



The Nebraska Environmental Trust

"Preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA" for future generations

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

H1. Project Sponsor: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

H2. Project Name: Republican Basin Water Meter Proposal

Water conservation by individual irrigators will be a major outcome of having meters. Application of just the amount of water a crop needs at the time it needs it can help limit unnecessary evaporation and transpiration. In a water short basin under drought conditions this can be especially important.

Note: The Republican River Compact Settlement does not require that meters be installed on irrigation and other high capacity wells in the Republican River Basin. However, such meters would greatly improve the accuracy of Nebraska's water use calculations for the Basin Compact Administration and would also greatly aid in the implementation of measures to ensure future state compliance with the Compact. Therefore, the state asked all of the Republican River Basin Natural Resources Districts to require the installation of meters on such wells. The Upper Republican NRD has required meters for over 20 years. Each of the other districts responded affirmatively to the request and adopted regulations that now require the installation of meters according to the schedule set forth below.

MIDDLE REPUBLICAN NRD

December 31, 2003 wells in the SW ¼ of a section

December 31, 2004 wells in the NW ¼ of a section

Wells in NW ¼ of section in by Sept 30, 2004

Wells in the NE ¼ and SE ¼ are already required to have meters in place

LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD

January 1, 2004 – wells in Sections 1-12

April 1, 2004 – wells in Sections 13-24

April 1, 2005 – wells in Sections 25-36

Wells in sections 25 to 36 in by Jan 1, 2005

Tri-Basin (Republican Basin Portion Only)

December 31, 2004 – meters must be installed on ½ of an individual's wells

Any wells in by Sept 30, 2004

December 31, 2005 – meters must be installed on the other ½ of an individual's wells

This Environmental Trust proposal would require that a meter be installed after April 1, 2004 and at least 3 months prior to its applicable deadline in order to be eligible for cost share from the Environmental Trust monies.

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.

BACKGROUND

The need for metering groundwater pumping in the Republican River Basin has grown from a number of historic developments. In 1935 a major flood in the basin claimed more than 100 lives and served as part of the impetus for eventual development of federal surface water storage projects in the basin. In

Electronic Grant Application

April 2003

DISCUSSION ITEMS – QUESTIONS
INTERNAL DISCUSSION ON STREAMGAGING/WEBPAGE POSSIBILITIES
Friday, March 25, 2005

1. Can/should we change what first click on “Stream Gaging” brings up so that we get to streamflow statistics more quickly or at least have a major flagged link to there. Currently clicking on “Stream Gaging under “Surface Water”, “Data Bank” or “Planning” doesn’t take you to anything with a link to streamflow statistics.
2. My own point of ignorance... Many of our gage records seem to start around 1991. Did some of our gages switch from USGS to DWR control and how is that switch dealt with on our respective websites?
3. Lets discuss how much real time we are likely to have how soon and whether a realtime daily webmap like USGS has is feasible or needed.
4. Lets discuss who is using the site and volume of usage.
5. What does WISKI make more doable in web terms?
6. Graph capability. Is USGS only doing daily real-time graphs? Would annual flow graphics be possible or desirable on our site?
7. What are the easiest changes to make first?
8. What is Mahendra really proposing and do we want to do all or pieces of that and how soon?
9. We have \$8,000 in Bureau Drought Assistance Funding that is earmarked for “Consulting Contract/Assistance on Webpage Upgrade and Data Presentation”. Ideally we should spend this by October 1. Any ideas on how we could most profitably use outside assistance on the webpage?
10. We need to get back to Rex and ask for any specific long-term assistance we want. Currently their time is somewhat limited. Any ideas?

Shoot for 1 year

We will do ① map + Graphs of Real Time
② Changes in Links

WISKI People will give us Format