



The  
NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

Mike Johanns, Governor  
Mary Harding, Executive Director

January 30, 2004

Mr. Steve Gaul  
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 94676  
301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Fl, NSOB  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

RECEIVED  
FEB 02 2004  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

**RE: Project Number 04-168 - Republican Basin Water Meter Proposal**

Dear Mr. Gaul:

The Board of the Nebraska Environmental Trust met on Thursday, January 29, 2004, to adopt a preliminary set of recommendations for funding in the 2004 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 \$400,000.00 for two years. Terms are specified in the enclosed Rating Results Sheet and draft contract. The Statement of Eligibility and the Rank Order List for 2004 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. In 2004, additional bonus points for projects addressing water conservation and/or management were eligible for an additional 20 points if the criteria were met.

The Board is accepting written public comment on these recommendations through Monday, March 29, 2004. 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 Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Headquarters, 2200 North 33rd 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 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting, of the formal action taken regarding your application.

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, 2004. A postage paid envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

1. **DRAFT GRANT AGREEMENT.** A draft copy of your grant agreement is enclosed. Please read the provisions carefully. Be sure that you will be able to comply with all of the requirements, as modifications of grant agreements are very rarely granted. **This draft does NOT need to be returned to us, unless you wish to propose changes.** If you feel changes must be made to the contract, please return a copy of the draft with changes noted as soon as possible.

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[www.environmentaltrust.org](http://www.environmentaltrust.org)

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A final agreement will be forwarded to you after the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The final agreement will become a legally binding contract. Your application and all attachments and correspondence will become a part of the grant agreement. The contract will require you to participate in publicity activities with the Trust. It will specify when you will receive payment of your grant and the conditions that you must meet prior to receiving reimbursement.

**Again, you do not need to sign or return the draft if you are not requesting changes.**

2. **2004 AWARDS DOCUMENTATION. This form must be completed and returned to the Trust Office no later than March 1, 2004.** Part I of this form designates the authorized representative of the grantee. This is the contact person who will file reports and be available to the Trust to provide information as needed. Please fill in the information as requested.

Part II confirms your review and acceptance of the draft agreement. If the terms of the draft agreement would create serious obstacles to the implementation of your project, *please contact the Trust Office immediately*. Otherwise, this form should be signed by an authorized representative of your organization and returned no later than March 1, 2004.

3. **2004 CONTRACT BUDGET SUMMARY. This form must be completed and returned to the Trust Office no later than March 1, 2004.** 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 this 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 since your grant was not fully funded. Please fill out the budget summary with modifications and return it to the Trust Office. This form **must** be signed by someone authorized to obligate your organization.

4. **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.

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

Sincerely,

  
Mary A. Harding  
Executive Director

MAH/lb

Enclosures: 2004 Rating Results Sheet  
Statement of Eligibility  
2004 Award Documentation Form  
Contract Budget Summary  
Draft Grant Contract  
2004 Rank Order Listing of Applications  
ACH Form/Instructions  
Return Envelope