

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application



The purpose of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund is to provide funding to state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions, and nonprofit organizations to:

Directive A. Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

Directive B. Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

Directive C. Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

Directive D. Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Exemptions

Outdoor Heritage Fund grants may not be used to finance the following:

- A. Litigation;
- B. Lobbying activities;
- C. Any activity that would interfere, disrupt, or prevent activities associated with surface coal mining operations; sand, gravel, or scoria extraction activities; oil and gas operations; or other energy facility or infrastructure development;
- D. The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
- E. Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of defined activities that fulfill the purposes of Chapter 54-17.8 of the North Dakota Century Code

NO CONSIDERATION:

In addition to those specific items in law that are ineligible for funding, in the absence of exceptional circumstances, the following projects will NOT receive consideration for funding:

- Projects that are already completed;
- Projects that are on-going (Phased projects would be considered);
- Staffing;
- Feasibility studies;
- Annual maintenance;
- Paving projects for roads and parking lots;
- Swimming pools;
- Non-permanent equipment (such as tractors, snowmobiles);
- Research;
- Projects where the applicant is not directly involved in the project.

Application Deadline

Applications for the second grant round cycle are due on **April 1, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. CT.** All information, including attachments, must be submitted by that date. See instructions below for submission information.

Instructions

Please download this Word document (available on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund Program website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>) to your computer and provide the information as requested. You are not limited to the spacing provided except in those instances where there is a limit on the number of words. After completing the application, save it and attach it to an e-mail and send it to outdoorheritage@nd.gov or print it and mail it to the address noted in the next paragraph.

Attachments in support of your application may be sent by mail to North Dakota Industrial Commission, ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program, State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor, 600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405, Bismarck, ND 58505 or by e-mail to outdoorheritage@nd.gov. The application and all attachments must be received or postmarked by the application deadline. You will be sent a confirmation by e-mail of receipt of your application.

You may submit your application at any time prior to the application deadline. Early submission is appreciated and encouraged to allow adequate time to review your application and ensure that all required information has been included. Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding. Any item noted with an * is required.

Oral Presentation. Please note that you will be given an opportunity to make a ten-minute Oral Presentation at a meeting of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board. These presentations are strongly encouraged.

Open Record. Please note that your application and any attachments will be open records as defined by law and will be posted on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund website.

Name of Organization

Walsh County Three River Soil Conservation District

Federal Tax ID#

45-6002509

Contact Person/Title

Sarah Johnston, Watershed Coordinator

Address

13351 Hwy 17 W

City

Park River

State

ND

Zip Code
58270

E-mail Address
walshcounty319@polarcomm.com

Web Site Address (Optional)

Phone
(701) 284-7363

Fax # (if available)
n/a

List names of co-applicants if this is a joint proposal

MAJOR Directive: (select the Directive that best describes your grant request)*
Choose only one response

Directive A. Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

Directive B. Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

Directive C. Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

Directive D. Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Additional Directive: (select the directives that also apply to the grant application purpose)*
Choose all that apply

Directive A. Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

Directive B. Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

X Directive C. Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

O Directive D. Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Type of organization: (select the category that describes your organization)

O State Agency

X Political Subdivision

O Tribal Entity

O Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

Project Name:

HOMME DAM WATERSHED 319 PROJECT

Abstract/Executive Summary

The primary goal of this project is to restore water quality and beneficial uses of recreation and aquatic life to the Homme Dam Reservoir in Walsh County. The project area includes the tributaries of the South Branch of the Park River upstream of the Homme Dam, located near Park River, N.D. Homme Dam is listed on the 2012 ND Department of Health 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies. The ND Department of Health identifies non-point source pollution as the main contributor to the impairments taking place in the 194 acre reservoir.

Phosphorus is the non-point source pollutant responsible for loss of water quality in the watershed. Phosphorus enters into waterways via runoff from agricultural lands during rain events and also enters via erosion of stream banks. Phosphorus facilitates algae blooms in late summer. Algae blooms disrupt the levels of oxygen and sunlight for fish and other aquatic organisms. Recreational opportunities are hampered because of diminished water quality in July, August, and September. For these reasons, phosphorus loading must be reduced by 40% to achieve water quality standards for recreation and aquatic life.

The Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District (SCD) and the North Dakota Department of Health recently established a 319 program for the Homme Dam Watershed. The 319 program is a water quality focused program that provides cost share, technical planning assistance and education to landowners. The SCD's 319 watershed coordinator plans Best Management Practices (BMPs) with watershed landowners. These practices are expected to improve water quality through reduced soil erosion, increased water infiltration in fields and pastures, reduced runoff from fields, and restored riparian buffers to filter runoff and capture sediment.

We seek Outdoor Heritage Funding to implement a larger number of best management practices in this watershed now that USDA EQIP funding falls short of the needs of the producers. With the additional funding from OHF, we will have the ability to cost share more conservation practices, such as: riparian vegetation cover, prescribed grazing systems, riparian forest buffers, streambank/shoreline stabilization.

Project Duration:

6/1/2014 to 10/31/2018

Amount of Grant request: \$ 65,000

Total Project Costs: \$ 550,200

Amount of Matching Funds: \$ 485,200

Sources of Matching Funds:

Landowner Match, 40% of the total project cost \$ 131,500 (cash/in-kind)
Match will be in the form of cash unless the landowner has generated in-kind on his/her project.

Walsh Co. Three Rivers Soil Conservation Dist. \$ 88,700

EPA Section 319 Funds \$ 265,000

319 Funding is provided by:
North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Water Quality
918 East Divide Ave, 4th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58501

Greg Sandness, NPS Coordinator
Ph: (701) 328-5232

Please find the Notice of Grant Award attached.

Certifications

I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.

I certify that if awarded grant funding none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions noted on Page 1 of this application.

Narrative

Organization Information

The Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District was created in April 1939. Our Soil Conservation District (SCD) has the primary mission of protecting natural resources. We actively work in cooperation with other agencies to “improve water quality, conserve and improve soil quality, conserve energy, and improve the environment for the people of Walsh County and for future generations.”

District Board of Supervisors & Staff

The Board of Supervisors is comprised of five producers of which two are appointed members and three are elected. Supervisors include Jim Miller, Brian Kadlec, Jay Skorheim, Julius Wangler, and Steven Slominski. SCD staff includes Joleen Swartz, District Manager and Clerk; Easton Brown, District Technician; and Sarah Johnston, 319 Watershed Coordinator.

Work Activities & Programs

- Education and Outreach: Annual ECO-ED workshops provide students in Walsh County an opportunity to learn about ecosystems in their county. We also sponsor presenters at local schools who promote stewardship of natural resources. Annual tours for producers are organized in cooperation with other agencies to provide outreach on topics such as wetland conservation, soil erosion, tree stewardship, cover crops and water quality.
- Homme Dam Watershed 319 Project: The goal of this program is to restore a fully supporting water quality status for Homme Dam. The SCD continues to monitor water quality issues by sampling other impaired streams and reservoirs in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Health.
- RCP “How Far North Can We Grow?”-49th Parallel Cover Crop Project: The SCD is participating in this new cover crop program sponsored by the Northern Plains RC&D, USDA NRCS, NDSU County Extension, and the Soil Conservation District. This program allows for farmers to experiment in after harvest cover crop plantings to reduce soil erosion after harvest.

Purpose of Grant

The main goal of this project is to restore water quality and the beneficial uses to recreation and aquatic life to Homme Dam Reservoir. Homme Dam is listed on the 2012 ND 303(d) list of Impaired Waterbodies requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Phosphorus loading into the South Branch of the Park River upstream of the Homme Dam impairs these beneficial uses of the reservoir. The TMDL issued by the North Dakota Department of Health recommends reducing phosphorus loading by 40% (9,996 kg/yr.) to restore impaired recreation and aquatic life.

The approach of the program is to work with landowners to reduce phosphorus loading from field runoff and stream bank erosion. Cropland is the primary land use in the watershed. Many farmers also have small pastures adjacent to streams and ravines. We seek out conservation planning opportunities with landowners, and recommend Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are appropriate for the cropland or pasture land scenerios. BMPs improve water quality by addressing soil erosion, runoff from farm fields, stream bank erosion, and sediment loading. Below are some examples of Best Management Practices that are offered by the program.



