

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

APPROVAL OF PLAN OF RESERVOIR 18970 FOR WATER APPROPRIATION A-19160

WATER DIVISION 1-D

BACKGROUND

1. On November 8, 2013, Mark Weers, on behalf of M.E. Weers Farms, Inc., and Melvin Weers, on behalf of Weers M & J Farms, Inc., filed in the Department of Natural Resources (Department) application A-19160 for a permit to impound water, and petition DWV-4860 for a waiver of the requirement of outlet works.
2. On January 29, 2014, the Department approved application A-19160 for a permit to impound 30.0 acre-feet of water from a tributary to Big Indian Creek, to be stored in Weers Reservoir to be located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23, Township 2 North, Range 4 East of the 6th P.M. in Jefferson County, for the purpose of irrigation. The approval was conditional on the appropriator filing a plan of reservoir in accordance with *Title 457 Neb. Admin. Code Chapter 11* within six months of the signing date of the application approval.
3. On June 25, 2014, Anthony D. Duever, P.E., on behalf of M.E. Weers Farms, Inc., and Weers M & J Farms, Inc., filed in the Department plan of reservoir 18970 indicating the storage capacity at normal pool to be 19.84 acre-feet.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Plan of reservoir number 18970 is APPROVED.
2. The amount of water that may be diverted shall not exceed 19.84 acre-feet per year to be stored in Weers Reservoir. Weers Dam is located across a tributary to Big Indian Creek in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23, Township 2 North, Range 4 East of the 6th P.M. in Jefferson County.
3. *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-241(5)* states in part, "The owner or possessor of a reservoir or intentional underground water storage facility does not have the right to store water in such reservoir or facility during the time that such water is required in ditches for direct irrigation or for any reservoir or facility holding a senior right. Every person who owns, controls, or operates a reservoir or intentional underground water storage facility, except political subdivisions of this state, shall be required to pass ... a portion of the measured inflows to furnish water for livestock"

4. The owner or possessor of the reservoir storing water pursuant to A-19160 shall have structural controls in place or other mechanical means to immediately release a portion of the measured inflows in such amounts and at such times if so ordered by the Department.
5. A waiver of the requirement for a drawdown, DWV-4860, was granted on January 29, 2014. This waiver does not relieve the owner from the responsibility to pass a portion of the reservoir inflow by some method for downstream appropriators should there be a need for water administration; or if water should be required for livestock needs, unless the appropriator is a political subdivision. The Department may rescind the waiver and require installation of appropriate outlet works at a later date if it is determined that the responsibility to pass inflows is not being met or cannot be met by another method.
6. This appropriation is subject to the provisions of the Blue River Compact and the appropriator could be required to pass inflows if Compact flows are not being met.
7. The appropriator must comply with all relevant statutes. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - A. Notify the Department of any change in ownership or address.
 - B. Receive approval prior to taking any action that changes the storage capacity of this reservoir.
 - C. Assume liability for all damages due to leakage, overflow or structural failure of the structure.
 - D. Release a portion of the reservoir inflows for livestock where required, unless appropriator is a political subdivision.
8. The appropriator must comply with the following deadlines as set forth in the application approval dated January 29, 2014:
 - A. Construction of the structure must begin within twelve months of the signing date (January 29, 2014) of the application approval. The appropriator must proceed diligently with the construction unless interrupted by some unavoidable and natural cause.
 - B. November 1, 2015 is the date construction of the structure must be completed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Failure to comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to surface water appropriations and any orders issued by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources may result in the cancellation of the appropriation, temporary closing of the appropriation, administrative penalty, criminal prosecution, or any combination thereof.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

September 10, 2014


Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E., Director

The applicant and any person with sufficient legal interest who has been or may be substantially affected by this approval may request a contested case hearing in accordance with the *Neb. Admin. Procedures Act* §§ 84-901 et. seq. RRS and the Department's *Rules of Practice and Procedure Title 454 Admin. Code Chapter 7*. The request must be received by the Department at its Lincoln office (Nebraska State Office Building, 4th Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94676, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4676) within 30 days of the date of the Approval and be accompanied by a filing fee of \$10.

A copy of this approval was posted on the Department's website. Copies of this approval and plan of reservoir 18970 were provided to the Department's field office in Lincoln, Nebraska. A copy of this approval was mailed to the following:

Tony Duever, P.E.
CES Group P.A.
1102 Broadway
Marysville, Kansas 66508

Copies of this Order and plan of reservoir number 18970 were mailed on September 10, 2014, to the following:

M.E. Weers Farms, Inc.
c/o Mark Weers
70980 579 Avenue
Diller, NE 68342

Weers M & J Farms, Inc.
c/o Melvin Weers
70975 580 Avenue
Diller, NE 68342