



1 **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM**
2 **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

3
4 **SUBJECT:** Elwood Reservoir: Alternatives Screening Analysis
5 **REQUEST DATE:** April 28, 2009
6 **CLOSING DATE:** May 29, 2009
7 **POINT OF CONTACT:** **Technical Point of Contact:**
8 Jason Farnsworth
9 Headwaters Corporation
10 821 Garfield Street
11 Holdrege, Nebraska 68949
12 farnsworthj@headwaterscorp.com
13
14 **Administrative Point of Contact:**
15 Sabre Duren
16 durens@headwaterscorp.com
17

18 **I. OVERVIEW**

19 The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (**Program**) was initiated on January 1, 2007
20 between Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado and the Department of the Interior to address
21 endangered species issues in the central and lower Platte River basin. The species considered in
22 the Program, referred to as “target species”, are the whooping crane, piping plover, interior least
23 tern, and pallid sturgeon.
24

25 A Governance Committee (**GC**) has been established that reviews, directs, and provides
26 oversight for activities undertaken during the Program. The GC is comprised of one
27 representative from each of the three states, three water user representatives, two representatives
28 from environmental groups, and two members representing federal agencies. The GC has named
29 Dr. Jerry Kenny to serve as the Program Executive Director (**ED**). Dr. Kenny has assembled a
30 Program Staff located in Nebraska and Colorado that is responsible for assisting in carrying out
31 the various Program-related activities. The Program has also established a Water Advisory
32 Committee (**WAC**) to provide assistance and advice on water related matters, as directed, to the GC.
33 The ED Office will coordinate between the contractor and the WAC and/or a working subgroup on
34 the WAC as needed on this project.
35

36 The GC submits this Request for Proposals (**RFP**) to solicit proposals from contractors to
37 conduct an Elwood Reservoir Alternatives Screening Analysis for Program use.
38

39 **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

40 Elwood Reservoir is currently owned and operated by the Central Nebraska Public Power and
41 Irrigation District (**CNPPID**) and has a total storage capacity of about 40,000 acre-feet (ac-ft)
42 including 26,000 ac-ft of active storage and 14,000 ac-ft of dead storage. Water is supplied to the
43 reservoir via the E-65 Canal, which diverts water from CNPPID’s main supply canal just
44 upstream of Johnson Lake (See Attachment 1). The siphons on the E-65 Canal upstream of



45 Elwood Reservoir currently do not have enough capacity to fully meet irrigation demands.
46 Elwood Reservoir is currently operated to fill prior to the irrigation season and release into the E-
47 65 Canal when demands are high. The project concept for use of Elwood Reservoir by the
48 Program is to upsize the three siphons on the E-65 Canal to provide for full irrigation deliveries
49 to CNPPID customers. This could free up Elwood Reservoir storage for Program use with
50 reservoir modifications. The scope of work for the Elwood project includes alternative screening
51 analysis of upgrades to the CNPPID canal system, embankment modifications, siphons, and
52 outlet canal alignment. There are potentially several concerns with the Elwood project, including
53 direct and lost revenue costs, siphon and canal capacity, reservoir storage, ownership, and
54 impacts to the existing reservoir fishery.
55

56 A Program sub-committee is currently drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**) which
57 will detail agreements between CNPPID and the Program regarding uses and responsibilities.
58 The MOU is expected be in place by mid-2009. Additional project partners may be identified
59 during completion of the Alternatives Screening Analysis.
60

61 The Program is investigating the potential use of this reservoir for two separate but related
62 program purposes: (a) pulse flows and (b) to reduce shortages to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
63 (**FWS**) target flows (target flows). This Alternatives Screening Analysis is critical for
64 constructing this re-regulation reservoir for the Program purposes described below and to
65 determine if potential fatal flaws exist. The Alternatives Screening Analysis will also evaluate
66 the reservoir for storage of new Program water. A full feasibility analysis for the reservoir will
67 not be initiated until this work is complete and is dependent on the findings of this work. The
68 project schedule is aggressive and will need to be followed closely as timely implementation of
69 water projects is important in order to meet the Program’s water-related milestones.
70