BMPs to Improve Water Quality in the Homme Dam Watershed:

- Riparian buffer enhancements
- Grassed water ways
- Critical area plantings
- Shelterbelts
- Cover crops
- Grass (range) restoration
- Rotational grazing and riparian exclusion fencing
- Off channel watering for livestock
- Streambank stabilization

In addition to water quality benefits, Best Management Practices can also provide some benefit to wildlife habitat. Riparian area enhancements are expected to create more cover and woody browse for deer and other species that rely on the riparian corridor. Native woody shrub species will also be restored to ravines and draws in pastures and fields where gully erosion is taking place.

Our request for OHF funding will allow us to replace dwindled EQIP funding. At the time the project budget was developed, EQIP was expected to compliment the efforts of the 319 program by awarding funds to watershed landowners for conservation practices. According to our local NRCS District Conservationist, a low number of EQIP contracts have been awarded in our county in the last few years, despite high demand from producers. The result of the EQIP funding shortfall is that Homme Dam watershed landowners have not been awarded funds for water quality projects in the targeted areas. Despite this funding hurdle, NRCS remains a valuable partner in our county, providing technical assistance to these watershed landowners. We ask OHF to assist with providing funding to landowners and supplementing the project budget.

The 319 watershed coordinator designs and cost shares the practices necessary to improve water quality according to the ND Department of Health Cost Share Guidelines for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control (2014). This policy allows for landowners to receive cost share on 60% of the project total cost. The producer will pay 40% of the cost. The SCD is providing the local match of 40% for the watershed coordinator position.

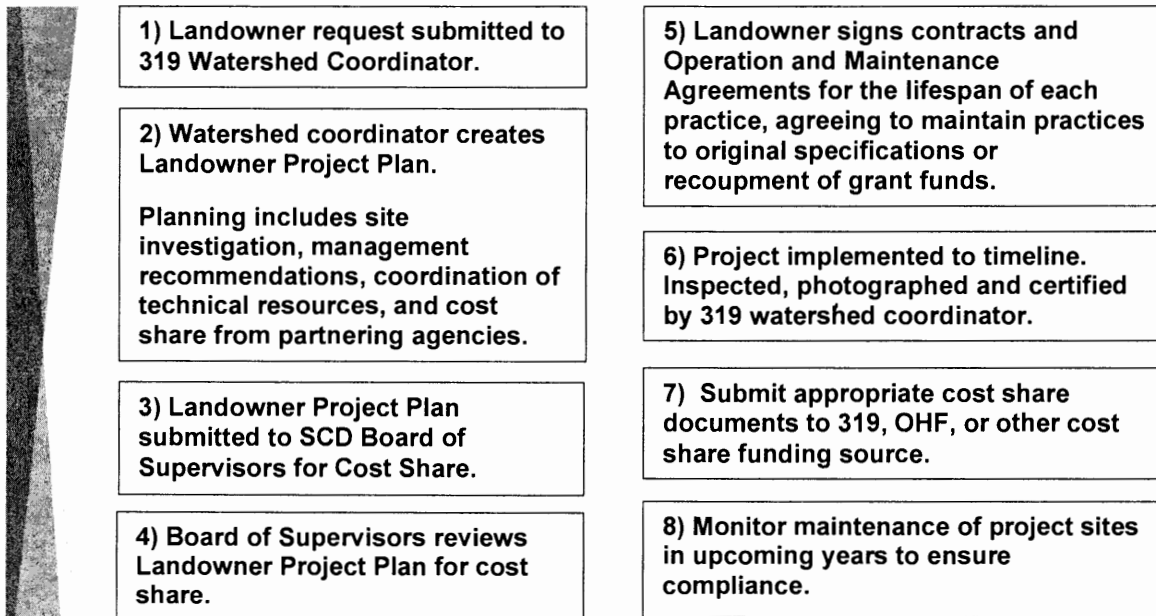
There will be numerous projects to follow in the next three years that will be excellent examples of conservation funding at work. We have several projects in the planning stages that will be completed this season. 2015 is the first year that landowner projects will be funded. These

projects will utilize OHF funds. Projects will be planned until October 31, 2018 when the 319 grant is set to end.

