



The Nebraska Environmental Trust

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

Mary A. Harding, Executive Director

February 4, 2005

Mr. Steve Gaul
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor
INTERAGENCY MAIL - NSOB

RECEIVED
FEB 07 2005
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

RE: Project Number 05-161 - Nebraska Augmentation Program for USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Efforts

Dear Mr. Gaul:

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Board of the Nebraska Environmental Trust met on Thursday, February 3, 2005, to adopt a preliminary set of recommendations for funding in the 2005 grants cycle. We are pleased to inform you that your project was found eligible and your application was recommended for a grant award in the amount of \$30,000.00 for two years. Terms are specified in the enclosed Rating Results Sheet. The Statement of Eligibility and the Rank Order List for 2005 applications are also enclosed.

The enclosed Rating Results Sheet indicates "optional" points for geographic location. These points are an optional tool for the Board to utilize as necessary to ensure a more equal distribution of Trust funds across the state. This year projects located in District 5 received up to 20 points. All others received zero points for geographic location. The Rating Results Sheet also indicates "optional" points for Feature Program Bonus Points. Thirty-five (35) extra bonus points may be awarded to projects that meet all of the extra criteria outlined in the application package, which encourages large-scale collaborative projects with significant environmental impact.

THE NEXT STEPS:

The Board is accepting written public comment on these recommendations through Thursday, March 31, 2005. Persons wishing to comment may do so by writing to our office, or may appear in person at a public hearing to be held at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 7th, at the Nebraska Environmental Trust Office, 700 South 16th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Your appearance at this meeting is optional; it is not necessary to assure your award. Following the hearing the Board will vote to award grants. Eight of fourteen board members are required to vote in the affirmative in order to change the recommendations. You will be notified by mail, following the April 7th board meeting, of the formal action taken regarding your application.

And, save the date! To celebrate your success and to provide an opportunity to discuss your requirements as a grantee, we will be hosting a Grantee Seminar on Tuesday, April 19, 2005. Complete details will be coming soon. Please plan to attend this event at the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES NOW:

Several very important documents are enclosed with this mailing. Please read each carefully and return the required materials to our office no later than March 1, 2005. A postage paid envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

700 S 16th Street • PO Box 94913 • Lincoln, NE 68509-4913
Phone: 402-471-5409 • Fax: 402-471-8233
www.environmentaltrust.org

DNR 010128

1. **GRANTEE INFORMATION FORM.** This form must be completed and returned to the Trust Office no later than March 1, 2005. Complete the information requested in sections 1 through 3 and mark the check boxes at the bottom to ensure you have completed and returned the required documents.

2. **2005 CONTRACT BUDGET SUMMARY.** This form must be completed and returned to the Trust Office no later than March 1, 2005. When you file requests for disbursement of your grant, you will be required to identify the budget category from this budget summary for each expense for which you request disbursement from your grant. Requests for disbursement that do not match your contract budget will be denied.

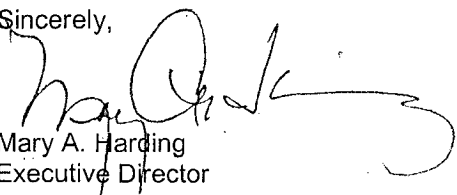
This is your opportunity to fine-tune your budget and make minor modifications and clarifications. You **MUST** complete a new budget summary even if your grant was fully funded. Please copy the budget categories for year one onto the BUDGET SUMMARY form with modifications (if applicable) and return it to the Trust Office. This form **must** be signed by someone authorized to obligate your organization.

3. **ACH ENROLLMENT FORM.** Please follow the directions provided with the form. You will need to select a payment option for disbursement of grant funds – if you select direct deposit then you and a representative from your bank must complete the enrollment form and return it to our office.

4. **PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAN.** The Trust is emphasizing renewed attention to publicizing the good works our grants support. We will require a plan of public information activities for each grant awarded. A form is included here for your convenience, to consider the various opportunities you have to communicate with Nebraskans about your project (and our support!). You may return a draft plan outline to us anytime between now and the return of your signed grant contract in April. Please feel free to contact us and visit about these opportunities and how we can work together better to inform our public.

Congratulations on your successful application! Please feel free to contact our staff or me if we can provide any further information or answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Mary A. Harding
Executive Director

MAH/lb

Enclosures: 2005 Rating Results Sheet
Statement of Eligibility
Grantee Information Form
Contract Budget Summary
Public Information Plan
ACH Form/Instructions
2005 Rank Order Listing of Applications
Return Envelope

**NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND
STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY**

AWARD YEAR: 2005

Project Number: 05-161
Sponsor: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Project Name: Nebraska Augmentation Program for USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Efforts

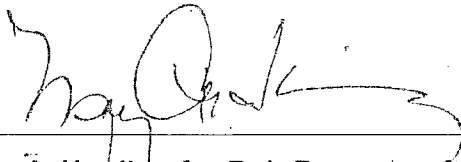
Criteria:

1. Environmental Acceptability:	The project results in net gain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Environmental Benefits:	The project will provide clear and direct environmental benefits.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Trust Board Priorities:	The project makes a real contribution to achieving defined priorities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Public Benefits:	The project will benefit the general public.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Technical Feasibility:	The project appears technically feasible.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Financial Feasibility:	The project appears financially feasible.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Provide Regulatory Assistance:	The project does not provide direct assistance to a regulatory program.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Implement Regulatory Assistance:	The project does not implement actions mandated by regulation, except to remediate soils or groundwater.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Private Benefits:	The project does not provide primarily private benefits nor relieve any entity of private liability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Financial Hardship:	The beneficiaries of this project could not afford the costs of the benefits without financial hardship.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Eminent Domain:	The project does not assist in the acquisition of property through eminent domain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Project was found eligible ? Yes

SIGNED:

DATE: 2/3/05



Mary A. Harding for Rob Ravenscroft, Grants Committee Chair

Water Policy Task Force Budget Through Dec 03, Expenditures
Through 3/31/03 and Expected Expenditures by 6/30/03

	<u>CDR Budget</u>	<u>Task Force Expense Budget</u>	<u>Other Operating Expense</u>
Budget thru 4/03	260388	60,000	7000
EXP thru 3/31/03	54375.91	13,648.26	4099.90
Expected Exp thru 6/30/03	100,000.00	18197.00	5467.00
Expected Exp thru 4/31/03	260368.00	30,000.00	8201.00