NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Water Sustainability Fund

Application for Funding

Section A.

ADMINISTRATIVE

PROJECT NAME: Prairie Power

SPONSOR'S PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION (Not Consultant's)

Sponsor Business Name: Phelps County Historical Society

Sponsor Contact's Name: Micah Huyser

Sponsor Contact's Address: 2701 Burlington St. Holdrege, NE 68949

Sponsor Contact's Phone: 308-995-5015

Sponsor Contact's Email: director@nebraskaprairiemuseum.org

1. Funding amount requested from the Water Sustainability Fund:

Grant amount requested. $ 270,000

If requesting less than 60% cost share, what %? 60%

If a loan is requested requested amount. N/A

~~How many years repayment period?~~

~~Supply a complete year-by-year repayment schedule.~~

2. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-1507 (2)

Are you applying for a combined sewer overflow project? YES NO X

3. Permits Required/Obtained Attach a copy of each that has been obtained. For those needed, but not yet obtained (box "NO" checked), 1.) State when you will

apply for the permit, 2.) When you anticipate receiving the permit, and 3.) Your estimated cost to obtain the permit.

G&P - T&E consultation (required)	N/A X	Obtained: YES NO
DNR Surface Water Right	N/A X	Obtained: YES NO
USACE (e.g., 404/other Permit)	N/A X	Obtained: YES NO
FEMA (CLOMR)	N/A X	Obtained: YES NO
Local Zoning/Construction	N/A X	Obtained: YES NO
Cultural Resources Evaluation	N/A X	Obtained: YES NO
Other (provide explanation below)	N/A X	Obtained: YES NO

4. Partnerships

List each Partner / Co-sponsor, attach documentation of agreement:

The Phelps County Historical Society (dba: the Nebraska Prairie Museum) is the primary sponsor for this exhibit. There are no other partners for this project.

5. **Other Sources of Funding**

Identify the costs of the entire project, what costs each other source of funding will be applied to, and whether each of these other sources of funding is confirmed. If not, please identify those entities and list the date when confirmation is expected. Explain how you will implement the project if these sources are not obtained.

This project will have a variety of funding sources, including anticipated donations and grants. All of the pending grants have not been approved at the time of writing. Like most projects, grants are not always guaranteed. For example, the Institute for Museum and Library Services grant might not be available due to current federal administration goals. However, we want to include all of the possible grants that we are considering for this project. Regardless of which grants are awarded, internal fundraising will be the key to success for funding this project. We will have several funding drives leading up to our annual November fundraiser, Give 2 Grow Phelps. The total estimated cost of Project Prairie Power will be $450,000.

We have applied to and plan to apply for several grants to complete this project. A grant that we have applied for and successfully received, so far, is $7,000 from the Phelps County Visitors Committee Grant. Other grants that we've applied for, but are awaiting approval, are the Sherwood Foundation Grant for $80,000; Humanities Nebraska $30,000; and the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation for $1,500. We also plan to apply for local grants through the Phelps County Community Foundation.

6. Overview

In 1,000 words or less, provide a brief description of your project including the nature/purpose of the project and its objectives. Do not exceed one page!

Agriculture serves a critical role in Nebraska that affects not only the farming community, but the entire population. This project, Project Prairie Power, aims to show guests the fascinating history of how the use of water affected, and continues to affect, agronomy and the industrialization of agriculture in Central Nebraska. This exhibit will also cover the value this natural resource offers and how loss and pollution affect us all.

This 1,000 sq/ft+ exhibit is being designed, fabricated, and will be installed by Museum Fabrication Group. Within this exhibit, we will cover the amazing history and development of the Tri-County Project that completely reshaped the state's water management in the 1930's. That project affected farming communities throughout Central Nebraska. It paved the way for canal gravity irrigation and eventually led to the adoption of modern center pivots. The exhibit will include the 1970's-80's State Soil Surveys and naming Holdrege Silt Loam as Nebraska's official "State Soil." By telling this history, the exhibit will bring attention to the important connection between soil and water conservation, and how the overuse of fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides affects water quality for generations.

