

Support Services for the  
**WATER FUNDING TASK FORCE**

December 5, 2013



# *Draft Report Review/Discussion*



## Nebraska Water Funding Task Force

# Draft Cover

Photo submittals accepted!



Strategic Plan and  
Recommendations Report

## Draft Report Review

**The grammatical edits, spelling mistakes and editorial comments that do not significantly change the meaning of the document have been completed.**

**Suggestions that will be completed in the next few weeks and included in the final version of the report:**

- Add an acronym list to the report
- Add Titles to Appendices
- Enlarge or enhance Appendix tables to make them more legible
- Ensure consistency with terminology (NRC, Commission, etc.)

# Draft Report Review

## Comments that required review and discussion by the Task Force:

- Criteria Weighting System
- Geographic Distribution System
- NRC elections

# Draft Report Review

## Other points for discussion:

- One reviewer noted Occupation Tax for all NRDs (with IMPs)
- One reviewer noted Bond Financing for all NRDs (with IMPs)
- One reviewer asked, “As IWMPP funding sunsets the WSF will fund such projects, should this be mentioned in the report?”
- One reviewer suggested that we eliminate the discussion on other state water funding
- One reviewer asked that the backup data on funding needs from Irrigation Districts, NRDs and Municipalities be included in the report.
- A reviewer suggested that an amount be recommended for the Revolving Loan Fund
- Local match (one reviewer suggested a 40% minimum match)
- Re-evaluation of NRDF projects using proposed criteria?
- Two suggestions to revise the criteria were presented

# NRDF Ranking Worksheets

## Natural Resources Development Fund

### Project Ranking Worksheet - **Project Proposal**

Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

	Criteria	Possible Points	Points Awarded
1.	Is the primary purpose of the project flood damage reduction?	Yes 11 No 0	
2.	Does the project provide and/or preserve the waters of the state for beneficial uses and to what extent?	Yes 2-8 No 0	
3.	Does the project improve conjunctive management of hydrologically connected waters?	Yes 6 No 0	
4.	Does the project address a current statewide need or benefit (e.g. compliance with an interstate compact or agreement)?	Yes 5 No 0	
5.	Is the project multipurpose in nature?	Yes 5 No 0	
6.	Extent to which other non-federal sources of funding are being used	Great 3 Moderate 2 Not at all 0	
7.	Does the project leverage federal funds?	≥ 50% 3 20 - 49% 2 1 - 19 % 1	
8.	Extent to which the sponsor NRD or other sponsoring public entity is already using its taxing authority and other potential revenue sources	95 - 100% 3 75 - 94% 2 50 - 74% 1	
9.	Other aspects of the project that warrant NRDF funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent to which project would conserve land resources</li> <li>Extent to which project would provide public outdoor recreation lands and/or facilities</li> <li>Extent to which the project would preserve and/or develop fish and wildlife resources</li> <li>Extent to which project would result in abatement of pollution</li> <li>Extent to which project would have incidental benefits for which there is no accepted method for monetary quantification</li> <li>Extent to which project would protect and/or improve public lands</li> </ul>	0 - 6  <b>No more than 1 point may be awarded for any individual "other aspect".</b>  <b>Maximum of 6 points allowed in total for all "other aspects".</b>	

Total \_\_\_\_\_

## Natural Resources Development Fund

### Project Ranking Worksheet - **Project Application**

Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

	Criteria	Possible Points	Points Awarded
1.	% flood damage reduction provided by the project	>75% 11 >50-75% 10 >25-50% 8 >15-25% 6	
2.	Does the project provide and/or preserve the waters of the state for beneficial uses and to what extent?	Yes 2 - 8 No 0	
3.	Does the project improve conjunctive management of hydrologically connected waters?	Yes 6 No 0	
4.	Rate of return calculated for the project	> 6% 6 > 5 - 6% 4 4 - 5% 2	
5.	Local support for the project	0 - 4	
6.	Does the project address a current statewide need or benefit (e.g. compliance with an interstate compact or agreement)?	Yes 5 No 0	
7.	Is the project multipurpose in nature?	Yes 5 No 0	
8.	% of total project costs requested from NRDF	< 40% 3 40-54% 2 55-70% 1	
9.	Does the project leverage federal funds?	≥ 50% 3 20 - 49% 2 1 - 19 % 1	
10.	Extent to which the sponsor NRD or other sponsoring public entity is already using its taxing authority and other potential revenue sources.	95 - 100% 3 75 - 94% 2 50 - 74% 1	
11.	Other aspects of the project that warrant NRDF funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent to which project would conserve land resources</li> <li>Extent to which project would provide public outdoor recreation lands and/or facilities</li> <li>Extent to which the project would preserve and/or develop fish and wildlife resources</li> <li>Extent to which project would result in abatement of pollution</li> <li>Extent to which project would have incidental benefits for which there is no accepted method for monetary quantification</li> <li>Extent to which project would protect and/or improve public lands</li> </ul>	0 - 6  <b>No more than 1 point may be awarded for any individual "other aspect".</b>  <b>Maximum of 6 points allowed in total for all "other aspects".</b>	

