



The  
NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

Mike Johanns, Governor  
Mary Harding, Executive Director

February 3, 2003

Mr. Steve Gaul  
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 94676  
301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Fl, NSOB  
Lincoln, NE 68508-2529

**RE: Project No. 03-164 - LB 1003 Water Policy Study/Project**

Dear Mr. Gaul:

The Board of the Nebraska Environmental Trust met on Friday, January 31, 2003, to adopt a preliminary set of recommendations for funding in the 2003 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 \$350,000.00 for one year. Terms are specified in the enclosed rating sheet and draft contract. The rank order list of 2003 applications is also enclosed.

To celebrate your success as a grantee, the Trust will be hosting a Grantee Seminar on Monday, April 7, 2003. Complete details will be coming soon. Please plan to attend this event, at the Roman L. Hruska Law Center, 635 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., on April 7.

The enclosed rating 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 Districts 3, 6 and 7 received 10 points and projects in District 5 received 20 points. All others received zero points for geographic location. The rating 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 Board is accepting written public comment on these recommendations through Friday, March 28, 2003. 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 Friday, April 4<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 4<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 3, 2003. 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.**

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DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

## 2003 Rating Results

Application #      03-164  
 Sponsor Name:    Nebraska Water Policy Task Force  
 Project Name:     LB 1003 Water Policy Study/Project

| Ratings Statement                                   | Points Available   | Rating     |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| Advances Trust Priorities                           | 25                 | 17         |
| Sound Planning and Design                           | 25                 | 17         |
| Direct Measurable Environmental Benefits            | 20                 | 11         |
| Cost-Effective                                      | 20                 | 13         |
| Duration of Benefits                                | 15                 | 11         |
| Matching (non-state) resources (monetary & in-kind) | 15                 | 8          |
| Prevents Contamination/Degradation of Resources     | 15                 | 10         |
| Many people or communities served                   | 15                 | 12         |
| General public benefit                              | 10                 | 8          |
| Public/Private Partnerships                         | 10                 | 7          |
| Economic Impact                                     | 10                 | 8          |
| Evaluation Plan                                     | 10                 | 6          |
| Unique Need   | 5                  | 4          |
| Public Health                                       | 5                  | 2          |
| Innovation  | 5                  | 4          |
| Replication Potential                               | 5                  | 2          |
| Individual or Local Initiative                      | 5                  | 3          |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                                    |                    | <b>143</b> |
| Feature Program Bonus Points (35 available)         |                    | <b>35</b>  |
| Geographic Distribution (varies)                    |                    | <b>0</b>   |
|   | <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>178</b> |

**Recommendation:** We recommend funding this application in the amount of \$350,000 this year.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
 Mary A. Harding for Warren/Arganbright, Subcommittee Chair

If you feel changes must be made to the contract, please return a copy of the draft with changes noted *as soon as possible*. A final agreement will be forwarded to you after the April 4<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 return the draft if you are not requesting changes.**

2. **2003 AWARDS DOCUMENTATION.** This form must be completed and returned to the Trust Office no later than March 3, 2003. 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 grant 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 3, 2003.

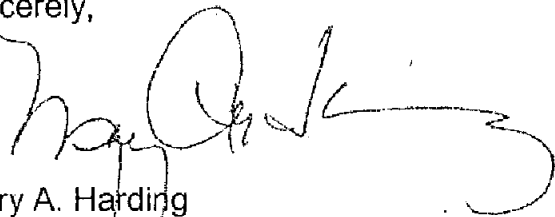
3. **2003 CONTRACT BUDGET SUMMARY.** This form must be completed and returned to the Trust Office no later than March 3, 2003. When you file requests for disbursement of your grant, you will be required to identify the budget category from this budget summary for each expense for which you request disbursement 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 even if your grant was fully funded. Please copy the budget categories on to 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.

4. **PARTNER LETTERS.** Since confirmation letters from partners were not required at the time of application this year, we are now requesting written confirmation from all partners on your project. If you submitted partner letters with your application you do not need to send additional copies. **Please forward these letters to our office by March 3, 2003.**

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: 2003 Rating Result Sheet  
Statement of Eligibility  
2003 Award Documentation Form  
Contract Budget Summary  
Draft Grant Contract  
2003 Rank Order Listing of Applications  
Return Envelope