The first core takeaway will be the importance of water, from utilizing the Aquifer to building the Kingsley Dam. Water is essential to Nebraska farmers, allowing them to tap Nebraska's rich soil potential. A major concern that will be addressed is impressing the general public to focus on the importance of water and potential contaminations to drinking water that exist.

The second focus will be on how harnessing Nebraska's water supply can create low-cost and sustainable electricity production. This exhibit will look at how water is harnessed and transported to hydro-electric power plants along the canal system.

The third key takeaway for guests will look at how water impacted the production of agricultural products that had compounding effects on the industrialization of agriculture. The transformation from steam-powered engines and threshing crews to multi-row planting and harvesting equipment. By looking at the strong connections between water, soil, and agriculture this exhibit will tell a rich and memorable story to create a lasting experience.

7. Project Tasks and Timeline

Identify what activities will be conducted to complete the project, and the anticipated completion date.

The entirety of this project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2026. Starting this year, June 1st the exhibit renderings should be complete and the project revealed to the public. By November 1st we should conclude the core fundraising drive. January 1st: Establish timeline for manufacture and installation of the exhibition.

8. IMP

Do you have an Integrated Management Plan in place, or have you initiated one?
YES NO Sponsor is not an NRD X

Section B.
DNR DIRECTOR'S FINDINGS
Prove Engineering & Technical Feasibility
(Applicant must demonstrate compliance with Title 261, CH 2 - 004)

Does your project include physical construction (defined as moving dirt, directing water, physically constructing something, or installing equipment)?
YES NO X

~~If you answered "YES" you must answer all questions in section 1.A.~~
~~If you answer "NO" you must answer all questions in section 1.B.~~

~~If "YES", it is considered mostly structural, so answer the following:~~

~~1.A.1 Insert a feasibility report to comply with Title 261, Chapter 2, including engineering and technical data;~~

~~1.A.2 Describe the plan of development (004.01 A);~~

~~1.A.3 Include a description of all field investigations made to substantiate the feasibility report (004.01 B);~~

~~1.A.4 Provide maps, drawings, charts, tables, etc., used as a basis for the feasibility report (004.01 C);~~

~~1.A.5 Describe any necessary water and/or land rights including pertinent water supply and water quality information (004.01 D);~~

~~1.A.6 Discuss each component of the final plan (004.01 E);~~

~~1.A.7 When applicable include the geologic investigation required for the project (004.01 E 1);~~

~~1.A.8 When applicable include the hydrologic data investigation required for the project (004.01 E 2);~~

~~1.A.9 When applicable include the criteria for final design including, but not limited to, soil mechanics, hydraulic, hydrologic, structural, embankments and foundation criteria (004.01 E 3).~~

If "NO", it is considered mostly non-structural, so answer the following:

1.B.1 **Insert data necessary to establish technical feasibility (004.02);**

Museum Fabrication Group has a long track record spanning decades of top-quality exhibit design and installation. They have worked with organizations throughout the US and have had several projects in Nebraska. The Nebraska Prairie Museum is at the forefront of applying best museum practices in the State of Nebraska. We will utilize our vast archives and artifacts to make sure that the information depicted in the exhibit is accurate.

1.B.2 **Discuss the plan of development (004.02 0A);**

This exhibit marks a new methodology for exhibit development at the Nebraska Prairie Museum. Partnering with Museum Fabrication Group brings in their professional exhibit designers to accomplish our goals for this exhibit. The initial phase of the project will be to meet with their engineers and lay out the storyboard established by the museum's Curatorial Committee. Their team will then start designing the exhibit. After the design phase, the museum will then have the necessary renderings of the exhibit to market and solicit funding. Starting in 2026, Museum Fabrication Group will then proceed to the fabrication phase. We estimate that the exhibit will be shipped to our location and installed by the Museum Fabrication Group by April/ May of 2026.