Total \_\_\_\_\_

# Criteria Weighting Option 1

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Awarded
The extent to which the PPA protects the ability of future generations to meet their needs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing aquifer recharge</li> <li>• Reducing aquifer depletion</li> <li>• Remediating or mitigating threats to drinking water</li> <li>• Meeting the goals and objectives of an approved IMP</li> </ul>	0-30	
The extent to which the PPA contributes to multiple water supply management goals including but not limited to flood control, agricultural use, <b>municipal and industrial uses</b> , recreational benefits, wildlife habitat, conservation of water resources, and preservation of water resources.	0-30	
The extent to which the PPA provides increased water productivity and otherwise maximizes the beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources for the benefit of its residents.	0-30	
The cost effectiveness of the PPA relative to achieving the state's water management goals.	0-30	
The extent to which the PPA assists the state in meeting its obligations under interstate compacts or decrees or other formal state contracts or agreements.	0-30	
The extent to which the PPA reduces threat to property damage.	0-30	
The extent to which the PPA improves water quality.	0-30	
The extent to which the local jurisdiction has utilized all available funding resources to support PPA.	0-15	
The extent to which a PPA addresses a statewide problem or issue.	0-15	
The extent to which the PPA contributes to the state's ability to leverage state dollars with local or federal government partners or other partners to maximize the use of its resources.	0-15	
The extent to which the PPA has been approved for, but has not received funding through an established state program.	0-15	
The extent to which the PPA contributes to watershed health and function.	0-10	
The extent to which the PPA utilizes objectives described in the Annual Report and Plan of work for the Nebraska State Water Planning and review Process issued by DNR.	0-10	
<b>Total</b>	<b>290</b>	

**210 Points (72%)**

**60 Points (21%)**

**20 Points (7%)**

# NET Ranking Worksheet

Ratings Statement		Low		Ave.		High	Points Available
Degree project advances categories of the Trust	0	5	10	15	20	25	25
Sound planning & design	0	5	10	15	20	25	25
Direct measurable environmental benefits	0	4	8	12	16	20	20
Cost-effective	0	4	8	12	16	20	20
Duration of benefits	0	3	6	9	12	15	15
Matching (non-state) resources (monetary & in-kind)	0	3	6	9	12	15	15
Prevents contamination or degradation of resources	0	3	6	9	12	15	15
Many people or communities served by project	0	3	6	9	12	15	15
General public benefit	0	2	4	6	8	10	10
Public/private partnerships	0	2	4	6	8	10	10
Economic impact	0	2	4	6	8	10	10
Evaluation plan	0	2	4	6	8	10	10
Unique Need	0	1	2	3	4	5	5
Public health	0	1	2	3	4	5	5
Innovation	0	1	2	3	4	5	5
Replication potential	0	1	2	3	4	5	5
Individual or local Initiative	0	1	2	3	4	5	5
Feature Program Bonus Points							35
<b>Total Points Available</b>							<b>250</b>
Geographic Points - vary each year and are announced in August							

# Criteria Weighting Option 2

Criteria	Low			Ave			High			
<b>The extent to which the PPA protects the ability of future generations to meet their needs including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing aquifer recharge</li> <li>• Reducing aquifer depletion</li> <li>• Remediating or mitigating threats to drinking water</li> <li>• Meeting the goals and objectives of an approved IMP</li> </ul>	0	5	10	15	20	25				
The extent to which the PPA contributes to multiple water supply management goals including but not limited to flood control, agricultural use, municipal and industrial uses, recreational benefits, wildlife habitat, conservation of water resources, and preservation of water resources.	0	5	10	15	20	25				
The extent to which the PPA provides increased water productivity and otherwise maximizes the beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources for the benefit of its residents.	0	5	10	15	20	25				
The cost effectiveness of the PPA relative to achieving the state's water management goals.	0	5	10	15	20	25				
The extent to which the PPA assists the state in meeting its obligations under interstate compacts or decrees or other formal state contracts or agreements.	0	5	10	15	20	25				
The extent to which the PPA reduces threat to property damage.	0	5	10	15	20	25				
<b>The extent to which the PPA improves water quality.</b>	0	5	10	15	20	25				
<b>The extent to which the local jurisdiction has utilized all available funding resources to support PPA.</b>	0	3	6	9	12	15				
<b>The extent to which a PPA addresses a statewide problem or issue.</b>	0	3	6	9	12	15				
The extent to which the PPA contributes to the state's ability to leverage state dollars with local or federal government partners or other partners to maximize the use of its resources.	0	3	6	9	12	15				
The extent to which the PPA has been approved for, but has not received funding through an established state program.	0	3	6	9	12	15				
<b>The extent to which the PPA contributes to watershed health and function.</b>	0	1	2	3	4	5				
The extent to which the PPA utilizes objectives described in the Annual Report and Plan of work for the Nebraska State Water Planning and review Process issued by DNR.	0	1	2	3	4	5				
<b>Total</b>							<b>245</b>			