Management of Project

The Homme Dam Watershed 319 Project is managed by watershed coordinator Sarah Johnston. All aspects of the program, from project planning to fiscal management, are the responsibility of the watershed coordinator. Staffing costs are covered by the 319 Program and the SCD. Sarah has successfully planned, cost shared, and completed landowner projects in her former position as Program Manager of the 319 funded Red River Riparian Program at the Red River Regional Council, Grafton, ND. She joined the Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District in September of 2014 to kick off the Homme Dam Watershed 319 program. Her education includes a B.S. in Natural Resources Management from NDSU in 2010. She also attended graduate school at NDSU for Range Science and studied riparian forests and grazing interactions. SCD Manager Joleen Swartz and District Technician Easton Brown provide project support to the watershed program on an as needed basis in the areas of field work and general office support.

The process for landowner project management, cost share approval, and implementation is as follows:



Evaluation

The Homme Dam Watershed 319 Project will submit yearly reports to North Dakota Department of Health. Progress reports will be submitted to the Outdoor Heritage Fund as required. Final reports will be submitted to all grant funding sources at the end of funding phases.

During the 319 project grant period, additional water quality sampling will take place in the reservoir to determine if the best management practices for water quality have reduced phosphorus inputs. Sampling will take place in cooperation with the ND Department of Health. Further funding may take place after October 31, 2018 if water quality testing determines continued reduction in non-point source pollution.

Financial Information

ATTACHMENT: Project Budget – Using the standard project budget format that is available on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> , please include a detailed total project budget that specifically outlines all the funds you are requesting. Note that a minimum of 25% match funding is strongly encouraged.

The project budget should identify all matching funds, funding sources and indicate whether the matching funds are in the form of cash or in-kind services. As noted on the standard project budget format, certain values have been identified for in-kind services. Please utilize these values in identifying your matching funds. **NOTE: No indirect costs will be funded.**

X I certify that a project budget will be sent to the Commission

Sustainability

Each individual landowner will sign the 319 Operation and Maintenance Agreement. The agreement ensures that the landowner will maintain the projects to satisfactory specifications for the lifespan of the projects. The soil conservation district will follow up on completed projects in the years to come to monitor conditions and effectiveness of practices implemented using grant funding.

Partial Funding

Less funding means less water quality project work that would be completed in the Homme Dam Watershed. The water quality goals for this watershed may take longer to realize if less water quality projects are implemented by landowners. The reduction in NRCS EQIP funding in our county has already reduced the number of conservation projects possible in the watershed. OHF funding will allow us to accomplish all necessary project work.

Partnership Recognition

The Outdoor Heritage Fund will be promoted and acknowledged for all funding and support. We will advertise that Outdoor Heritage Funds are available to the landowners in the Homme Dam watershed. Each year the SCD publishes an annual report in the county newspaper, the Walsh County Record, outlining all of our accomplishments and the partners who helped us accomplish our goals. Outdoor Heritage Fund sponsored work activities would be acknowledged in this annual report. Outdoor Heritage Fund work will also be recognized during our annual field tours.

Scoring of Grants

All applications will be scored by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board after your ten-minute oral presentation. The ranking sheet(s) that will be used by the Board is available on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> .

Awarding of Grants

All decisions on requests will be reported to applicants no later than 30 days after Industrial Commission consideration. Applicants whose proposals have been approved will receive a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant. Please note the appropriate sample contract for your organization on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> that set forth the general provisions that will be included in any contract issued by the North Dakota Industrial Commission. Please indicate if you can meet all the provisions of the sample contract. If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be.

The Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District acknowledges that the provisions of the Political Subdivision Contract will work well for our organization.

Responsibility of Recipient

The recipient of any grant from the Industrial Commission must use the funds awarded for the specific purpose described in the grant application and in accordance with the contract. The recipient cannot use any of the funds for the purposes stated under Exemptions on the first page of this application.