1.B.3 **Describe field or research investigations utilized to substantiate the project conception (004.02 B);**

The Phelps County Historical Society does business as the Nebraska Prairie Museum. We pride ourselves on the wealth of knowledge we have researched and collected on the history of Central Nebraska. All primary history, photos, and artifacts will be provided for the project from the Nebraska Prairie Museum's collections. A conscience plan has been established to advertise, grant writing, and fundraise to meet goals for this exhibit established by the Phelps County Historical Society board.

1.B.4 **Describe any necessary water and/or land rights (004.02 C);**

The exhibit will be located within the Nebraska Prairie Museum; in what we call our Schrock Exhibit Hall. There is no necessary water and/ or land rights required.

1.B.5 Discuss the anticipated effects, if any, of the project upon the development and/or operation of existing or envisioned structural measures including a brief description of any such measure (004.02 D).

Each year, the Nebraska Prairie Museum welcomes thousands of visitors from all over the globe. Agri-tourism is a growing industry and for many of our guests, this will be their first explanation of how agronomy works within Nebraska. This project will be a success when guests walk away with a better understanding of the history of our agronomy, including how we use the water for farming and generating electricity; how all of this spurred the farming equipment industry; and how we protect our water resources for future generations.

Prove Economic Feasibility
(Applicant must demonstrate compliance with Title 261, CH 2 - 005)

Provide evidence that there are no known means of accomplishing the same purpose or purposes more economically, by describing the next best alternative.

Working with an outside professional company like Museum Fabrication Group marks a new direction for the museum. We've done most of our exhibits in-house, and by local professionals. What the Museum Fabrication Group adds to this project is experience in professional design and fabrication that will result in an exhibit unlike anything else in the museum. To generate a highly educational and attractive exhibit to tell this important history their addition to this project is critical to accomplish the high bar we have established.

Document all sources and report all costs and benefit data using current data, (commodity prices, recreation benefit prices, and wildlife prices as prescribed by the Director) using both dollar values and other units of measurement when appropriate (environmental, social, cultural, data improvement, etc.). The period of analysis for economic feasibility studies is the project life. (Title 261, CH 2 - 005).

Tourists and school groups flock to visit our museum from all over. By catering to tourists' curiosity, we are able to spread the message that Nebraska's history is tied to its unique culture. The cost/ benefit of which cannot be done by traditional means.

3.A Describe any relevant cost information including, but not limited to the engineering and inspection costs, capital construction costs, annual operation and maintenance costs, and replacement costs. Cost information shall also include the estimated construction period as well as the estimated project life (005.01).

The total cost for this exhibit will be the invoicing from Museum Fabrication Group. The current total estimate is $450,000.

3.B Only primary tangible benefits may be counted in providing the monetary benefit information and shall be displayed by year for the project life. In a multi-purpose project, estimate benefits for each purpose, by year, for the life of the project. Describe intangible or secondary benefits (if any) separately. In a case where there is no generally accepted method for calculation of primary tangible benefits describe how the project will increase water sustainability, in a way that justifies economic feasibility of the project such that the finding can be approved by the Director and the Commission (005.02).

This new exhibit will strengthen the agricultural communities that the Nebraska Prairie Museum connects to. By telling the history of agriculture, this new exhibit has the opportunity to benefit those communities by offering a new and exciting way to tell the importance of water and soil conservation. This new exhibit will also be an exciting new way to tell this important story to the next generation as we connect with area schools for programming and field trips.

3.C **Present all cost and benefit data in a table to indicate the annual cash flow for the life of the project (005.03).**

This project will have a variety of funding sources, including anticipated donations and grants. All of the pending grants have not been approved at the time of writing. Like most projects, grants are not always guaranteed. For example, the Institute for Museum and Library Services grant might not be available due to current federal administration goals. However, we want to include all of the possible grants that we are considering for this project. Regardless of which grants are awarded, internal fundraising will be the key to success for funding this project. We will have several funding drives leading up to our annual November fundraiser, Give 2 Grow Phelps. The total estimated cost of Project Prairie Power will be $450,000.

