



# NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

## APPLICATION COVER SHEET

H1. Project Sponsor: Executive Committee – Nebraska Water Policy Task Force

H2. Project Name: LB 1003 Water Policy Study/Project

H3. Contact Name: Steve Gaul Telephone: (402) 471-2363 Email address: sgaul@dnr.state.ne.us

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.

4. County(s) where project is located: Statewide

5. Nearest town: NA

6. Total Amount Requested: \$350,000

7. Years of funding requested (enter one):  1  2  3

Further data on the Contact Person indicated in the header:

8. Title: Head, Planning and Assistance Division

9. Organization: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

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

11. Alternate phone: (402) 471-3955 12. Fax: (402) 471- 2900

13. Sponsor web page: www.dnr.state.ne.us

14. 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):  
This application is being made by the Executive Committee of a legislatively created Task Force as required by statute.

15. Will this project receive federal funds or require a federal review or permit? YES  NO

If yes, identify the agency(s) and its role:

16. 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 project has received \$250,000 in general funds placed in the Water Policy Task Force Cash Fund which is administered by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

17. 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.

### Overview

The purpose of this project is to review specific issues relating to Nebraska surface water and groundwater law and to identify options and to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature relating to any water policy changes the task force deems desirable. The review of these issues was mandated by LB 1003 (2002) and is to be conducted by a 49 member gubernatorially appointed Water Policy Task Force representing a cross section of Nebraska water interests. Issues to be examined include:

- 1) A review of LB 108 (1996) to determine what, if any, changes are needed to address Nebraska's conjunctive use management issues;
- 2) An evaluation of temporary water transfers and, if deemed useful, development of draft legislation and procedures for a temporary water transfer law;



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- 3) An evaluation of the utility of authorizing additional types of permanent water transfers and, if deemed useful, development of draft legislation and procedures for additional types of permanent water transfers;
- 4) A determination as to the usefulness of water leasing or transfers and development of a potential water banking system that would facilitate transfer of water uses; and
- 5) A determination as to what other ways, if any, inequities between surface water users and ground water users need to be addressed and potential actions the state could take.

Helping the group to best address complex issues surrounding surface water – groundwater relationships and water transfers will require several types of professional assistance. Foremost, a professional facilitation organization is being employed to organize meeting and help the group reach consensus. In addition, outside assistance will be needed to provide assistance on the complex legal options, legal approaches being use in other states, the geology/hydrology involved, and the economic and environmental implications of various options. While state agencies can provide a portion of this assistance, production of a high quality report to the Legislature and Governor could be greatly aided by securing outside assistance.

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.

Signature	Title	Date
Name printed or typed: \		



# NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

## NARRATIVE SECTION

H1. Project Sponsor: Executive Committee – Nebraska Water Policy Task Force

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In five pages or less, provide a discussion of your project. Be sure to cover the points specified in the instructions.

### NARRATIVE

#### Purpose

The purpose of this project is to review specific issues relating to Nebraska surface water and groundwater law and to identify options and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

#### Issues to Be Examined / Objectives

- 6) A review of laws of 1996, LB 108, to determine what, if any, changes are needed to adequately address Nebraska's conjunctive use management issues;
- 7) An evaluation of the utility of allowing temporary water transfers and, if deemed useful, development of draft legislation and procedures for authorizing and implementing a temporary water transfer law;
- 8) An evaluation of the utility of authorizing additional types of permanent water transfers and, if deemed useful, development of draft legislation and procedures for authorizing and implementing additional types of permanent water transfers;
- 9) A determination as to the usefulness of water leasing or transfers and development of a potential water banking system that would facilitate the temporary or permanent transfer of water uses; and
- 10) A determination as to what other ways, if any, inequities between surface water users and ground water users need to be addressed and potential actions the state could take to address such inequities.