71 **Pulse Flows**

72 Flows of varying magnitude, duration, frequency and rate of change affect the morphology and
73 habitat quality of the river. A flow target of 5,000 to 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the
74 habitat reach for a duration of three days at Overton on an annual or near-annual basis has been
75 identified for testing hypotheses under the Adaptive Management component of the Program.
76 These high, short duration flows are referred to as “pulse flows”.
77

78 A Water Management Study (**WMS**) was completed in 2008, which evaluated the feasibility of
79 delivering: (1) 5,000 cfs of Program water for three days to the upper end of the associated
80 habitat (at the Overton gage) for pulse flows when other demands on water are low (normally
81 September 1 – May 31) and (2) quantities of Program water that are likely to yield 800 cfs at the
82 habitat during the irrigation season. Conclusions from this study found storage and re-regulation
83 near the associated habitat is needed to help achieve the pulse flow objectives based on upstream
84 capacity constraints in the Platte River and the conveyance and storage capacity in the Nebraska
85 Public Power District (**NPPD**) and CNPPID systems. Elwood Reservoir was one of the water
86 storage projects recommended for further investigation.
87

**88 Reducing Shortage to FWS Target Flows**

89 The FWS has developed recommendations for instream flows to protect endangered species and
90 other wildlife. The water goals of the Program include reducing shortages to the FWS target
91 flows by an average of 130,000 to 150,000 acre-feet per year (ac-ft/yr) by the end of 2019. A
92 portion of the instream flow objectives will be met through an Environmental Account (EA) in
93 Lake McConaughy, the Pathfinder Modification Project, and the Tamarack Plan. The remaining
94 instream flow objectives will be met through incentive-based water conservation and water
95 supply activities. A Reconnaissance-Level Water Action Plan (WAP) was prepared to address
96 the water conservation/supply component of the Program, and identified 13 projects (in addition
97 to the three specific projects mentioned above) that could reduce shortages to target flows by
98 130,000 to 150,000 ac-ft/yr on average¹.

99

100 CNPPID re-regulating reservoir project(s) fall under one of the 13 WAP projects. Elwood
101 reservoir was not specifically mentioned in the WAP but the WAC has since concluded that it
102 would fall under the “CNPPID Re-Regulating Reservoir” project concept.

103

104 III. SCOPE OF WORK

105 The selected contractor will be responsible for conducting an Elwood Reservoir Alternatives
106 Screening Analysis for the Program. The contractor will work with Program participants, the
107 ED, and Program staff during all phases of analysis to ensure that project specifications are met.
108 At the end of this work, a summary report will be provided with results of the alternatives
109 screening analysis.

110

111 The following summary presents preliminary scope tasks for the Elwood Reservoir Alternatives
112 Screening Analysis:

113

114 1) Project Management and Meetings

115 Coordination of work and solicitation of input from Program staff and participants
116 throughout the project. Meetings will be conducted as necessary for the coordination of
117 project activities and to keep the WAC and GC informed of project progress. Informal
118 meetings with Program staff and participants will also likely be necessary.

119

120 2) Project Scoping and Kickoff

121 Contractor meeting with Program staff (and others as necessary) to review and refine scope
122 of work and project timeline followed by meeting with the WAC (or smaller workgroup) to
123 review scope and solicit ideas and input.

124

¹ Boyle Engineering Corporation in association with BBC Research and Anderson Consulting Engineers. 2000. Reconnaissance-Level Water Action Plan. Prepared for the Governance Committee of the Cooperative Agreement for Platte River Research.



125 **3) Existing Information Collection and Review**

126 Collection and review of previous investigations, reservoir and canal design, reservoir
127 seepage estimates, operations information, and readily available topographic, wetland,
128 transportation, utility, landowner, and other appropriate data for project area.

129

130 **4) Project Operations Assessment**

131 The WAC, with support from Program staff and CNPPID will develop preliminary project
132 operational scenario(s) to meet Program goals and objectives. The consultant will participate
133 in operational scenario discussions and translate those scenario(s) into facility design and
134 scoring/crediting ranges (water supply source, fill rates, fill timing, release rates, release
135 timing, etc.) for use in alternatives screening.

136

137 **5) Alternatives Screening & Fatal Flaw Identification**

138 i) CNPPID Canal Improvements – Conceptual level design and screening of alternatives
139 to increase CNPPID canal capacity (or reduce demand) and eliminate the need for
140 supplemental irrigation deliveries from Elwood Reservoir. Screening should identify
141 wetland and cultural resources impacts, transportation and utility impacts, affected
142 landowners, reservoir seepage, water law integration, order of magnitude costs
143 (including direct and lost revenue costs) and other potential constraints and
144 opportunities as appropriate.