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3.D **In the case of projects for which there is no generally accepted method for calculation of primary tangible benefits and if the project will increase water sustainability, demonstrate the economic feasibility of such proposal by such method as the Director and the Commission deem appropriate (005.04). (For example, show costs of and describe the next best alternative.)**

This project continues the mission of the Nebraska Prairie Museum by telling the unique story of perseverance and evolution of the relationship Nebraskans have with water. When looking back 100 years ago, many in the area were against the Tri-County Project. Their core philosophy at the time was that water wasn't supposed to be used for crops. The idea at the time was that water would be wasted and gone forever. However, the Dustbowl changed the entire idea around dryland crops! During that time, new technologies showed the importance of groundwater replenishment and forever changed the relationship between water and agriculture. What we aim to do by telling this story is to equip the public with the understanding that the treatment and conservation of water is important.

Prove Financial Feasibility
(Applicant must demonstrate compliance with Title 261, CH 2 - 006)

Provide evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the proposal.

The Phelps County Historical Society board is determined to see this project through. We have designated a portion of internal funds to meet any funding shortfalls within the project. However, with grants like this and others that we are applying to, along with the attractiveness of this project to future donors in the agricultural industry, we are confident we will be able to fund this project in its entirety.

Provide evidence that sufficient annual revenue is available to repay the reimbursable costs and to cover OM&R (operate, maintain, and replace)

The long-term maintenance for this exhibit is expected to be minimal. Museum Fabrication Group offers a 100% satisfaction guarantee for all of their products and pledges to repair/ replace any aspect of the exhibit if something were to fail. Any upkeep or electrical needs will have a minimal effect on the annual budget

~~If a loan is involved, provide sufficient documentation to prove that the loan can be repaid during the repayment life of the proposal.~~

Describe how the plan of development minimizes impacts on the natural environment (i.e. timing vs nesting/migration, etc.).

Museum Fabrication Group utilizes modern methodology when crafting its exhibits and aims to eliminate as much waste as possible.

Explain how you are qualified, responsible and legally capable of carrying out the project for which you are seeking funds.

The Phelps County Historical Society (dba the Nebraska Prairie Museum) was founded in 1965. Since then, the organization has tripled in size and scope. The Phelps County Historical Society has earned an excellent reputation with the community we serve and throughout the state of Nebraska. Preserving, educating, and financial stability lie at the cornerstone of that reputation. We have a long and successful history of fundraising for impactful projects. Our curatorial team and the Phelps County Historical Society board represent a diverse variety of backgrounds and experiences well suited for any possible scenarios.

Explain how your project considers plans and programs of the state and resources development plans of the political subdivisions of the state.

South-Central Nebraska residents are the main beneficiaries of the Tri-County water project at the core of our exhibit. This exhibit will touch on many state programs concerning our water, soil, and their benefits. Our location is the best place to tell this story. We intend to seek information to tell this important story, from our local Tri-County Natural Resource District, the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, and our abundance of agriculture-related businesses.

Are land rights necessary to complete your project? YES NO X

~~If yes:~~

~~10.A Provide a complete listing of all lands involved in the project.~~

~~10.B Attach proof of ownership for each easements, rights-of-way and fee title currently held.~~

~~10.C Provide assurance that you can hold or can acquire title to all lands not currently held.~~

11. **Identify how you possess all necessary authority to undertake or participate in the project.**

The Phelps County Historical Society board is the only entity involved, as the project will be located at the Nebraska Prairie Museum site.

12. **Identify the probable consequences (environmental and ecological) that may result if the project is or is not completed.**

While there is no direct environmental impact, this project seeks to inform current and future generations on the importance of water/ soil conservation. That education will have profound compounding effects.

Section C.
NRC SCORING

In the NRC's scoring process, points will be given to each project in ranking the projects, with the total number of points determining the final project ranking list.

The following 15 criteria constitute the items for which points will be assigned. Point assignments will be 0 to 6 for items (1) - (9); and 0 to 3 for items (10) - (15). Two additional points will be awarded to projects which address issues determined by the NRC to be the result of a federal mandate.

