

Agenda Item: 7.

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee
From: Brian L. Henkel, Groundwater Management Engineer
Date: August 02, 2013
Re: Review and Recommendation on Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant Application for Groundwater Quality Monitoring Wells

The District groundwater quality sampling program, currently samples approximately 40 locations per year of which 9 are dedicated monitoring well sites. The remaining sampling locations are coordinated through local landowners and utilize existing irrigation or domestic wells. The District also samples groundwater through the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) for an additional 6 dedicated locations. Dedicated monitoring sites provide more detailed and higher quality analysis than irrigation or domestic wells can provide.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has received funds to install groundwater quality monitoring wells across the state. NDEQ requested that the Natural Resources Districts determine the number and location for the monitoring wells and incorporate the new locations into their existing sampling programs. District staff requested a total of 10 locations with 2 to 3 wells per location. The total number of locations requested by the NRD's exceeds the money available for the construction of the wells and it is likely that NDEQ will only construct 5 of the 10 requested sites.

As a way to supplement the NDEQ money and effort, District management is proposing to apply for a Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) grant to fund the remaining 5 locations proposed to NDEQ as well as an additional 10 well locations for a total of 20 locations. It is anticipated that the 5 locations provided by NDEQ can be counted as in-kind contribution in the grant application. Management proposes that the District application include contribution from the District for the construction of 5 of the well locations. The NET grant would then fund the remaining 10 locations. The contributions are outlined in the following table based on the currently anticipated costs of construction:

Organization	Amount
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality	\$27,500
Papio-Missouri River NRD	\$27,500
Nebraska Environmental Trust	\$55,000
Total	\$110,000

Any District contribution and NET grant funds would be dependent upon the award of the NET grant and would therefore be included in the fiscal year 2015 budget. Actual costs may change and will be approved by the Board during budgeting for FY 2015.

The addition of these dedicated monitoring well locations will improve the water quality monitoring program by generating greater detail in the understanding of the water quality in the aquifer systems and greater reliability in the results. There will also be a moderate savings to the District groundwater sampling program through the reduction in time spent on coordination with local landowners.

Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that management be authorized to apply to the Nebraska Environmental Trust funding of 15 monitoring well sites.