

### **Signed Agreement and Expenditures on 2002 Proposal**

On August 29, 2003 the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Natural Resources signed an agreement on expenditure of a portion of the funds in the 2002 proposal. The Bureau signed a separate agreement with the University of Nebraska for the remainder of the appropriated funds. The agreement with the Department of Natural Resources was for the following amounts:

\$200,000	Republican Basin Flowmeters (flowmeters were included in Republican Basin Drought proposal mentioned above)
\$ 18,000	Remote Monitoring Equipment at Gaging Stations in Republican Basin (again, this was included in the Republican Basin Drought proposal mentioned above)
\$20,000	Computer Hardware, Software, and Real-Time Downlink Equipment to Process Streamgaging and Weather Information in a Real-Time Fashion (again, this was part of the Republican Basin Drought proposal mentioned above)
\$238,000	TOTAL to Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
\$155,000	An Automated Soil Moisture Monitoring Network for Nebraska (separate agreement with University of Nebraska)
\$393,000	OVERALL TOTAL

To date all but \$20,000 of the above monies have been expended. That final \$20,000 is for the Processing of Streamgaging information item which is the third item listed under the Department of Natural Resources. Those expenditures are likely to be made in the near term future.

### **2003 Submission**

On March 28, 2003 Roger Patterson wrote to Fred Ore of the Bureau of Reclamation's Grand Island Office and submitted the following proposals:

\$ 644,000	Republican Basin Water Meter Proposal
\$ 17,600	Proposal to Equip Department of Natural Resource Field Office Personnel with Flow Measurement Equipment
\$ 9,000	Proposal to Add Real Time Capabilities to Blue River Gaging Stations

\$ 40,000	Proposal to Purchase a Surface Water Management Program
\$ 50,000	Proposal to Undertake a Value Study for Reservoirs to Meet State-Line Target Flows on the Big Blue and Little Blue Rivers
\$1,480,000	Drought Condition Evaluation – Public Water Supply System – Village of DeWitt
\$ 922,690	Drought Condition Evaluation – Public Water Supply System – Village of Bruno
\$3,163,884	TOTAL*

\*In addition to the \$3,163,884 noted above, funding was sought for the unfunded balance of the 2002 drought assistance request. \$622,200 had been requested and \$393,000 was received.

### Updating/Resubmission of 2003 Proposal

On March 9, 2004 Roger Patterson wrote Steve Ronshaugen of the Bureau of Reclamation's Grand Island Office to update the 2003 grant request. The submission included the following items. At the end of each item it is noted whether it is new or was substantially submitted in an earlier proposal.

\$ 50,000	1	Platte/McConaughy Water Set Aside (new)
\$ 150,000	2	Assistance for Republican Irrigation Districts (new)
\$ 30,000	3	Add to Soil Moisture Monitoring Network (new)
\$ 25,000	4	Update Drought Mitigation Plan (02)
\$ 12,000	5	Water Conservation TV Broadcast Campaign (new)
\$ 163,500	6	Improve Dist. of Streamflow Information via the Internet (02, 03, & new)
\$ 200,000	7	Meter Cost Share Assistance for South Platte NRD (new)
\$ 50,000	8	Mid-High Plains Education Initiative (new)
\$ 50,120	9	On-Site Computer Capabilities for SW Distribution (02)
\$ 15,000	10	Place a New Gage on the South Platte Near Paxton (new)
\$ 100,000	11	DeWitt Public Water Supply (03)
\$ 50,000	12	Proposal to Study Flow Augmentation to Meet State Line Target Flows for Blue River Compact (03)
\$ 16,500	13	Equip DNR with Flow Measurement Equip. (03 & new)
\$ 18,500	14	Upgrade Gaging Equipment in Republican Basin (new)
\$ 333,000	15	EQUIP Program Enhancement (new)
\$ 150,000	16	Meter Cost Share Assistance for North Platte NRD (new)
\$1,413,620		TOTAL

## Current Status of 2003 Proposal

The Department of Natural Resources is currently consulting with the Bureau of Reclamation concerning the potential eligibility status and priorities of the 2003 proposals. A final letter revising the March 9, 2004 submission is likely in the near future. With one exception it doesn't appear that any of the changes in that submission will be major or involve budgetary changes. The one major exception is that it currently appears possible that a 17<sup>th</sup> proposal "Hypolimnetic Aeration of Lake Ogallala" will be added to the list at a potential cost of \$333,000.

## Status of Each Item on Original March 28, 2003 Proposal

Since the March 9, 2004 letter updated the March 28, 2003 proposal, it is worthwhile to state item by item the current status of the items in that original March 28, 2003 proposal. That status is as follows:

\$ 644,000 Republican Basin Water Meter Proposal

*This item previously received \$200,000 under the Department of Natural Resource's 2002 proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation. Those funds have now been expended. In the interim since the March 28, 2003 proposal alternate state sources of funding were found for the Republican Basin meters. Therefore this item does not appear in the updated request (although money for meters in important basins outside the Republican is in the updated request).*

\$ 17,600 Proposal to Equip Department of Natural Resource Field Office Personnel with Flow Measurement Equipment

*This proposal is in the revised package. However, the cost has been reduced to \$16,500 reflecting different flow measurement equipment needs than those anticipated in the March 28, 2003 letter.*