#### Project Origin / Guidance/ Sponsors

The review of these issues was mandated by LB 1003 (2002) and is to be conducted by a 49 member gubernatorially appointed Water Policy Task Force representing a cross section of Nebraska water interests. Interests represented include: Irrigators (20), Natural Resources Districts (5), Power (4), Municipalities (5), Agriculture (3), Recreation (2), Environmental (3), At Large (3), the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, and the chair and vice-chair of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature. The Task Force executive committee of 13 members includes representation from each interest.

LB 1003 specifically required this application for a Trust Grant with the following language. *"The executive committee shall apply for a grant for a minimum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund prior to the application deadline of September 9, 2002, for grants to be awarded and funded in 2003."* The Executive Committee is the applicant/sponsor for



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this grant. The Executive Committee is responsible for study guidance. It consists of the following members:

<u>Interest</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
NRDs	Ron Bishop	John Turnbull
Power	Don Kraus	Clint Johannes
Municipal	Gary Mader	Steve Huggenberger
Agricultural	Jay Rempe	Greg Whitmore
Recreation	Gloria Erickson	Jim Coady
Environmental	Paul Currier	Laurie Benson
Irrigators	Robert Ambrosek Tom Schwarz Lumir Jedlicka	Harry Howell Jim Miller Nancy Eberle
DNR	Roger Patterson	
Att. Gen. Office	David Cookson	
Natural Res. Comm.	Ed Schrock Elaine Stuhr	
At Large	Dennis Strauch	Jack Maddux

The Funds for the project are to be handled through a Water Policy Task Force Cash Fund. This fund is to be administered by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

## Synopsis of Product

The product of this project will be a report to the Legislature and Governor that provides options and recommendations for each of the five project objectives and as deemed appropriate provides draft legislation.

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## Schedule

The first meeting of the Water Policy Task Force for this project occurred on July 29, 2002. Project completion is expected by December 31, 2003.

## Need for Assistance

Helping the group to best address complex issues surrounding surface water – groundwater relationships and water transfers will require several types of professional assistance. Foremost, a professional facilitation organization is being employed to organize meetings and help the group reach consensus. In addition, outside assistance will be needed to provide background for the task force on the complex legal options, legal approaches being use in other states, the geology/hydrology involved, and the economic and environmental implications of various options. While state agencies can provide a portion of this assistance, production of a high quality report to the Legislature and Governor could be greatly aided by securing outside assistance.

## Background on Issue

In recent years, increased water demands have resulted in increased conflicts between water users in general and have highlighted conflicts between surface and ground water users. As the demand for water has outstripped the supply, moratoriums prohibiting additional use of water have been put in place. In basins where no new water rights are allowed, the only way a new user, such as a city, can get a permit to use water is to find an existing water right that can be transferred to the new use. As use of both surface water and groundwater in an area becomes fully allocated, providing mechanisms such as water transfers and banking becomes more important. However, transfer and banking options involve detailed analyses of equity questions and potential third party effects. A careful examination of these questions by a broad based task force that includes representation of all interests can assist in identifying approaches that may be most appropriate for Nebraska.

In addition, in Nebraska, as in other western states, these conflicts have increased the intensity of policy discussion of the laws relating to the conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater. In many areas of the state ground and surface water resources are interconnected and the use of water by groundwater users can affect water availability of water for surface water users or vice versa. The conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater has been a significant component of a number of recent Nebraska water conflicts, including: the settlement of the Nebraska v. Wyoming lawsuit on the North Platte River that was before the U. S. Supreme Court, the Kansas v. Nebraska Republican River lawsuit currently before the U. S. Supreme Court, the Platte River Cooperative Agreement, and a lawsuit regarding ground water and surface water management and administration on Pumpkin Creek.



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Nebraska law has been slow to recognize this connection. The physical complexity of surface water – groundwater relationships and differences in surface and ground water legal and institutional frameworks have also contributed to the difficulty of addressing these issues. Surface water is subject to the prior appropriation doctrine of “first in time, first in right”. Groundwater is subject to correlative rights provisions of sharing in times of shortage. In 1996 LB 108 provided mechanisms to address many aspects of potential surface water – groundwater conflicts. Nevertheless, there are continued questions as to whether that law is sufficient to best address all situations that the state now faces.