Notes:

The responses to one criterion will not be considered in the scoring of other criteria. Repeat references as needed to support documentation in each criterion as appropriate. The 15 categories are specified by statute and will be used to create scoring matrixes which will ultimately determine which projects receive funding.

There is a total of 72 possible points, plus two bonus points. The potential number of points awarded for each criteria are noted above. Once points are assigned, they will be added to determine a final score. The scores will determine ranking.

The Commission recommends providing the requested information and the requests are not intended to limit the information an applicant may provide. An applicant should include additional information that is believed will assist the Commission in understanding a proposal so that it can be awarded the points to which it is entitled.

Complete any of the following (15) criteria which apply to your project. Your response will be reviewed and scored by the NRC. Place an N/A (not applicable) in any that do not apply, an N/A will automatically be placed in any response fields left blank.

Remediates or mitigates threats to drinking water; Describe the specific threats to drinking water the project will address. Identify whose drinking water, how many people are affected, how will project remediate or mitigate. Provide a history of issues and tried solutions. Provide detail regarding long-range impacts if issues are not resolved.

This 1,000 sq/ft+ exhibit will be designed, fabricated, and installed by Museum Fabrication Group. Within this exhibit, we will cover the amazing history of the Tri-County Project that completely reshaped the state in the 1930‘s. That project affected farming communities throughout Central Nebraska. It paved the way for canal gravity irrigation, electricity generation, and eventually led to the adoption of modern center pivots. The exhibit will include the 1970‘s-80‘s State Soil Surveys and the naming of Holdrege Silt Loam as Nebraska‘s official “State Soil.“ By telling this history, the exhibit will bring attention to the important connection between agriculture and water/ soil conservation. It will discuss how the overuse of fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides affects water quality for generations.

The first core takeaway will be the importance of water, from utilizing the Aquifer to building the Kingsley Dam. Water is essential to Nebraska farmers, allowing them to tap Nebraska’s rich soil potential. A major concern that will be addressed is impressing the general public to focus on the importance of water and potential contaminations to drinking water that exist.

The second focus will be on how harnessing Nebraska‘s water supply can create low-cost and sustainable electricity production. This exhibit will look at how water is harnessed and transported to hydroelectric power plants.

The third key takeaway for guests will look at how water impacted the production of agricultural products that had compounding effects on the industrialization of agriculture. The transformation from steam-powered engines and threshing crews to multi-row planting and harvesting equipment. By looking at the strong connections between water, soil, and agriculture this exhibit will tell a rich and memorable story to create a lasting experience.

Meets the goals and objectives of an approved integrated management plan or ground water management plan; Identify the specific plan that is being referenced including date, who issued it and whether it is an IMP or GW management plan. Provide the history of work completed to achieve the goals of this plan. List which goals and objectives of the management plan the project provides benefits for and how the project provides those benefits.

This one-of-a-kind exhibit will further the mission of the Water Sustainability Fund and the missions set out by the annual management plan. By focusing on educating the public on the history of agriculture and the importance of water/ soil conservation, we equip guests with the knowledge to make future informed decisions.

Contributes to water sustainability goals by increasing aquifer recharge, reducing aquifer depletion, or increasing streamflow; List the following information that is applicable: The location, area and amount of recharge; The location, area and amount that aquifer depletion will be reduced; The reach, amount and timing of increased streamflow. Describe how the project will meet these objectives and

what the source of the water is Provide a detailed listing of cross basin benefits, if any.

Project Prairie Power will show to guests the importance of the aquifer and how that natural formation impacted

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; List the goals the project provides benefits.Describe how the project will provide these benefits. Provide a long range forecast of the expected benefits this project could have versus continuing on current path.

Tourists and school groups come from all over the region, and by catering to them, we spread the message that Nebraska's history is tied to its unique culture. The cost/benefit cannot be done by traditional means.