145 ii) Reservoir Inlet/Outlet Works Modifications – Conceptual level design and screening
146 of reservoir embankment modifications to achieve releases within the identified
147 operational range. Screening should include the impacts and constraints listed above
148 as well as embankment and shoreline stability as related to embankment
149 modifications and reservoir drawdown within the operational range.

150 iii) Outlet Canal – Conceptual level design and screening of outlet canal configurations
151 and alignments as well as the potential use of Plum Creek instead of a canal.
152 Screening should include canal length flow capacity, anticipated losses and flow
153 attenuation in addition to the impacts and constraints identified in part i) of this task.

154 iv) Alternatives Screening Presentation – Presentation of screening analysis results to
155 WAC (or smaller subgroup) and selection of alternative to carry forward for full
156 feasibility analysis.

157

158 **6) Alternatives Screening Summary Report**

159 Prepare and provide a summary report to the Program by December 18, 2009. The report will
160 summarize the alternatives screening process and results and will identify the alternative that
161 will be recommended for full feasibility analysis.

162

163 **7) Full Feasibility Scoping**

164 Provide a scope of work and costs for the next phase of the Elwood Reservoir Feasibility
165 analysis. Tasks should include survey and mapping, geotechnical investigation, feasibility-
166 level design and cost estimating, permitting and environmental mitigation, cultural resources
167 investigation, presentation of feasibility results, and a full feasibility report. This task may be
168 revised or eliminated based on previous task findings.



169 **IV. PROJECT BUDGET**

170 The Governance Committee has budgeted \$100,000 for the Elwood Reservoir Alternatives
171 Screening Analysis study in 2009. *Please note that this is an estimated budget provided solely*
172 *for informational purposes. Contractors who submit a proposal are **NOT** to indicate or display*
173 *any fee related data whatsoever.*

174
175 **V. CONTRACT TERMS**

176 The selected contractor will be retained by:

177
178 Nebraska Community Foundation
179 PO Box 83107
180 Lincoln, NE 68501

181
182 **The selected firm will negotiate with the ED Office to establish a fair and equitable**
183 **contract. If an agreement cannot be reached, a second firm will be invited to negotiate and**
184 **so on, until an agreement is reached. Contracted services will be performed on a percent**
185 **complete basis. Under the final contract, written Notice to Proceed from the Executive**
186 **Director will be required before work begins. All work will be contingent on availability of**
187 **Program funding. If there are no fatal flaws identified in Phase I, this contract may be**
188 **extended into a Phase II study.**

189
190 **VI. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

191 All interested parties having experience providing the services listed in this RFP are requested to
192 submit a proposal.

193
194 **Instructions for Submitting Proposals**

195 *One electronic copy of your proposal must be submitted in PDF format to the Administrative*
196 *Point of Contact, Sabre Duren at durens@headwaterscorp.com no later than 5:00 p.m. Central*
197 *Time on May 29, 2009. Maximum allowable PDF size is 8MB. A proposal is late if received any*
198 *time after 5:00 p.m. Central Time and will not be eligible for consideration.*

199
200 Questions regarding the information contained in this RFP should be submitted by e-mail only to
201 the Technical Point of Contact, Jason Farnsworth at farnsworthj@headwaterscorp.com. A list
202 of compiled contractor questions and responses will be maintained on the Program web site
203 (www.PlatteRiverProgram.org) in the same location as this RFP solicitation. A pre-proposal
204 meeting of interested parties will be held on Monday, May 18, 2009 at the Headwaters
205 Corporation/Program conference center (Suite 5, Central Business Station Center, 3710 Central
206 Avenue) in Kearney, Nebraska from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Central Time to address questions associated
207 with this RFP. A conference call line will be available; please visit the Program web site for
208 additional conference line details.

209



210 **Proposal Content**

211 Proposals should respond to the following general topics:

212

213 1) **Executive Summary** that presents a company overview and condenses and highlights the
214 contents of the proposal in such a way as to provide a broad understanding of the contractor’s
215 qualifications and technical proposal.

