

March 24, 2026

Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment
245 Fallbrook, Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: WSF 2026 Annual Report – Grant #10073

This letter provides the third annual progress report for the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) Grant #10073 for the Metropolitan Utilities District's (District) Water Conservation and Peak Demand Management Project. The grant was awarded to the District on July 19, 2023. The original grant application, which describes the project, associated tasks, and the proposed schedule, is available online at:

https://nrc.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/2023_10073_MUD_Water_Conservation_and_Peak_Demand_Management.pdf

1.) Project Progress

▪ **Measurement and Monitoring:**

The 15 cellular AMI endpoints installed on large meters in 2023 and 2024 continue to collect hourly usage data. Additional hourly data was also collected from 10 large meters equipped with non-cellular AMR endpoints capable of storing hourly usage.

The District expanded its leak-logger program from 1,000 to 1,670 EchoShore devices. These devices are permanently installed in targeted areas and continuously monitor for leaks. Early detection has allowed the District to issue repair notices for leaking privately owned service lines and schedule timely repairs for system leaks.

▪ **Hydraulic Modeling:**

Work has continued on refinement of the system hydraulic model. Updates include incorporating new main extensions, refining pump curves, improving the modeling of pressure-reducing and flow-control valves, and reevaluating system demand and its distribution. Logged large-meter data was processed to generate diurnal demand curves, which were incorporated into the model's validation scenario.

▪ **Existing Program Assessment:**

A water loss audit for the 2024 calendar year was completed in 2025 using the AWWA methodology and the Water Audit Software (FWAS v6.0).



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- **Conservation and Peak Demand Management Program Development and Planning:**

The District completed a pilot study to assess the feasibility of an automated “Smart Water Program.” The pilot included 50 participants that were provided smart irrigation controllers capable of automatically shifting irrigation run times to off-peak periods to reduce peak demands.

- **Community Outreach and Education:**

The District finalized its Community Water Management Plan in early 2025 and its Water Conservation Education and Public Outreach Plan in late 2024. A District Water Conservation webpage is available at:

<https://www.mudomaha.com/your-water/water-conservation/>

The District also continued its annual participation in the “Eyes on Conservation” Water Festival at Schramm Park. In addition, the District offered a \$75 rebate program for customers installing irrigation controllers with rain shutoff capabilities.

2) Anticipated Progress for Next Report Period:

- **Measurement and Monitoring:**

The District will be developing enhancements to leak tracking, categorization, and repair scheduling processes. Budget has been allocated to further expand the leak-logger inventory in 2026.

A significant expansion of logging hourly usage on 4” and logger meters has been postponed while the District evaluates a more scalable AMI solution. We are, however, planning to log at several additional AMR equipped meters. An internal study of AMI options was completed in 2025, and the District budgeted for consultant support in 2026 and is currently developing an RFP. Additional AMI endpoint installations are targeted for 2027.

- **Hydraulic Modeling – Scenario Analysis & Assessment:**

The District plans to continue refining customer usage patterns and peak-flow analysis using data collected through existing AMI endpoints. Additional model refinement, improved calibration, and incorporation of system growth are planned.

- **Existing Program Assessment:**

A water loss audit for the 2025 calendar year is currently in progress.

- **Conservation and Peak Demand Management Program Development and Planning:**

The District plans to expand the Smart Water Pilot Program in 2026, with a goal of enrolling approximately 500 participants. Efforts will focus on assessing customer interest, refining outreach strategies, evaluating effectiveness, and developing potential program policies and incentives.

▪ **Community Outreach and Education:**

The District will continue offering the \$75 rebate program for rain-sensing smart irrigation controllers and will maintain its public outreach activities. Efforts for 2026 will include television, radio, social media, and billing inserts to encourage water conservation and odd/even watering to reduce peak demand load. Annual participation in the “Eyes on Conservation” Water Festival will also continue.

3) Forecast Cash Flow for the Remainder of the Project:

The WSF grant provided matching funds up to \$250,000. As reported in 2025, the District expanded its leak-logger program from 90 to 1,000 devices at that time, with a total cost of approximately \$1,115,000. After that purchase, the District requested and received reimbursement for the full \$250,000 grant amount. Therefore, no additional reimbursement will be requested through project completion.

We are currently anticipating completing the other project elements and issuing a final report on our findings in 2029.

The District appreciates the continued support of our efforts to conserve water and manage peak demands.

Sincerely,



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