Maximizes the beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources for the benefit of the state's residents; Describe how the project will maximize the increased beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources. Describe the beneficial uses that will be reduced, if any. Describe how the project provides a beneficial impact to the state's residents.

Each year, the Nebraska Prairie Museum welcomes thousands of visitors from all over the globe. Agri-tourism is a growing industry, and for many of our guests, this will be their first explanation of how agriculture works within the state. This project will be a success when guests can walk away knowing more about the history of agriculture, the evolution of knowledge around water/ soil retention, electricity generation, water/ soil quality, and conservation.

Is cost-effective; List the estimated construction costs, O/M costs, land and water acquisition costs, alternative options, value of benefits gained. Compare these costs to other methods of achieving the same benefits. List the costs of the project. Describe how it is a cost effective project or alternative.

Total Expected Expenses:
Museum Fabrication Group $450,000

After many months of planning, the Nebraska Prairie Museum consulted with several exhibit manufacturers. We were so impressed with the Museum Fabrication Group that we voted to go with them. The other groups either specialized in things we were not interested, such as children's museums; or they would design the space, but we would be responsible for hiring local contractors to build the display; and several did not even want to visit with us as we are located too far away from their location. Museum Fabrication Group proved to be the ones that would be excellent at handling the size and scope of the project we want to achieve on a budget we can handle. They are excited to work on an agriculture display and were sincerely interested in learning everything about our project. They will work within our budget of time and cost. They are a turn-key manufacturer, meaning we do not have to build or do anything to the exhibit.

After we have approved the display layout and costs, they will design, build, and install all of the displays. We do not have to worry about building or buying anything extra for the space. They are professionals, and we appreciate their expertise in this field.

Helps the state meet its obligations under interstate compacts, decrees, or other state contracts or agreements or federal law; Identify the interstate compact, decree, state contract or agreement or federal law. Describe how the project will help the state meet its obligations under compacts, decrees, state contracts or agreements or federal law. Describe current deficiencies and document how the project will reduce deficiencies.

This project aims to fill a unique opportunity for the State of Nebraska that may not be covered by other projects. This project aims to educate the public on the importance of water/ soil conservation via a permanent exhibit located in South-Central Nebraska. This permanent exhibit will be housed at the Nebraska Prairie Museum. The Nebraska Prairie Museum caters to thousands of tourists and school groups.

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; Identify the property that the project is intended to reduce threats to. Describe and quantify reductions in threats to critical infrastructure provided by the project and how the infrastructure is vital to Nebraska or the United States. Identify the potential value of cost savings resulting from completion of the project. Describe the benefits for public security, public health and safety.

This project, Project Prairie Power exhibit, will be installed inside the Nebraska Prairie Museum's large Schrock Exhibit Hall. This hall features several farming implements and history. This exhibit will be a great addition as it will educate the public on Nebraska's vital water systems and the impact and industrialization of agriculture. With this educational element, guests of all ages will be able to better visualize how they can be stewards of Nebraska's natural resources.

Improves water quality; Describe what quality issue(s) is/are to be improved. Describe and quantify how the project improves water quality, what is the target area, what is the population or acreage receiving benefits, what is the usage of the water: residential, industrial, agriculture or recreational. Describe other possible solutions to remedy this issue. Describe the history of the water quality issue including previous attempts to remedy the problem and the results obtained.

This new exhibit will educate the public on the importance of being good stewards of our water resources, and how these resources have an important impact on public health and industry.

Has utilized all available funding resources of the local jurisdiction to support the program, project, or activity; Identify the local jurisdiction that supports the project. List current property tax levy, valuations, or other sources of revenue for the sponsoring entity. List other funding sources for the project.

This project will have a variety of funding sources, including anticipated donations and grants. All of the pending grants have not been approved at the time of writing. Like most projects, grants are not always guaranteed. For example, the Institute for Museum and Library Services grant might not be available due to current federal administration goals. However, we want to include all of the possible grants that we are considering for this project. Regardless of which grants are awarded, internal fundraising will be the key to success for funding this project. We will have several funding drives leading up to our annual November fundraiser, Give 2 Grow Phelps. The total estimated cost of Project Prairie Power will be $450,000.