\$ 9,000 Proposal to Add Real Time Capabilities to Blue River Gaging Stations

*The updated March 9, 2004 submission incorporates this item into "Project #6 - Improved Distribution of Streamflow Information via the Internet". That project includes a total of \$33,000 for upgrading Blue River gaging stations, reflecting additional stations.*

\$ 40,000 Proposal to Purchase a Surface Water Management Program

*This proposal was envisioned as part of a package to process streamgaging information and would ultimately provide better analysis that could be shown on the web. The costs of this package have declined*

*since the original proposal. It is currently anticipated that about \$17,000 to \$18,000 of this proposal will be charged to the remaining unexpended \$20,000 of 2002 Drought Assistance agreement. The remaining \$6,000 is included in the updated 2003 proposal as part of "Project #6 – Improved Distribution of Streamflow Information Via the Internet"*

\$ 50,000 Proposal to Undertake a Value Study for Reservoirs to Meet State-Line Target Flows on the Big Blue and Little Blue Rivers

*This proposal is still included as part of the updated 2003 proposal submitted on March 9, 2004. However its title has been changed to "Proposal to Study Enhanced Management and Flow Augmentation to Meet State Line Target Flows for Blue River Compact"*

\$1,480,000 Drought Condition Evaluation – Public Water Supply System – Village of DeWitt

*After consultations with the Bureau of Reclamation it became apparent that most of this project was ineligible under Bureau criteria. However, the portion pertaining to well installation was still eligible. The updated proposal requests \$100,000 for that purpose.*

\$ 922,690 Drought Condition Evaluation – Public Water Supply System – Village of Bruno

*After consulting with the Bureau, it did not appear that this project was eligible.*

\$3,163,884 TOTAL\*

To: "Muedeking, Christina" <Christina.Muedeking@mail.house.gov>  
From: Steve Gaul <sgaul@dnr.state.ne.us>  
Subject: RE: Resubmission of 2003 Drought Assistance Package to Bureau of Reclamation  
Cc: Roger Patterson, Jack Wergin, Ann Bleed  
Bcc:  
Attached: C:\Attachments\MuedekingUpdate.doc;

Christina -

At the state government level we have not yet actually received the funds you mentioned. We are currently working on refining the package to which you are referring and we expect to have an agreement signed with the Bureau on the refined package by July. There may be some confusion as to what constitutes the package for each fiscal year. Therefore, I am going to list the packages we submitted to the Bureau in the last two years and what the current status is for each of those packages and the projects in them. I am doing this as an attachment to this e-mail, since it is a little long. ***The specific numbered items you have requested in your e-mail below are explained in italics at the end of that attachment.*** What has happened is a little complicated and has generally involved an original submission and an update. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call. Please note that the attachment does not include anything for the upcoming material you are considering at the congressional level. Although we provided you with some ideas a few weeks ago, we have not sent anything to the Bureau on that yet.

Steve

At 05:22 PM 3/22/2004, you wrote:  
Steve:

Thanks for this information. As Roger may have mentioned to you, the Energy and Water Appropriations requests are due this Friday. I am beginning to draft the letter describing the Congressman's requests, which will include the DNR's drought mitigation request.

Since the appropriators provided funds for drought mitigation to NE in FY04, it would be helpful to include in this year's letter a description of how those funds were spent. Roger told me today that some of the items that were listed in last year's request did not need to be funded with the federal appropriation because other funds were obtained. Could you tell me what the status is of each of the following project requests from last year (I have reviewed the information that you sent to below, but I want to be sure that I am not misinterpreting any of the descriptions when they are compared to the descriptions from last year's appropriations request):

1. Water meters for the Republican River Basin
2. Equipping the NE DNR field office personnel with flow measurement equipment
3. Adding real-time capabilities to Blue River Gauging Stations
4. Purchasing a surface water management program
5. Undertaking a value study for reservoirs to meet state-line target flows on the Big Blue and Little Blue Rivers
6. Conducting a drought condition evaluation for the public water supply system in DeWitt, NE
7. Conducting a drought condition evaluation for the public water supply system in Bruno, NE

Thanks for your assistance,

Christina

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Gaul [<mailto:sgaul@dnr.state.ne.us>]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2004 3:53 PM

To: Muedeking, Christina

Cc: [rpatterson@dnr.state.ne.us](mailto:rpatterson@dnr.state.ne.us)

Subject: Resubmission of 2003 Drought Assistance Package to Bureau of Reclamation

Christina -

Roger Patterson asked that I send you the most recent revised/refined version of the 2003 Nebraska proposal for Emergency Drought Assistance and Drought Planning Assistance Funds. I have attached a letter Roger sent the Bureau on March 9, 2004 and a proposal summary that accompanied that letter. Please note that the proposal summary includes the year in which the proposal was originally submitted.

Instead of attaching text of the 16 proposals as submitted on March 9, I have attached the updated texts of those proposals as we have currently submitted them to the Bureau. Therefore, please be aware that while the 16 proposals are the same as those submitted on March 9 and the priorities submitted as part of that letter March 9 letter are the same, the text of the proposals have generally been slightly revised. This is still a work in progress and we anticipate submitting a revised package to the Bureau once again in the very near future.

Please note that this package is for the proposals we are currently refining, and not for the package of proposals I sent you a few weeks ago. If you have any questions on this material, please don't hesitate to call me at (402) 471-3955.

Steve