

~~Ann~~ Steve G

HERE IS Alice John's
June 13 letter
requesting partnership
opportunity input

STEVE
G.

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United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Great Plains Region
Nebraska-Kansas Area Office
P.O. Box 1607
Grand Island, Nebraska 68802-1607

IN REPLY REFER TO:
NK-320
FIN-4.00

JUN 13 2006

Ann Bleed, Acting Director
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 94676
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Fiscal Year 2009, Budget Formulation, Bureau of Reclamation's Planning Program

Dear Ms. Bleed:

The Nebraska Kansas Area Office (NKAO) has started the FY 2009 (FY09) budget formulation process for Reclamation's Planning Program. FY09 begins on October 1, 2008. The NKAO is seeking your input concerning the potential for partnership opportunities in this Program.

The overall goal of the Program is to help States and other non-Federal entities address current and projected water-related problems and opportunities by managing, developing and protecting the available natural resources. This assistance may be provided through special studies or appraisal studies. Special studies are cost-shared with no expectation of Reclamation involvement for project implementation. Appraisal studies are conducted by Reclamation at full Federal expense and determine the desirability of continuing to more detailed feasibility studies. Feasibility studies must be specifically authorized by Congress.

We are placing more emphasis on assisting water managers solve problems locally in a regional or basin-wide context through special studies and less on Federal project construction via appraisal (and feasibility) studies. However, we will continue to give serious consideration to appraisal studies, including those areas where an existing Reclamation project or facility can benefit from or contribute to solving the problem by providing new or additional authorized benefits through modification, enlargement, re-operation, etc. Areas of specific interest and emphasis for proposals include:

- Completion of on-going studies.
- Watersheds where existing Reclamation projects can benefit from or be part of the solution.
- Watershed/regional-scale problems and opportunities.
- Local support and appropriate cost sharing.
- Critical need.

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JUN 15 2006

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

As you consider potential proposals, we would like to remind you that the technical work on special studies can be performed by the non-Federal sponsor itself or via a consultant, by Reclamation, or by a combination of these. We would be happy to discuss Reclamation's capabilities which are available in Grand Island, Billings, and Denver should you desire. In any event, staff in my office will be assigned as your point of contact for coordination and study management activities.

If you would like to discuss potential activities or studies for the FY09 program, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jack Wergin, Planning Coordinator at 308-389-5322, or call me at 308-389-5301. Final study proposals will need to be submitted no later than July 21, 2006, using the enclosed activity plan template. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Alice E. Johns
Area Manager

Enclosure

cc: Steve Gaul, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 94676,
Lincoln, NE 68509
w/enclosure

FY 2009 ACTIVITY PLAN TEMPLATE

Region: Great Plains
Date: Revised:

Keep to one page

NEBRASKA INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM

(Basin)

Feasibility Study/Special Study /Appraisal Study

(New or Continuing)

FY 2009

Total	Funds			Balance
Estimated	Received	FY2009	FY2010	to Complete
Cost:	Prior to FY2009:	Need:	Need:	After FY2010:
Federal	\$	\$	\$	\$
Non-Fed.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$	\$	\$

Location: *Describe where the study is located, e.g., river basin, county(s), Tribal reservation.*

Description:

- A. **Water Resource Management/Development Problems & Opportunities:**
Include information in terms of criteria, e.g., population increases, magnitude/frequency/duration of water supply shortages, degraded habitat units, uniqueness of resources, water quality standards, aging/incompatible infrastructure, projects with unrealized authorized benefits or with potential new benefits, surplus water, regional economic development, etc.
- B. **Purpose, General Scope, Key Areas of Concern and Probable Solutions:**
Include data telling why this study should be funded. Highlight issues, interests associated with the issues, study supporters and opponents, and concerns known to the Congress. Address potential solutions in general terms of the Federal objective, e.g., national and regional economic development, environmental and social factors.
- C. **Relationship to Other Project Purposes:**
Describe Reclamation/other Federal/non-Federal projects and purposes in the study area.
- D. **Work Proposed in FY2009:**
Briefly describe activities for the first year if a 2-year study is proposed.

Justification for Federal Involvement:

Present arguments and evidence that it is important to initiate or continue the study in the program year and that there is a clear Federal role, e.g., there is a likelihood of widespread and general benefits, local ability to solve problems, and savings to the Nation that might be achieved by meetings needs through economies of scale.

Coordination with State/Federal/Tribes:

Briefly explain current and planned coordination efforts

Cost-Sharing (Name, Percent Share, Written Indication of Support):

Indicate extent to which potential cost share partner(s) are on board in and if/how much is in-kind & cash.

Study Authority: (To be completed by Reclamation)