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Has a local jurisdiction with plans in place that support sustainable water use; List the local jurisdiction and identify specific plans being referenced that are in place to support sustainable water use. Provide the history of work completed to achieve the goals of these plans. List which goals and objectives this project will provide benefits for and how this project supports or contributes to those plans. Describe and quantify how the project supports sustainable water use, what is the target area, what is the population or acreage receiving benefits, what is the usage of the water: residential, industrial, agriculture or recreational. List all stakeholders involved in project. Identify who benefits from this project.

Yes, Tri-Basin Natural Resource District is our local jurisdiction. This exhibit will explain Nebraska's use and relationship with its natural resources of soil and water. Agriculture utilizes the bulk of water use in Nebraska, secondary to electricity generation. With that, there is an important educational element for the public. By covering this history, we also educate the public about the relationship between agronomy and water/ soil, how the important relationship has shifted over time, and how important current techniques are needed to preserve that water for future generations.

Addresses a statewide problem or issue; List the issues or problems addressed by the project and why they should be considered statewide. Describe how the project will address each issue and/or problem. Describe the total number of people and/or total number of acres that would receive benefits. Identify the benefit, to the state, this project would provide.

Educating the public about the importance of water/ soil conservation is a statewide priority. Our exhibit will be an excellent educational tool, making sure that future generations will have the knowledge to ensure that safe drinking water is available, and farmers will have the water necessary to irrigate their crops. This exhibit will provide key educational elements that the thousands of guests who visit us each year can take back with them. The history of Nebraska's water and its effect on agriculture and our ability to produce electricity is an important story to tell.

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; List other funding sources or other partners, and the amount each will contribute, in a funding matrix. Describe how each source of funding is made available if the project is funded. Provide a copy or evidence of each commitment, for each separate source, of match dollars and funding partners. Describe how you will proceed if other funding sources do not come through.

This project will have a variety of funding sources, including anticipated donations and grants. All of the pending grants have not been approved at the time of writing. Like most projects, grants are not always guaranteed. For example, the Institute for Museum and Library Services grant might not be available due to current federal administration goals. However, we want to include all of the possible grants that we are considering for this project. Regardless of which grants are awarded, internal fundraising will be the key to success for funding this project. We will have several funding drives leading up to our annual November fundraiser, Give 2 Grow Phelps. The total estimated cost of Project Prairie Power will be $450,000.

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Contributes to watershed health and function; Describe how the project will contribute to watershed health and function in detail and list all of the watersheds affected.

This project, Project Prairie Power exhibit, will be an accessible educational tool for the public to learn about our natural resources water and soil. This exhibit will educate the thousands of visitors and school groups that the Nebraska Prairie Museum receives each year. This includes Nebraska residents and farmers, the core audience for growing a more conscientious citizen. While the museum is located in South-Central Nebraska, we pride ourselves on the ability to take core ideas and use visual aids and relatable storytelling to give guests something to remember.

Uses objectives described in the annual report and plan of work for the state water planning and review process issued by the department. Identify the date of the Annual Report utilized. List any and all objectives of the Annual Report intended to be met by the project. Explain how the project meets each objective.

Located in South-Central Nebraska, the Nebraska Prairie Museum is poised to bring attention to the important natural water resources in the state. This project aims to bring attention to the increased importance of preserving that precious natural resource.

Federal Mandate Bonus. If you believe that your project is designed to meet the requirements of a federal mandate which furthers the goals of the WSF, then: Describe the federal mandate. Provide documentary evidence of the federal mandate. Describe how the project meets the requirements of the federal mandate. Describe the relationship between the federal mandate and how the project furthers the goals of water sustainability.

The Clean Water Act brings attention to the importance of water conservation and the impact that contaminants play in safe drinking water. This project, Project Prairie Power, will bring attention to the risks that the overuse of nitrates, herbicide and pesticides add to contaminated drinking water.