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Water Sustainability Fund Will Accept Applications

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will accept applications for the Water Sustainability Fund July 16 through July 31 electronically on the NRC website.

This is the second funding cycle. In April the NRC awarded more than \$11 million to 17 projects throughout the State of Nebraska. This cycle there is just over \$25 million in available funds; however, the commissioners are not required to award all of the funds available.

“We want to continue to be good stewards of the taxpayers’ money,” Kevin Fornoff, chairman of the NRC said. “Any funds that are not awarded during a cycle will roll over to the next cycle. We want to fund good projects that will have a positive effect on our most precious natural resource.”

The commissioners are required to award 10 percent of the available funds each cycle for Combined Sewer Overflow projects. During the first cycle, \$2.9 million was awarded to the City of Omaha.

The Water Sustainability Fund was established in 2014 through legislation to provide funding for projects that achieve the specific goals of the Fund, which includes mitigating threats to drinking water; meeting the goals of approved integrated water management plans; increasing aquifer recharge, decreasing aquifer depletion or increasing streamflow; and maximizes the beneficial use of water resources. (For a full list of criteria, visit the NRC website at nrc.nebraska.gov.)

The application form, guidelines and digital upload instructions are available on the NRC website at nrc.nebraska.gov/water-sustainability-fund-0.