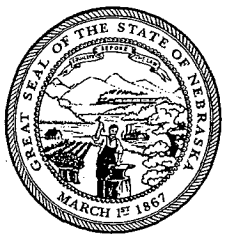


Jim Garrison



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

August 29, 2005

IN REPLY TO:

To: Natural Resources District Managers
From: Ann Bleed *Ann Bleed by jk*
Subject: Request for Information on Natural Resources District Funding Needs for Integrated Water Management Activities

As you know, last year the legislature did not provide any funding for the NRDs or DNR to implement their integrated management responsibility for the second year of this biennial budget. The DNR is currently working with the Water Policy Task Force to obtain funding for these activities. Toward this end the funding subcommittee of the Task Force has asked us to assemble information on potential budgetary needs for integrated water management activities over the next several fiscal years. We are especially concerned that funds be available to help natural resources districts implement integrated water management activities under LB 962. In that regard we are sending this memo to all district managers asking for their assistance by providing their potential integrated management related costs and funding assistance needs for FY's 06-07, 07-08, and 08-09.

If all or a portion of your district has already been determined to be fully appropriated or designated as overappropriated, please provide us with your best estimate of the budget you will need to carry out your districts integrated management planning responsibilities. ***At this time the Department has not determined which, if any, additional areas of the state will be declared fully appropriated before January 1, 2006. If, however, a part of your NRD should be determined to be fully appropriated, you will no doubt incur additional operation costs. Even though your basin may not be considered as fully appropriated, in order to insure we request sufficient funding to cover all potential additional costs,*** we request that you provide us with estimates based upon a hypothetical determination of your basin being fully appropriated. For those districts that are not currently designated as fully appropriated, we would also like an estimate of what expenses, if any, your district might incur related to integrated management planning assuming you are not determined to be fully appropriated.

To assist districts with budget planning we have attached a supplementary item or items depending upon the district. These are separate budget sheets for Districts with overappropriated / Republican River Compact basins, fully appropriated basins and basins which

clrshare/planning

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have not been declared. Each budget includes our initial rough estimates for a hypothetical general basin only. These estimates were based upon conversations with NRD personnel and others. These may provide an initial guide, but will not fit the actual circumstances of your District. We would like you to fill in the amounts as appropriate for your district in the columns for each fiscal year. Some districts may contain both fully and overappropriated areas and in those situations we would suggest using the overappropriated budget sheet for the entire district.

We currently anticipate trying to maintain or increase State support for University research and assistance and DNR staff assistance to NRDs. The current funding for the 05-06 and 06-07 biennium for integrated water management activities includes a \$7.5 million appropriation plus a \$1.1 million carryover. We plan on using \$5 million of that amount for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program funding in designated areas of the Platte and Republican Basins. We have also set aside \$1 million in relation to integrated management for the EQIP program. Your responses to this memo will help us to understand the needed level of funds both in the second year of the current biennium and for the following two fiscal years.

There is some urgency to receiving your response in a timely manner. The Funding Subcommittee of the Nebraska Water Policy Task Force is meeting September 8th and their Chair would like to see whatever figures we receive from the NRDs at that time. That subcommittee will be helping the task force, which meets on October 8, develop its specific recommendations on future funding needs and means of raising funding. Those recommendations will in turn be provided to the DNR as input in developing the upcoming state budget for integrated water management activities. Therefore, we need your best estimates for the budget by the close of business on Friday, September 2. Please e-mail or fax this information to Steve Gaul of our staff at (402) 471-3955 or sgaul@dnr.state.ne.us.

Thank you for any help you are able to provide on this important budgetary topic. We want to have the best idea possible of natural resources district's upcoming budgetary needs for integrated water management activities. The information should help provide a basis for better budgetary decisions and requests in upcoming months.

Attachments

To Receive Overappropriated Spreadsheet

Lower Republican

Middle Republican

Upper Republican

North Platte

South Platte

Twin Platte

Central Platte

Tribasin

To Receive Fully Appropriated Spreadsheet Only

Upper Niobrara White NRD

To Receive Fully Appropriated and Not Designated Spreadsheets

All Other NRDs

Over Appropriated and Republican Compact Areas
Administration activities

(Sample Budget Only)

	Estimated Cost FY2005-2006	Estimated Cost FY2006-2007	Estimated Cost FY2007-2008	Estimated Cost FY2008-2009
Certification of acres				
Education and Information				
Clerical	\$4,000			
Stakeholders Group	15,000			
Planning (15 percent staff time, Manager and Professional)	27,000			
	17,500			
Technical activities				
Monitoring well installation				
Groundwater -Surface Water Studies	75,000			
Modeling Update and Maintain	40,000			
Modeling NRD work	25,000			
Geographic Information Systems and Database	30,000			
	30,000			
Subtotal	\$263,500			
Compliance activities				
Groundwater Well Flow Meters (Maintenance and personnel per county)	\$48,300			
Groundwater Well Flow Meters (initial cost per well)	\$900-1200			
Irrigated Land retirement/ac	\$1,000			
Total				

*Please add to the categories for particular needs related to your NRD

**All estimates need to be translated to your particular needs

***Please add your current budget numbers for 2005-2006

****Please make any adjustments for future fiscal years where appropriate

Fully appropriated areas
 (Sample Budget Only) Estimated Cost FY2005-2006 Estimated Cost FY2006-2007 Estimated Cost FY2007-2008 Estimated Cost FY2008-2009

Administration activities				
Cerification of acres				
Education and Information	\$4,000			
Clerical	15,000			
Stakeholders Group	27,000			
Planning (15 percent staff time, Manager and Professional)	17,500			
<u>Technical activities</u>				
Monitoring well installation	75,000			
Groundwater -Surface Water Studies	40,000			
Modeling Update and Maintain	25,000			
Modeling NRD work	30,000			
Geologic and Hydrogeologic mapping	n/a			
Geographic Information Systems and Database	30,000			
Subtotal	\$263,500			
<u>Compliance activities</u>				
Total				

*Please add to the categories for particular needs related to your NRD
 **All estimates need to be translated to your particular needs
 ***Please add your current budget numbers for 2005-2006
 ****Please make any adjustments for future fiscal years where appropriate

Districts where no area has been declared should fill out both this sheet based upon the assumption that they might have an area declared fully appropriated and the sheet with not declared area .

Areas not declared

(Sample budget Only)

Estimated Cost FY2005-2006 Estimated Cost FY2006-2007 Estimated Cost FY2007-2008 Estimated Cost FY2008-2009

	Estimated Cost FY2005-2006	Estimated Cost FY2006-2007	Estimated Cost FY2007-2008	Estimated Cost FY2008-2009
<u>Administration activities</u>				
Planning- Manager- Professional-.10 FTE	11,725			
Education and Information	\$4,000			
<u>Technical activities</u>				
Monitoring well installation	75,000			
Groundwater -Surface Water Studies	40,000			
Modeling development	25,000			
Modeling data gathering activities	30,000			
Geographic Information Systems and Database	30,000			
Subtotal	215,725			

*Please add to the categories for particular needs related to your NRD

**All estimates need to be translated to your particular needs

***Please add your current budget numbers for 2005-2006

****Please make any adjustments for future fiscal years where appropriate

Districts where no area has been declared should fill out both this sheet based upon the assumption that they might have an area declared fully appropriated and the sheet with not declared area.