

Source Water Protection Grants

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I wanted to give everyone a reminder that communities have until July 5th to try and get their share of the \$211,000 that is available for Source Water Protection through the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. This has been a great way for communities to jump start local wellhead protection efforts or to continue to build on their past achievements related to protecting their source of drinking water. This is a competitive grant, but I encourage anyone who is looking for a way to fund drinking water protection to look into this opportunity. The NDEQ contact person for this grant is Deana Barger, Source Water Coordinator. You can reach Deana at 402-471-2186 or email deana.barger@ndeq.state.ne.us .

Some important dates for this grant are as follows:

May 24 – All questions regarding the grant invitation must be received in writing.

June 7 – Questions and their answers will be posted on the NDEQ website or mailed to potential applicants that specifically requested such.

July 5 – Project proposals must be received by NDEQ by 3:00 pm.

July 19 – NDEQ and other agencies review grant proposals/

August 2 – Projects are selected and notified. Funding is made available to begin projects pending approval of a final Project Implementation Plan and a Cooperative Agreement.

The entire Request for Proposals is available at the NDEQ website: www.deq.state.ne.us .

On a final note, don't let all these deadlines and terminology fool you, this is a fairly painless process and will definitely be worth your time. I encourage you to look into this funding opportunity and don't hesitate to call NeRWA. I would be happy to come visit you system and brainstorm how we can apply for funding to benefit your source of drinking water!