

**Program 309 – Natural Resources Water Quality Fund**

**Program Description**

The Natural Resources Water Quality Fund was established by the Legislature in 2001 to provide funds to natural resource districts (NRDs) for support of their water quality programs. The sources of funds are pesticide registration fees and pesticide applicators license fees collected by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The Department of Natural Resources serves as the administrative body for passing funds through to NRDs. Funds are allocated among the NRDs and administered based on rules and regulations established by the Natural Resources Commission. Annual allocations are expected to be about \$1,000,000, and districts must provide three dollars of local matching money for every two dollars allocated from the fund.

Distribution of the funds is based on a formula adopted by the Natural Resources Commission that provides for twenty percent of the available funds to be divided equally among the Natural Resources Districts, twenty percent divided based on the proportion of groundwater management areas in each NRD, and the remaining sixty percent based on the amount of fertilizer sales in each NRD based on records from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

**Program Objectives**

By statute, Water Quality Fund monies can only be used by natural resources districts (NRDs) and only for water quality programs. The fund helps enable NRDs to implement and manage a wide variety of water quality-related measures, both for surface water and ground water. NRDs must provide three dollars match for each two dollars of state funds received.

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**Performance Measures**

The only performance measure for this fund is the distribution of available funding to natural resources districts for their use in district water quality programs.

	<b><u>Distributions to NRDs</u></b>
FY 04-05	977,000
FY 05-06	1,002,000
FY 06-07	855,000
FY 07-08	1,065,000
<u>Estimated:</u>	
FY 08-09	1,000,000
FY 09-10	1,000,000

FY 10-11

1,000,000