

**Dave Heineman**  
Governor

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**Michael J. Linder**  
Director

Suite 400, The Atrium  
1200 'N' Street  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922  
Phone (402) 471-2186  
FAX (402) 471-2909  
website: [www.deq.state.ne.us](http://www.deq.state.ne.us)

July 23, 2007

Ted Cook, Mayor  
PO Box 70, 406 E 7th Street  
Lexington, NE 68850-0070

Dear Mr. Cook,

The Nebraska Legislature passed LB1226 in 2006, which established the Storm Water Management Plan Program to provide funding to cities and counties with Storm Water permits to implement their local Storm Water Management Plans (SWMPs). The first half of this grant fund was distributed last year, and the second half is now available for distribution. The City of Lexington, permit #NER300003, is entitled to at least \$21,870 and no more than \$492,000 of these funds. Applicants located within urbanized areas will receive 80% of the available funds and those in non-urbanized areas will receive 20%; funds from each category will be distributed evenly amongst the applicants based on their population. If every eligible applicant in your category requests funding, you will receive the minimum amount – if fewer apply, you will receive a larger share.

Requirements and restrictions:

- This money must be used to implement aspects of your SWMP.
- Other appropriate activities may be eligible if your SWMP is amended to include them.
- This money may not be used for operations and maintenance or flood control expenditures.
- You must provide a 20% cash match for any funds received; for example, a \$20 match for every \$100 received.
- The grant award and your cash match must be kept together in their own account.
- Project duration may not go beyond June 20, 2009.
- Annual reports must be submitted yearly for the duration of the project.

**If interested in obtaining funding, you must complete the enclosed application and return it to me at the address on this letterhead no later than 3pm Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

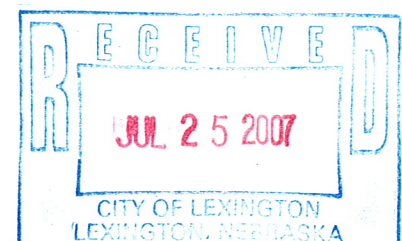
If you applied last year, you may use the same application, with updated expected completion dates, if you choose. A signed Cooperative Agreement will be mailed to you on or around September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The cognizant official, as indicated on the application, must sign the Cooperative Agreement and return it to me by 3pm Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. You will receive full payment of the grant amount within 30 days from receipt of the signed Cooperative Agreement.

Please see enclosed guidance for a more specific timeline and common questions and answers regarding this program. If you have any additional questions, please contact me by e-mail at [deana.barger@ndeq.state.ne.us](mailto:deana.barger@ndeq.state.ne.us) or by phone at 402-471-6988.

Sincerely,

Deana Barger

cc: Joe Peplitsch



## **TIMELINE FOR STORM WATER MANAGEMENT GRANTS**

- August 22, 2007 Applications must be received by the NDEQ by 3:00pm. Applications may be not be submitted electronically or by facsimile.
- September 5, 2007 A Cooperative Agreement will be mailed to applicants for the program manager's signature.
- September 21, 2007 The signed Cooperative Agreement must be returned to NDEQ to begin payment processing.
- October 19, 2007 Recipients will receive the full grant amount by direct deposit within 30 days of NDEQ's receipt of the signed Cooperative Agreement.
- July 31, 2008 The first annual report is due, covering project activity from grant inception to June 30, 2008.

## **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

- Q. Must the cash match be spent at the same rate as the 20% match requirement?  
A. No; however, the final grant report at the completion of all activities must show at least a 20% cash match.
- Q. Do we need to send copies of invoices with our annual report?  
A. No, but keep them for at least three years past completion of all activities and grant closure. All grant records are eligible for audit.
- Q. Can we repair a storm sewer with this grant?  
A. No. Operation and maintenance activities are not eligible for grant funding.
- Q. Can we build a lake and dam that will stop flooding in the east part of the city with this grant?  
A. No. Flood control is not an eligible activity.
- Q. Can we use these funds for storm water BMPs that aren't in our SWMP?  
A. No, but you can amend your permit to include new BMPs. Contact Mary Schroer, NDEQ Storm Water Program Specialist, at 402-471-2186 to discuss amending your permit.
- Q. Who is eligible to receive Storm Water Management grants?  
A. Only cities and counties with an NDEQ-approved Storm Water Permit.
- Q. How is the amount given to each applicant determined?  
A. First, all eligible applicants are divided into two categories – those located in urbanized areas and those in non-urbanized areas. Applicants in urbanized areas are granted 80% of the available funds, which are divided evenly by applicant population size; those in non-urbanized areas are granted 20% divided evenly by applicant population size.
- Q. Will there be more money available in subsequent years?  
A. It is not yet determined whether or not the grant funding will be renewed.