

DNR copy



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND APPLICATION COVER SHEET

H1. Project Sponsor: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

H2. Project Name: Republican Basin Water Meter Proposal

Instructions to word processing users. Double click on each slash character ("\"), including the ones above in the header, and replace them with your entry. Use your find function (Ctrl + F) to find the slash character "\". This will position your cursor at each response.

3. County(s) where project is located: Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Lincoln, Hayes, Frontier, Hitchcock, Red Willow, Gosper, Furnas, Phelps, Harlan, Kearney, Franklin, Webster, and Nuckolls 4. Nearest town:\NA

5. Total Amount Requested: \$600,000 6. Years of funding requested (select one): 1 2 3

Contact Person:
7. Name: Steve Gaul 8. Title: Supervisor, Planning and Assistance Division

9. Organization: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

10. Address, City, State & Zip: PO Box 94676, Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

11. Daytime Phone: (402) 471-3955 12. Alternate phone: (402) 471-2363 13. Fax: (402) 471-2900

14. E-mail : sgaul@dnr.state.ne.us 15. Sponsor web page: www.dnr.state.ne.us

16. Is this a continuation request for a project previously funded by the Trust: YES NO: This project has received \$67,000 in Environmental Trust funds redirected from a grant to the Tri-Basin Natural Resources district with Trust permission.

Is this a resubmission of a project application previously not funded by the Trust: YES NO: \

17. Please indicate which category best describes the applicant: \
Selections are: Individual City or County Natural Resources District Federal Agency Private for Profit Private Nonprofit Consortium School, Irrigation, Power or Development District State Agency Other (specify):

18. Will this project receive federal funds or require a federal review or permit? YES NO: \
If yes, identify the agency(s) and its role: \$200,000 in U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Funds have been granted to this project, but not yet expended. An additional application for \$644,000 has also been made to the Bureau of Reclamation but action has not yet occurred on that grant application.

19. Will this project receive other State of Nebraska funds or require a state review or permit? YES NO: \
If yes, identify the agency(s) and its role:
The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources will use funds from a state appropriation for a portion of this project.

20. In **300 words or less** provide an overview of the project for which you seek funding. If you are asking the Trust to fund only a portion of the project, indicate the components for which you seek funding.
The purpose of this application is to acquire cost share to help purchase approximately 1470 meters for monitoring groundwater high capacity well pumping in Nebraska's Republican River Basin. It is anticipated that the requested \$600,000 would be cost shared with landowners at a 50% rate. In order to most effectively manage groundwater for compact compliance, plans are to see that all of the basin's approximately 11, 700 active registered groundwater irrigation wells are metered as well as any other



The Nebraska Environmental Trust

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

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high capacity wells. Natural Resources District estimates indicate that as of July 1, 2003 approximately 4,845 wells remain to be metered.

An accurate accounting of consumptive water use is necessary to meet the terms of Nebraska's recent compact lawsuit settlement with Kansas. Thus, the data provided by the meters helps meet both water conservation needs and provide information to assist in compact implementation. The information is especially needed in dry years when existing groundwater development may be subject to more stringent use limitations and additional conservation is needed. The information is useful in individual landowner water conservation efforts. Studies have shown that when meters are installed water use goes down, even when no regulations are in place.

These monies will be used for meters installed voluntarily by landowners, at least 3 months before rules would require them to do so. We recognize that this proposal raises a question as to whether it is to fund "actions mandated by regulations." If it is determined that the proposal is not consistent with the Trust's eligibility criteria, we request that such a conclusion be communicated to the department as soon as possible. We also request that, if needed, we be given the opportunity to alter the application in order to direct it to eligible meters. Please see the note in bold in the project description for more information on NRD meter requirements.

On behalf of the sponsor(s) named above, I hereby certify that the information contained in this application, including all attachments, is true, accurate and complete.

[Handwritten signature]

Authorized Signature of Sponsor Organization

Title

Date

Name printed or typed: \