Application Review Committee Recommendation

App No	Large (↑\$250,000) Project Name	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Bonus	Total Points	Requested \$ Amount	Funding Recommendation
5253	Deadmans Run Flood Reduction- LPSNRD																		\$ 2,564,141.04	\$ 2,564,141.04

5306	Peru Water Supply	6	4	2	4	4	6	2	6	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	0	47	2,441,400.00	Yes
5269	NPPD's SP Supply Canal Restoration	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	43	2,357,672.00	Yes

Recommended Total \$ 4,799,072.00

App No	Small (≤ \$250,000) Project Name	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Bonus	Total Points	Requested \$ Amount	Funding Recommendation
5283	WWUM Dashboard App	4	6	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	0	47	240,000.00	Yes
5301	URNRD Soil Moisture Probe	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	42	123,840.00	Yes
5304	TPNRD Aquifer Monitoring	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	40	249,990.00	Yes
5303	Papio & LPN NRD's 3D AEM Framework	2	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	39	168,000.00	Yes
5305	Inglewood Flood Repair	4	2	0	4	2	4	0	4	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	32	166,081.00	No

Available	10,865,033.00
# 5253	2,564,141.04
CSO	1,086,503.30
Small	1,086,503.30
Large	6,127,885.36

Recommended Total 781,830.00

Scoring Committee Review Questions

- (1). Remediates or mitigates threats to drinking water.
 - (2). Meets the goals and objectives of an approved integrated management plan or ground water management plan.
 - (3). Contributes to water sustainability goals by increasing aquifer recharge, reducing aquifer depletion, or increasing streamflow.
 - (4). Contributes to multiple water supply goals, including, but not limited to, flood control, agricultural use, municipal and industrial uses, recreational benefits, wildlife habitat, conservation of water resources, and preservation of water resources.
 - (5). Maximizes the beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources for the benefit of the state's residents.
 - (6). Is cost-effective.
 - (7). Helps the state meet its obligations under interstate compacts, decrees, or other state contracts or agreements or federal law.
 - (8). Reduces threats to property damage or protects critical infrastructure that consists of the physical assets, systems, and networks vital to the state or the United States such that their incapacitation would have a debilitating effect on public security or public health and safety.
 - (9). Improves water quality.
 - (10). Has utilized all available funding resources of the local jurisdiction to support the program, project, or activity.
 - (11). Has a local jurisdiction with plans in place that support sustainable water use.
 - (12). Addresses a statewide problem or issue.
 - (13). Contributes to the state's ability to leverage state dollars with local or federal government partners or other partners to maximize the use of its resources.
 - (14). Contributes to watershed health and function.
 - (15). Uses objectives described in the annual report and plan of work for the state water planning and review process issued by the department.
- Federal Mandate Bonus.