**175 Points  
(72%)**

**60 Points  
(24%)**

**10 Points  
(4%)**

## Revised criteria

**30 points**

The extent to which the PPA **contributes to the goals of water sustainability for the state of Nebraska by protecting** the ability of future generations to meet their needs including:

- Remediating or mitigating threats to drinking water
- Meeting the goals and objectives of an approved IMP

**30 points**

The extent to which the PPA **contributes to the goals of water sustainability for the state of Nebraska by protecting** the ability of future generations to meet their needs including:

- Increasing aquifer recharge
- Reducing aquifer depletion
- **Increasing stream flow**



**Yes**



**I can live with it.**



**No, what would it take to get you to live with it?**

# NET Ranking Worksheet

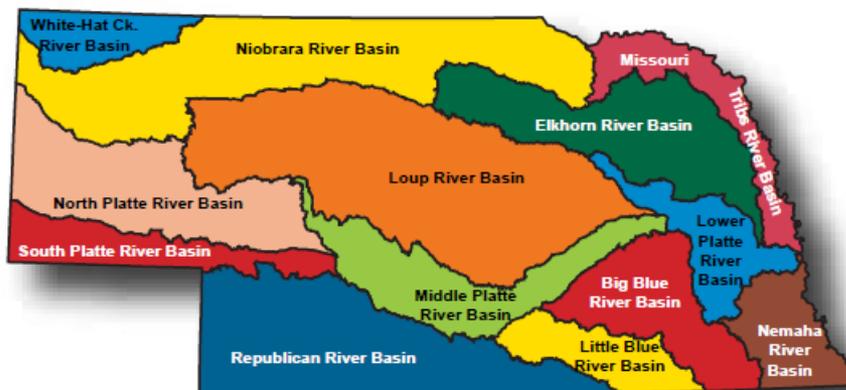
Ratings Statement		Low		Ave.		High	Points Available
Degree project advances categories of the Trust	0	5	10	15	20	25	25
Sound planning & design	0	5	10	15	20	25	25
Direct measurable environmental benefits	0	4	8	12	16	20	20
Cost-effective	0	4	8	12	16	20	20
Duration of benefits	0	3	6	9	12	15	15
Matching (non-state) resources (monetary & in-kind)	0	3	6	9	12	15	15
Prevents contamination or degradation of resources	0	3	6	9	12	15	15
Many people or communities served by project	0	3	6	9	12	15	15
General public benefit	0	2	4	6	8	10	10
Public/private partnerships	0	2	4	6	8	10	10
Economic impact	0	2	4	6	8	10	10
Evaluation plan	0	2	4	6	8	10	10
Unique Need	0	1	2	3	4	5	5
Public health	0	1	2	3	4	5	5
Innovation	0	1	2	3	4	5	5
Replication potential	0	1	2	3	4	5	5
Individual or local Initiative	0	1	2	3	4	5	5
Feature Program Bonus Points							35
<b>Total Points Available</b>							<b>250</b>
Geographic Points - vary each year and are announced in August							

# Geographic Distribution

## Optional Rating Factor:

In order to ensure equitable distribution of funds across the entire state over time, the NRC may assign points to a project benefiting an area deemed previously under-served by Water Sustainability Fund projects. The NRC defines thirteen districts to determine geographic distribution, and usually assigns points based on the districts in which a project will be accomplished.

- This factor may not be used every year.
- Many projects do not receive any points in this category



## NRC Elections

1. NRC members are to be elected through an open election process in the same manner as NRD board directors.
2. No change to the current election process through caucuses.

# Draft Report Review

## Other points for discussion:

- One reviewer noted Occupation Tax for all NRDs (with IMPs)
- One reviewer noted Bond Financing for all NRDs (with IMPs)
- One reviewer asked, “As IWMPP funding sunsets the WSF will fund such projects, should this be mentioned in the report?”
- One reviewer suggested that we eliminate the discussion on other state water funding
- One reviewer asked that the backup data on funding needs from Irrigation Districts, NRDs and Municipalities be included in the report.
- A reviewer suggested that an amount be recommended for the Revolving Loan Fund
- Local match (one reviewer suggested a 40% minimum match)
- Re-evaluation of NRDF projects using proposed criteria?
- Two suggestions to revise the criteria were presented

## Bonding and Occupation Tax

Statutory changes that allow all natural resource districts **with IMPs** the opportunity to pursue ~~general obligation~~ bond financing. This would provide a mechanism for natural resources districts to collect funds for projects that will benefit natural resources district residents.