If you have any questions about the application or have trouble submitting the application, please contact Karlene Fine at 701-328-3722 or kfine@nd.gov

Revised August 21, 2014

Budget Standard Form

Please use the table below to provide a detailed total project budget that specifically outlines all the funds you are requesting and the matching funds being utilized to fund this project. Please note if the matching funds are in the form of cash, indirect costs or in-kind services. The budget should identify all other committed funding sources and the amount of funding from each source. Match can come from any source (i.e. private sources, State and Federal funding, Tribal funding, etc.) Note a minimum of 25% match funding is strongly encouraged. An application will be scored higher the greater the amount of match funding provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Please feel free to add columns and rows as needed. Please include narrative to fully explain the proposed budget.

Note that NO INDIRECT COSTS will be funded from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Also by law several items are ineligible for funding -- see Exemptions in the Application Form. Effective January 29, 2014 the following guidelines were approved by the Industrial Commission:

NO CONSIDERATION:

In addition to those specific items in law that are ineligible for funding, in the absence of exceptional circumstances, the following projects will NOT receive consideration for funding:

- Projects that are already completed;
- Projects that are on-going (Phased projects would be considered);
- Staffing;
- Feasibility studies;
- Annual maintenance;
- Paving projects for roads and parking lots;
- Swimming pools;
- Non-permanent equipment (such as snowmobiles, tractors);
- Research;
- Projects where the applicant is not directly involved in the project.

Project Expense	OHF Request	319 Funds (Federal) (60%)	Landowner/ Producer Match (40%) (in-kind/cash)	Walsh Co. Soil Conservation District Match (cash) (40%)	Total Each Project Expense
Landowner Projects (Best Management Practices)	\$65,000	\$132,000	\$131,500	\$0	\$328,500
Project Staffing/Support	\$0	\$110,400	\$0	\$73,600	\$184,000
Public Outreach	\$0	\$18,600	\$0	\$12,400	\$31,000
Water quality monitoring	\$0	\$4,000		\$2,700	\$6,700
Total Costs	\$65,000	\$265,000	\$131,500	\$88,700	\$550,200

Budget Details:

- **Landowners pay 40% of the total project costs. They can use a combination of cash or in-kind contributions.**
- **Outdoor Heritage Funds will be applied to actual project costs of landowner projects (vegetation, engineering, project materials, contractors, etc.).**

- The \$65,000 requested from OHF allows us to make up for a portion of the EQIP funds that were not available to landowners within this watershed for water quality best management practices. OHF funds will not be spent on the other budget categories (project staffing/support, public outreach, water quality monitoring).
- Any trees purchased for projects such as riparian forest restoration or shelterbelt plantings will be purchased from the Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District for \$2.25 per tree. Only native species will be used.
- Staffing, project management and fiscal duties: costs covered by 319 and the SCD for the duration of the project. Mileage costs are also covered by the SCD and act as in-kind towards the project.

Practices and Planning rates:

Planning rates for estimated project costs originate from the ND Non-Point Source Pollution Program. 319 program cost share guidelines provide reimbursement for actual project costs.

In-kind services used to match the request for Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars shall be valued as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| • Labor costs | \$15.00 an hour |
| • Land costs | Average rent costs for the county as shown in the most Recent publication of the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services, North Dakota Field Office |
| • Permanent Equipment | Any equipment purchased must be listed separately with documentation showing actual cost. (For example: playground equipment) |
| • Equipment usage | Actual documentation |
| • Seed & Seedlings | Actual documentation |
| • Transportation | Mileage at federal rate |
| • Supplies & materials | Actual documentation |

More categories will be added as we better understand the types of applications that will be submitted. We will use as our basis for these standards other State and Federal programs that have established rates. For example the North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program has established rates. If your project includes work that has an established rate under another State Program please use those rates and note your source.

