



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

November 3, 2005

IN REPLY TO:

COPY

TO: Jack Wergin

FROM: Steve Gaul *Steve*

SUBJECT: Request for Alternate Expenditures on Underspent Items on Agreement No. 03FC601826 for Improved Hydrologic Data Collection Systems for Drought Monitoring

Jack, as we near completion of our grant expenditures under Agreement No. 03FC601826 for Improved Hydrologic Data Collection Systems for Drought Monitoring, I would like to request authority to reallocate our grant funding from those items that were underexpended to similar items that are well within the scope of those same activities. In my September 30 Semi-Annual Report and Request for Reimbursement on the Agreement, I supplied you with the figures in the following table:

	<u>Amount Left</u>
<u>Completed But Underspent 05</u>	
Walking Bridge Cambridge/Ladder Medicine Creek	\$ 1,127.80
Place a new gage on South Platte near Paxton	10,410.16
Upgrade gaging station	.29
DCS Processing Toolkit	2,500.00
Hydrological Data Manager Admin. Package	798.00
Server to House Hydro manager	660.50
Dopler meter for Lincoln Field Office	12.00
3 Aqua Calcs	1,240.00
5 Satellite Links - Republican	190.00
<u>On Site Computer Capabilities</u>	- 211.14
<u>TOTAL UNDEREXPENDITURE</u>	<u>16,727.61</u>
04 Lake McConaughy Water set aside	<u>2,689.45</u>
	19,417.06
<u>Expenditures Still Underway</u>	
Consulting Contract on Web Upgrade	8,500.00
Meter Cost Share for South Platte NRD	27,596.22
Update Drought Mitigation Plan	13,489.00
Two Ultra Sonic Flow meters	9,000.00*
05 Republican Irrigation Districts	\$137,850.00*

*Expenditures on these items have been completed since September 30 and will be billed in the near future.

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We currently have \$19,417.06 in underexpenditures plus a total of \$8,500.00 for the consulting contract on web upgrade that we would like to spend in a slightly different manner but to the same effect for a total of \$27,917.06. The alternate expenditures which we would like to make with underexpended funds include:

\$7,500	In-house training in use of WISKI Hydrologic Software
\$11,300	Satellite Data Collection Platforms for Gages above Calamus Reservoir, Below Calamus Reservoir, and at Myra Creek in the Loup Basin
\$3,200	A Data Collection Platform for the Willow Creek Gage in the Elkhorn Basin
\$1,400	A data logger for the Myra Creek Gage
\$1,150	An additional dopler meter for the Lincoln Field Office
\$1,300	A digital GPS Camera for Field Office use
<u>\$2,067</u>	An additional Aqua Calc
\$27,917	

Rationale for Asking for the Above Items

In-House Training in the Use of WISKI Hydrologic Software (\$7,500)

This is the most important single item in this request. WISKI Hydrologic Software was purchased with earlier Reclamation Drought Assistance Funding and represents a major change in the way the Department aggregates its streamgaging records. It will also provide a base for web presentation and we consider this a direct substitution for the earlier \$8,500 we had set aside in our original proposal for "Consulting Contract/Assistance on Web Page Upgrade and Data Presentation". This falls under the broader category of "Improved Distribution of Streamflow Information via the Internet". We have had both technical and training level problems in adopting the new software despite a growing awareness of its possibilities for us in data aggregation and web presentation. We have also internally managed to work out web procedures for use with WISKI, which obviates our previous need for a consulting contract. We currently hope to have a software representative both provide technical adjustments and deliver on-site training in Lincoln and a field office in early December. This is expected to both secure the utility of the earlier expenditure on the software and help us with web application.

Satellite Data Collection Platforms for Gages Above Calamus Reservoir, Below Calamus Reservoir, and at Myra Creek with Loup Basin (\$11,300)

One of the major areas of expenditure under the grant to date has been purchase of satellite data collection platforms to provide more timely reporting of streamgage data. This proposal would

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add three data collection platforms in the Ord field office area, for a total of eleven gages in that field office with the DCPs.

A Satellite Data Collection Platform for the Willow Creek Gage in the Elkhorn Basin (\$3,200)

See the explanation above.

A Data Logger for the Myra Creek Gage

This would fall under the project work item "Equip DNR with Flow Measurement Equipment".

A Dopler Meter for the Lincoln Field Office (\$1,150)

This would be the second Dopler Meter bought with Drought Assistance funds. It fits in the grant category "Equipment DNR with Flow Measurement Equipment".

A Digital GPS Camera for Field Office Use

This would fall under the grant category "On-Site Computer Capabilities for Surface Water Distribution". It would allow DNR to see if digital photography/filing can assist field office operations. This would be somewhat experimental, but potentially very useful.

An Additional Aqua Calc for Field Office

Three Aqua Calcs have already been purchased with Drought Assistance Funds. The additional Aqua Calc would give us some flexibility by having a potential spare when other Aqua Calcs need repairs or need replacement.

Jack, these are the items on which we would prefer to spend the underspent portions of our Drought Assistance Funds. Please advise me if they are acceptable. The major item where time is a factor is the initial one on the effort to train and implement our WISKI hydrologic software package. We would like to do that in early December and it is integral to our future streamgaging operations. Thank you for your consideration.