Statutory changes to expand the use of occupation tax to all natural resource districts **with IMPs**. This would allow natural resource districts the ability to levy occupation tax thus providing for local matching funds in all districts, even those that are not full or over appropriated.

# Proposed Criteria Revisions

The extent to which the PPA **contributes to the goals of water sustainability for the state of Nebraska by protecting** the ability of future generations to meet their needs including:

- Remediating or mitigating threats to drinking water
- Meeting the goals and objectives of an approved IMP or GWMP

The extent to which the PPA **contributes to the goals of water sustainability for the state of Nebraska by protecting** the ability of future generations to meet their needs including:

- Increasing aquifer recharge
- Reducing aquifer depletion
- **Increasing stream flow**

The extent to which the PPA contributes to multiple water supply management goals including but not limited to flood control, agricultural use, **municipal and** industrial uses, recreational benefits, wildlife habitat, conservation of water resources, and preservation of water resources.

The extent to which the PPA provides increased water productivity and otherwise maximizes the beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources for the benefit of its residents.

The cost effectiveness of the PPA relative to achieving the state's water management goals.

The extent to which the PPA assists the state in meeting its obligations under interstate compacts or decrees or other formal state contracts or agreements.

The extent to which the PPA reduces threat to property damage.

**The extent to which the PPA improves water quality.**

**The extent to which the local jurisdiction has utilized all available funding resources to support PPA.**

**The extent to which the local jurisdiction has plans that support sustainable water use.**

**The extent to which a PPA addresses a statewide problem or issue.**

The extent to which the PPA contributes to the state's ability to leverage state dollars with local or federal government partners or other partners to maximize the use of its resources.

The extent to which the PPA has been approved for, but has not received funding through an established state program.

**The extent to which the PPA contributes to watershed health and function.**

The extent to which the PPA utilizes objectives described in the Annual Report and Plan of work for the Nebraska State Water Planning and review Process issued by DNR.

# Proposed Criteria Weighting

Criteria	Low	Ave	High
The extent to which the PPA <b>contributes to the goals of water sustainability for the state of Nebraska by protecting the ability of future generations to meet their needs including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remediating or mitigating threats to drinking water</li> <li>• Meeting the goals and objectives of an approved IMP or GWMP</li> </ul>	0-10	11-20	21-30
The extent to which the PPA <b>contributes to the goals of water sustainability for the state of Nebraska by protecting the ability of future generations to meet their needs including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing aquifer recharge</li> <li>• Reducing aquifer depletion</li> <li>• <b>Increasing stream flow</b></li> </ul>	0-10	11-20	21-30
The extent to which the PPA contributes to multiple water supply management goals including but not limited to flood control, agricultural use, <b>municipal and</b> industrial uses, recreational benefits, wildlife habitat, conservation of water resources, and preservation of water resources.	0-10	11-20	21-30
The extent to which the PPA provides increased water productivity and otherwise maximizes the beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources for the benefit of its residents.	0-10	11-20	21-30
The cost effectiveness of the PPA relative to achieving the state's water management goals.	0-10	11-20	21-30
The extent to which the PPA assists the state in meeting its obligations under interstate compacts or decrees or other formal state contracts or agreements.	0-10	11-20	21-30
The extent to which the PPA reduces threat to property damage.	0-10	11-20	21-30
<b>The extent to which the PPA improves water quality.</b>	0-5	6-10	11-15
<b>The extent to which the local jurisdiction has utilized all available funding resources to support PPA.</b>	0-5	6-10	11-15
<b>The extent to which the local jurisdiction has plans that support sustainable water use.</b>	0-5	6-10	11-15
<b>The extent to which a PPA addresses a statewide problem or issue.</b>	0-5	6-10	11-15
The extent to which the PPA contributes to the state's ability to leverage state dollars with local or federal government partners or other partners to maximize the use of its resources.	0-5	6-10	11-15
The extent to which the PPA has been approved for, but has not received funding through an established state program.	0-5	6-10	11-15
<b>The extent to which the PPA contributes to watershed health and function.</b>	0-5	6-10	11-15
The extent to which the PPA utilizes objectives described in the Annual Report and Plan of work for the Nebraska State Water Planning and review Process issued by DNR.	0-5	6-10	11-15

## Nebraska Water Funding Task Force



Strategic Plan and  
Recommendations Report

## Final Report

- Editorial comments accepted
- Revisions from today completed (redlined)
- Final Submitted to DNR and Legislature by December 20, 2015





**Thanks Everyone!!**