Approved by OHF Advisory Board: October 17, 2013
 Approved by Industrial Commission: October 22, 2013
 Revised by OHF Advisory Board: January 22, 2014
 Approved by Industrial Commission: January 29, 2014
 Revised by OHF Advisory Board: May 13, 2014
 Approved by Industrial Commission: May 27, 2014



NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD
 NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 SFN 53771 (2-2011)

North Dakota Department of Health
 600 East Boulevard Avenue—Dept 301
 Bismarck, ND 58505-0200

Grant Number 13.803	CFDA Number 66.640- 66.460	Grant Award Period From: 6/1/2014	Through: 10/31/2018
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This Notice of Grant Award is not effective and expenditures related to this Notice of Grant Award should not be incurred until all parties have signed this document.

Title of Project/Program Walsh County Homme Dam Watershed / 319 Nonpoint Source Program			Health Department Grant Code H3754		
Grantee Name Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District			Program Director Greg Sandness		
Address 417 Park St. West Suite 1			Address Division of Water Quality; 918 East Divide Avenue; 4 th Floor		
City Park River	State ND	ZIP Code 58270	City Bismarck	State ND	ZIP Code 58501-1947
Contact Name Easton Brown		Telephone Number 701-284-7466	Contact Name Greg Sandness		Telephone Number 701-328-5232

Financial Information	Dept of Health Cost Share	Grantee Cost Share	Total Project/Program Costs
Amount of Financial Assistance	\$ 265,100	\$ 176,733	\$ 441,833
Previous Funds Awarded	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Funds Awarded to Date	\$ 265,100	\$ 176,733	\$ 441,833

Scope of Service: The project goal will be accomplished by delivering the appropriate financial and technical support to complete the objectives and tasks in the approved project implementation plan (PIP) for the Walsh County Homme Dam Watershed Project. The primary goal of the project is to maintain the fully supporting status of the aquatic life and recreational uses of Homme Dam reservoir by reducing phosphorus loading to the reservoir. This goal and objective will be achieved by implementing best management practices (BMP) along the tributaries to the reservoir to improve livestock grazing and cropland management. Specific focus will be directed to the priority areas identified in the approved PIP. Educational workshops, demonstrations and news articles will also be developed and utilized to promote and showcase BMP that can be used to improve cropland management; minimize grazing impacts and stabilize degrading stream banks.

Reporting Requirements:

- 1) Monthly or quarterly reimbursement requests/expenditure reports. Reimbursement payments will be processed upon Department approval of required reimbursement forms and contingent upon continued progress toward approved project goals and objectives.
- 2) At the end of each state fiscal year a final reimbursement request for the period ending June 30th must be submitted to the Department by July 15th of each year during the Contract Period.
- 3) An annual progress report must be submitted by October 1st of each year during the Contract Period.
- 4) **A final project report is due October 31, 2018. A draft final report must be submitted to the Department by July 31, 2018.**

Special Conditions:

- 1) Administrative costs for the Grant Award Period cannot exceed 10% of the total project costs.
- 2) Section 319 payments shall not exceed sixty (60) percent of total eligible costs. The Grantee will be required to provide matching funds and/or in-kind services to support the remaining forty (40) percent of the total eligible costs.
- 3) Section 319 funds cannot be used to purchase or lease equipment that will unfairly compete with private business in the project area.

This Notice of Grant Award is subject to the terms and conditions incorporated either directly or by reference in the following: (1) Requirements Addendum and Grantee Assurances for Notice of Grant Awards issued by North Dakota Department of Health as signed by Grantee for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015 [Accounting Use Only Requirements Received] (2) applicable Federal and State regulations.

Evidence of Grantee's Acceptance		Evidence of Departmental Acceptance	
Signature <i>Carol Ondracek</i>	Date <i>6-17-14</i>	Signature <i>L. David Glatt</i>	Date <i>6-30-14</i>
Typed Name and Title of Authorized Representative <i>Carol Ondracek Supervisor</i>		Typed Name and Title of Authorized Representative L. David Glatt, P.E., Chief, Environmental Health Section	
Signature <i>Joleen Swartz</i>	Date <i>6-23-14</i>	Signature <i>Arvy Smith</i>	Date <i>7-17-14</i>
Typed Name and Title of Authorized Representative <i>Joleen Swartz, Manager</i>		Typed Name and Title of Authorized Representative Arvy Smith, Deputy State Health Officer	