Finally, the widely disparate understandings, viewpoints and concerns of those concerned with water policy make meaningful dialogue on these issues extremely difficult and rare. Addressing these and other issues in an economically efficient and environmentally sound and equitable manner presents challenges that are not easily met by a large legislative body with multiple responsibilities.

The intent of the Water Policy Task Force is to bring together a group of people representing the various water interests in the state who can take the time to develop a thorough understanding of the technical, legal, environmental, economic and social aspects these issues. Through discussions with each other it is hoped that they can also develop an understanding the various viewpoints of the various competing interest groups. With this knowledge and understanding as a basis, the task force will develop and discuss alternatives to address these issues and hopefully come to some consensus on some recommendations on how the state should address these issues. . These recommendations, along with a discussion of the costs and benefits of each, will be presented to the legislature for their consideration. It is hoped that the work of the task force will be helpful to the legislature in their deliberations of these complex issues.

## Details on Product

### FACILITATION / CONSENSUS

One of the most important factors in project success will be to identify issues and potential solutions on which the task force is able to reach a meaningful consensus. Because task force members will have taken the time to understand the issues and are also representative of a wide cross section of water interests in the state, a consensus-based recommendation has a high possibility of providing acceptable solutions. Where no consensus can be reached, at least the task force would be able to delineate the issues and present the various view points and tradeoffs connected to any potential solutions. The results should provide valuable guidance to the legislature.

Organizing such an effort involving many technical complexities and important and diverse interests is extremely difficult. For that reason a highly skilled professional facilitation firm has been hired. Their facilitation will help organize the group to best address each study issue/objective and to determine what information is needed to address those issue/objectives. The first meeting of the task force took place on July 29, 2002 and the first meeting of the executive committee took place on July 30, 2002 with another occurring on August 20, 2002. In those meetings the facilitation group helped identify issues, interests and concerns of the group. The expectation is that the issues, interests and concerns will form a basis



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for future work on those objectives. Organizing information and reaching consensus on each activity will be a major project activity.

### FINAL PRODUCT

The final product of this effort will be a report addressing each of the five issues supplied in the legislation. It will include a review of the issues, identification of options and in some instances, (if deemed useful) draft legislation. The five issues will be separately addressed and the Water Policy Task Force may form subcommittees to address some issues. The committee or subcommittees will decide on information needs for each item as work progresses and consultants will provide the needed information. Reports will be compiled for each issue/objective and combined into the final report. Writing of the final report is likely to be done by a combination of consultants, Department of Natural Resources staff, and the Water Policy Task Force Executive Committee. The Water Policy Task Force itself will provide the basic input and dictate how the report is to be written. All material included in the report must be approved by the full task force. The Executive Committee will provide additional more timely guidance to those who have writing duties.

### ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES, BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES

The outcome of the project will be a review and analysis of the effectiveness of existing laws relating to conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater as well as water transfers and banking systems. Based on this review, the task force will make recommendations on what, if any, changes to existing law would be appropriate for consideration by the state legislature. Because the recommendations of the task force will be the result of a consensus based decision making process, all interests, including environmental interests will have a voice and any consensus solution should appropriately recognize their concerns. Alternatively, where no consensus is reached, the task force will at least explicate the various issues involved and help the legislature and others understand all the issues and concerns raised by all points of view.

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

The diverse makeup of the Water Policy Task Force should help result in fairness and equity being significant factors in reaching consensus. The social impacts of achieving consensus between interests on addressing this contentious area of water law could be beneficial to the state. The economic stakes are also high. Providing mechanisms for new municipal and industrial growth in basins closed to new permits will be essential for the continued viability of Nebraska's towns and industry. In situations where water is increasingly allocated to existing uses, transfer mechanisms could play a growing role in seeing that water is used in an economically efficient manner. Surface water – groundwater conflicts are and will continue to be major factors in water-short basins. Conjunctive management of these surface and ground water resources has also been a focus of a number of interstate issues/negotiations where considerable money is involved. Finally, Nebraska has the second highest number of irrigated acres in the nation. Irrigated agriculture has a major impact on the state's economy. How state law handles surface water – groundwater conflicts and water transfers could have a major impact on that and other segments of the state's economy.