216

217 2) **Project understanding** that demonstrates the contractor’s understanding of the Elwood
218 Reservoir Alternatives Screening Analysis project needs, including a description of the
219 project requirements and identification of potential critical issues that need to be addressed
220 and resolved.

221

222 3) **Project approach** that describes how the contractor would organize and manage the project.
223 The approach describes team organization and responsibilities, provides project team
224 resumes (including subcontractors), and documents tasks necessary to accomplish the scope
225 of work outlined in this RFP.

226

227 4) **Relevant experience** provides details about the contractor’s relevant previous experience
228 within the past five years, highlighting team members’ roles. Descriptions should include the
229 name, location, and brief summary of the projects; name, address, and phone number of the
230 contracting officer for the client; and identify involvement/role of the proposed team in those
231 projects.

232

233 5) **Schedule** for completing the tasks identified in the technical approach. This project is time-
234 sensitive and needs to be completed in 2009. If no fatal flaws are identified, there is potential
235 for a next phase Full Feasibility Analysis. Proposed schedules should be as aggressive as
236 possible without compromising the ability to produce a quality product. Include potential
237 constraints or challenges based on the tasks and the schedule described above.

238

239 6) **Conflict of interest statement** addressing whether or not any potential conflict of interest
240 exists between this project and other past or on-going projects, including any projects
241 currently being conducted for the Program.

242

243 7) **Description of insurance** shall be provided with the proposal. Proof of insurance will be
244 required before a contract is issued. Minimum insurance requirements will include
245 \$1,000,000 general liability per occurrence.

246

247 **Criteria for Evaluating Proposals**

248 The GC will appoint a Proposal Selection Panel that will evaluate all proposals and select a
249 contractor based on the following principal considerations:

250

251 1. The prospective contractor’s understanding of and approach to completing this project as
252 demonstrated by the content of the understanding and approach sections of their proposal.



253 2. Contractor’s relevant project experience and relevant experience of the proposed project
254 team members.

255

256 3. The clarity and content of the contractor’s proposed tasks and schedule.

257

258 **Award Notice**

259 After completing the evaluation of all proposals and, if deemed necessary, interviews, the
260 Proposal Selection Panel will select a contractor. That firm will negotiate with the ED Office to
261 establish a fair and equitable contract. If an agreement cannot be reached, a second firm will be
262 invited to negotiate and so on. If the Program is unable to negotiate a mutually satisfactory
263 contract with a contractor, it may, at its sole discretion, cancel and reissue a new RFP.

264

265 **Program Perspective**

266 The GC of the Program has the sole discretion and reserves the right to reject any and all
267 proposals received in response to this RFP and to cancel this solicitation if it is deemed in the
268 best interest of the Program to do so. Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment
269 by the Program to award a contract, or to pay contractor’s costs incurred either in the preparation
270 of a response to his RFP or during negotiations, if any, of a contract for services. The Program
271 also reserves the right to make amendments to this RFP by giving written notice to contractors,
272 and to request clarification, supplements, and additions to the information provided by a
273 contractor.

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275 By submitting a proposal in response to his solicitation, contractors understand and agree that
276 any selection of a contractor or any decision to reject any or all responses or to establish no
277 contracts shall be at the sole discretion of the Program. To the extent authorized by law, the
278 contractor shall indemnify, save, and hold harmless the Nebraska Community Foundation, the
279 states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska, the Department of the Interior, members of the GC,
280 and the ED Office, their employees, employers, and agents, against any and all claims, damages,
281 liability, and court awards including costs, expenses, and attorney fees incurred as a result of any
282 act or omission by the contractor or its employees, agents, subcontractors, or assignees pursuant
283 to the terms of this project. Additionally, by submitting a proposal, contractors agree that they
284 waive any claim for the recovery of any costs or expenses incurred in preparing and submitting a
285 proposal.

286

287 **AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

288 Several Program-related documents can be accessed from the Program Library section of the
289 Program Website (www.PlatteRiverProgram.org). These documents provide the context for the
290 Program’s work in the Platte River Basin and the purpose of implementing pulse flows and
291 reducing shortages to target flows:

292

- Program Document including:
 - Attachment 3 – Adaptive Management Plan
 - Attachment 5 – Water Plan (including Reconnaissance-Level Water Action Plan)
- Water Management Study Phase I Report
- Water Management Study Phase II Report

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