

## **Program 311 – Interrelated Water Management Plan Program**

### **Program Description**

The Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Fund was established in FY2006 with the passage of LB 1226, Section 20 to facilitate and fund the duties of natural resource districts arising under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act. It functions as a grant program administered by the Natural Resources Commission (Commission) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR staff evaluates and ranks requests submitted in March by natural resources districts based on guidelines established by the Commission. DNR presents recommendations to the Commission's decisions at its May meeting for review and obligation of funds. A local revenue match totaling twenty percent of total project costs is required.

### **Program Objectives**

This grant program is intended to facilitate the duties of natural resource districts arising under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act, and to help offset costs incurred in performing those duties. The Department of Natural Resources tracks the status of each funded project, and reports this as well as overall program status at each Commission meeting.

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for developing effective and efficient processes for:

- Assisting natural resources districts in scoping projects, and with preparing and submitting annual applications
- Assembling appropriate review team members from both within and outside of the department to evaluate technical feasibility and the usefulness of expected results
- Supervising the evaluation process and ranking requests in accordance with Commission guidelines and statutory requirements
- Present the evaluation and ranking results to the Commission for final disposition.
- Tracking committed funds by project, reviewing reimbursement requests, and making payments
- Reviewing project status reports and confirming that statutory requirements are met

### **Performance Measures**

The primary measure of success for the Interrelated Water Management Planning Program relates directly to the adoption of integrated management plans and the timeliness of subsequent actions in better managing the State's water resources. By helping to fund research and study, sponsors can apply additional science to their basins' environment, hydrology, and hydraulics to determine appropriate actions and assure that planned improvements are sound.