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### Budget/Matching Funding/ Contractors

The process and report that constitute the project are expected to cost a total of \$600,000 in cash funding with another \$80,000 worth of in-kind contribution in measurable Department of Natural Resources staff time and about \$15,000 in Attorney General's Office in-kind staff time and travel. For the cash funds, a total of \$250,000 is to come from general funds deposited in the Water Policy Task Force Cash Fund. The remainder would come from the \$350,000 Trust grant that is the subject of this application. A contractor for the facilitation of the process, CDR Associates of Boulder Colorado, has already been hired. Work on hiring contractors for other potential work on the process has not yet begun. In addition to the Department of Natural Resources in-kind match, significant contributions are expected from the Nebraska Attorney General's Office and the Water Policy Task Force members.

### Water Policy Task Force Member Contribution

*Very significant in-kind contribution will come from the task force members themselves, most of whom are serving on a volunteer basis. Given the variety of backgrounds of task force members, no attempt was made to monetize their overall contributions for the project budget. (The exception is the contributions of the members from the Department of Natural Resources and the Attorney General's Office.) However, the task force has 49 members who are expected to meet at least quarterly and a 14 member executive committee that is expected to meet about monthly. Including travel time, meetings are expected to take at least one day, and for many members will likely take longer – possibly averaging around 12 hours. Thus, in-kind hours for the 1½ year long project could potentially run over 6,500 hours, not counting outside study or subcommittee work. In addition, a number of task force members or the organizations they represent have agreed to pick up their own travel expenses, which will allow the funding for the task force to stretch even further.*





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## APPLICATION BUDGET SUMMARY

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BUDGET YEAR: SUMMARY/1 YEAR ONLY\*

COLUMN A	COLUMN B	COLUMN C	COLUMN D	COLUMN E	COLUMN F
Row 1: Source of Funds Budget Categories	Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund	NE Dept of Nat Resources Water Policy Task Force Cash Fund	NE Dept of Nat Resources In-Kind Staff Work*	NE Attorney General's Office*	TOTALS
1. Facilitate Mtgs of Task Force & Executive Comm.	110,388	150,000			\$260,388
2. Develop Educ. Presentations & Materials for Task Force Members	5,000	10,000	20,000	4,000	\$39,000
3. Develop Info Requested by Task Force	53,000	10,000	15,000	4,000	\$82,000
4. Review LB 108 – Determine Any Needed Changes	20,000	5,000		2,000	\$27,000
5. Evaluate Temp Water Transfers – If Deemed Desirable Develop Draft Legislation and Procedures	20,000	5,000		1,000	\$26,000
6. Evaluate Permanent Water Transfers/ If Deemed Desirable Develop Draft Legislation & Procedures	20,000	5,000		1,000	\$26,000
7. Evaluate Utility of Different Types of Transfers / If Deemed Desirable Develop Draft Leg & Procedures	20,000	5,000		1,000	\$26,000
8. Determine Usefulness of Leasing, Transfers & Banking	20,000	5,000			\$25,000



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9. Determine how inequities between SW & GW Users can be addressed	20,000	5,000			\$25,000
10. Write & Publish Report containing Options & Any Recommendations Deemed Desirable	20,000	0	20,000		\$40,000
11. Write any Recommended Legislation as Appendix	21,612	3,000	10,000	2,000	\$36,612
12. Expenses for Nebraska Water Policy TF & Exec Committee	20,000	40,000			\$60,000
14. Other Task Force Admin. Expenses and Administration		7,000	\$15,000		\$22,000
15.					
16.					
17.					
18. TOTALS	350,000	250,000	80,000*	15,000*	695,000*

\* Grand Total includes \$600,000 cash and \$95,000 in-kind. However, with the exception of two members, this does not include credit for what is expected to be about 6,500 hours of effort by task force members. This is being submitted as a budget summary with no budget sheets for individual years because all expenditures to be reimbursed from Trust Funds are expected within a year of receipt. However, effort on the project and expenditure of matching funds began in July of 2002.

56 - The in-kind figure for the Attorney General's Office is subject to modification.



# NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

## APPLICATION BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

H1. Project Sponsor: Executive Committee – Nebraska Water Policy Task Force

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1. Have other sources of funding not listed in the Budget Worksheet been approached for project support? If yes, name them and explain the outcome of your request.

Yes. Funds totaling \$150,000 were to be allocated to this project from the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund but were not released for use on the project.

2. If any of the contributing partners listed in the Budget Worksheet have not confirmed participation, list the date when confirmation will be made. Explain how you will implement the project if these sources do not confirm participation.

NA

3. If any of the project costs identified in Column B of the Budget Worksheet have been expended or if debt has been incurred for these costs or a sponsor or partner is obligated for these costs in any other way: List these costs here. Explain clearly why Trust grant funds are requested for these costs.

A very significant portion of the funds in Column B of the budget worksheet have been obligated and it is likely that a still higher portion would be obligated and expended prior to receipt of the Trust grant. Work on this project began in July of 2002 and the first meeting of the Water Policy Task Force took place on July 29, 2002. A contract with CDR Associates of Boulder Colorado has been signed in the amount of \$260,388. For the project to be completed on time very significant work will need to be completed prior to the time period when Trust grants are normally awarded. It is anticipated that funds utilized before receipt of a Trust grant would come from the matching general funds allocated to the Water Policy Task Force cash fund. Most likely all or all but a small portion of the matching funds in the Water Policy Task Force Cash Fund would need to be utilized prior to receipt of the Trust grant. Normal grant timing and legislative deadlines for the project are responsible for this difficulty. Some discussion about grant deadlines and how to free up funds at the earliest possible time may be needed. LB 1003 requires that the work of the task force be completed by 18 months after the Governor notifies the Legislature that all members of the task force have been appointed and a meeting facilitator has been selected.

1. CATEGORY/COMPONENT (from Column A of the Budget Summary)	BASIS USED TO DETERMINE COST	
1. Facilitate Meetings of Task Force & Executive Committee	Agreement with CDR Associates – contractors and estimate of potential staff time for in-kind match	
2. Develop Educational Presentations & Materials for Task Force Members	Estimate of Potential Bid and estimate of potential staff time for in-kind match	
3. Develop Information Requested by Task Force	Estimate of Potential Bid and estimate of potential staff time for in-kind match	
4. Review LB 108 – Determine Any Needed Changes	Estimate of Potential Bid	
5. Evaluate Temporary Water Transfers – If Deemed Desirable Develop Draft Legislation and Procedures	Estimate of Potential Bid	
6. Evaluate Permanent Water Transfers/ If Deemed Desirable Develop Any Draft Legislation & Procedures	Estimate of Potential Bid	



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<b>7. Evaluate Utility of Different Types of Transfers / If Deemed Desirable Develop Draft Legis. &amp; Procedures</b>	Estimate of Potential Bid	
<b>8. Determine Usefulness of Leasing, Transfers &amp; Banking</b>	Estimate of Potential Bid	
<b>9. Determine how Inequities between SW &amp; GW Users Can be Addressed</b>	Estimate of Potential Bid	
<b>10. Write &amp; Publish Report containing Options &amp; Any Recommendations the Task Force Deems Appropriate</b>	Estimate of Potential Bid and estimate of potential staff time for in-kind match	
<b>11. Write any Recommended Draft Legislation as Appendix</b>	Estimate of Potential Bid and estimate of potential staff time for in-kind match	
<b>12. Expenses for Nebraska Water Policy TF &amp; Exec Committee</b>	Estimate of Potential Expenses that may be charged by 49 member task force. Estimated 6 Full Meetings and 18 meetings of Executive Committee. Does not include costs for members who pay their own expenses.	
<b>13. Other Task Force Administrative Expense and Administration</b>	Estimate – Based on number of meetings and likely volume of work. In-kind represents time. Cash represents other expense	

\* Items 3 through 11 may be contracted as separate items, together, or in several pieces. How they are contracted may depend in part upon services available.



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## PROJECT SPONSOR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

**H1. Project Sponsor:** Executive Committee – Nebraska Water Policy Task Force

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Please see the instructions for section C-3. Attachments to this document may be necessary to complete this section. Include these attachments with your hard copy submission.

The Executive Committee of the Water Policy Task Force is funded through the Water Policy Task Force Cash Fund which is administered by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources has a FY 2003 appropriation of \$28.5 million. Of the appropriated amount about \$22.6 million is for funds and lawsuit/legal expenses and about \$5.9 million is for contracts and agency expense.



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## TIMELINE

**H1. Project Sponsor:** Executive Committee – Nebraska Water Policy Task Force

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See instructions for section D.

Work on the project began in July 2002 using the matching fund currently available. As of April 2003 when Trust grant funds would become available, most of those matching grant funds will have been expended. Environmental Trust Funds will then be used to complete the project.

Month/Year	Task Description:
Start: July, 2002 End: December 2003	1. Facilitate Meetings of Task Force & Executive Committee
Start: July 2002 End: August 2003	2. Develop Educational Presentations & Materials for Task Force Members
Start: July 2002 End: December 2003	3. Develop Information Requested by Task Force
Start: October 2002 End: September 2003	4. Review LB 108 – Determine Any Needed Changes
Start: October 2002 End: September 2003	5. Evaluate Temporary Water Transfers – If Deemed Desirable Develop Draft Legislation and Procedures
Start: October 2002 End: September 2003	6. Evaluate Permanent Water Transfers/ If Deemed Desirable Develop Draft Legislation & Procedures
Start: October 2002 End: September 2003	7. Evaluate Utility of Different Types of Transfers / If Deemed Desirable Develop Any Draft Legislation & Procedures the Task Force Deems Appropriate.
Start: October 2002 End: September 2003	8. Determine Usefulness of Leasing, Transfers & Banking
Start: October 2002 End: September 2003	9. Determine how inequities between SW & GW Users can be addressed
Start: August 2003 End: December 2003	10. Write & Publish Report containing Options & Any Recommendations the Task Force Deems Appropriate
Start: June 2003 End: September 2003	11. Write any Recommended Draft Legislation as Appendix
Start: July 2002 End: December 2003	12. Expenses for Nebraska Water Policy TF & Exec Committee
Start: July 2002 End: December 2003	13. Other Task Force Administrative Expenses



# NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

## PARTNERS

H1. Project Sponsor: Executive Committee – Nebraska Water Policy Task Force

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Please see the instructions for filling out section E. Letters of confirmation should be included with your hard copy submission.

Note: The Water Policy Task Force is comprised of 49 individuals representing a variety of interests. They are all donating time to the process. Although we are not listing them as partners or asking them to provide letters confirming their contribution, that can be done if necessary.

Partner	Contribution
Nebraska Attorney General's Office	The Attorney General's Office is expected to provide legal expertise in a number of budget categories.
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources	Funding for the project will be run through the Department of Natural Resources and the Department will provide approximately \$80,000 worth of in-kind contribution including general administrative support.

# STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Roger K. Patterson  
Director

September 9, 2002

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns  
Governor

Mary Harding  
Executive Director  
Nebraska Environmental Trust  
2200 N. 33<sup>rd</sup> St.  
P.O. Box 30370  
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

Dear Ms. Harding:

This is to confirm that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is committed to serve as a partner in the proposed project entitled "*LB 1003 Water Policy Study/Project*". Our intention is to contribute by developing information for the task force, writing draft portions of the task force report, and providing administrative support to the effort. At the current time our expectation is that we will contribute staff time and office support worth approximately \$80,000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger K. Patterson".

Roger K. Patterson  
Director

sg