



I. GRANT SUMMARY

1. Name of agency applying for grant: Merrick County Planning and Zoning
2. Title of project: Regulation and Zoning Map updates using GIS
3. Brief description of project:

The Merrick County Planning and Zoning department was formed in 1971. At that time, the Comprehensive Plan (including zoning maps) and regulations were developed. This plan and regulations have not been redone since this time. The regulations have been updated along the way but only in a way to change the issue at that time. In this time where the internet is constantly being used as a resource for people, the Planning and Zoning department would be re-doing the regulations and zoning maps for the County which would become available on the internet. In doing this project, Merrick County's Geographical Information System (GIS) will be used to develop planning and zoning maps for public use.

4. Grant request amount \$25,000
5. Will there be a fee for accessing records associated with this project? If yes, provide any statutory reference or authorization for fee.

No

II. GRANT DETAIL

1. Please describe the project in detail (you may attach this description).

This project will be contracted with Keith Marvin Consulting Services. The Planning and Zoning Department will also be utilizing the Merrick County Planning Commission for further consultation of needs. For this project to be completed, we will be holding 3-4 public meetings for public opinion about the future planning for Merrick County. Based on these needs found during the community meetings, then Mr. Marvin will then start working on revising the regulations. Since our current regulations are coming up on 40 years old, many new issues regarding planning and zoning have evolved in this area. While revising the regulations, it will be necessary to update the zoning maps which will be developed using GIS. The goal is to develop zoning maps which can be electronically developed in order to make changes when necessary. In addition, these maps would be available on our County's website for public access. Once revised, our regulations would also be available via the internet.

2. Please describe who the beneficiary or recipient of this service will be and projected activity for access or use of the proposed service.

The public as a whole will benefit from these proposed services. The Planning and Zoning offices receives requests daily about zoning districts and regulation requirements. Instead of making copies of regulations which we have to do currently, we could refer the public to the website for them to utilize whatever parts they feel need for their respective

issue. It will also benefit offices within the courthouse. For example, the assessor's office will be able to see where annexed areas may have changed for the purposes of taxing districts. The Sheriff can use it for dispatching fire and EMT districts. Outside services such as appraisers or realtors can use it to determine zoning districts for sales information.

3. Timeline for implementation (*a specific completion date (MM/YYYY) must be provided*). *Grant funds lapse if not expended prior to completion date.*

In order to complete the regulations and zoning maps, this project will have a completion date of December, 2010.

4. Subdivision contribution to project (labor, equipment etc.).

The Merrick County Planning and Zoning department will be contracting with Keith Marvin for consulting services. GIS work will be completed by the Planning and Zoning Administrator.

5. Is other funding available for this project (explain)?

No, this office has not been able to find other funding sources for this project. In making budget requests for this fiscal year, the Merrick County Board of Supervisor's reduced the Planning and Zoning budget request in order to "get under the lid."

6. Does the project require additional statutory authority (explain)?

No

7. Specify (in detail) what the grant money will be used for. Include a complete cost breakdown of the project. Please attach bids from vendors (if applicable).

The Merrick County Planning and Zoning department will be contracting with Keith Marvin for consulting services.

The breakout of services is as follows:

Updating regulations (including meetings, hearings, and development of documents)-
\$11,000

Comprehensive Plan update (including meetings, hearings, and development of documents)-\$14, 000

8. Why is the grant money needed for the project, and, if applicable, how will the service be sustained once the grant money is expended?

The grant money for this project is needed because there lacks any other funding sources in any other arena. Once this project is completed, the services needed to sustain this

project will be maintained by the Planning and Zoning Administrator with minimal financial support.

9. Please describe how this project will enhance the delivery of agency services or access to those services.

Due to the regulations and zoning maps being almost 40 years old, the updating of these for the purposes of making them available via internet would greatly enhance the delivery of services for the Planning and Zoning Department.

10. Please describe how this project will improve the efficiency of agency operations.

With a usual weekly request if the County's regulations are in the internet, the efficiency of the Department would greatly improve because the accessibility to the public and other county agencies would available anytime via internet.

11. Please describe how this project will facilitate collaboration among other local, state and federal agencies and other public institutions.

This project will facilitate collaboration among many of our local County departments due to our regulations affecting the processes of how the public may chose to deal with their land, buildings, and future planning. The majority of the decisions made by the Planning and Zoning office have subsequent approvals by local boards (Planning and Zoning and County Board) with additional filing requirements with the County Clerk. If this project would be completed, our Board members will be able to do research about regulations and planning maps via internet instead of copies of regulations being made and sent in the mail. In addition, the Clerk's office would have this available to attorneys, title companies, lending companies, and abstractors in order to make land/property sales comply with our regulations. The Surveyor's Department would be able to also use this information via internet for research on survey's that may need to be in compliance with our regulations.

12. Please describe how this project will support public/private partnerships in the delivery of public services through the Official State portal, Nebraska.gov?

This project will support everyone in the delivery of public information via the internet.

13. Does the project involve the licensing, permitting or regulation of business? If yes, explain how the project or service will allow integration with the State of Nebraska's Business Portal and the One-Stop Online Business registration system.

No.

III. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

1. Describe the hardware, software, and communications needed for this project and explain why these choices were made.

No additional hardware, software, or communications needed for this project.

2. Address any technical issues with the proposed technology including:

- Conformity with general accepted industry standards. Projects which interface with other state systems (such as distance learning systems) must meet NITC technical standards and guidelines (NITC standards and guidelines are located at: <http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/standards/>).

This project will conform to all NITC standards and guidelines.

- Compatibility with existing institutional and/or statewide infrastructure.

This project will be compatible with all existing infrastructure including ArcGIS applications.

- Reliability, security and scalability (future needs for growth or adaptation).

This project will be on our Merrick County website. It will be set-up as a read only application, with updates completed as necessary.

3. Describe how the project will comply with the State's Technology Access Clause: <http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/standards/index.html> under 2. Accessibility Architecture.

We will have the project accessible via the internet.

4. Describe how technical support will be provided.

The Planning and Zoning Administrator will provide technical support for office and internet website questions.

IV. CONTACT INFORMATION & SIGNATURE

Contact person for any questions regarding this application:

Jennifer Myers

Phone #308-946-3120

E-mail: pz@merrick.nacone.org

Signed this 22nd day of September, 2009

Jennifer Myers
Agency Director

Please return to:

Cathy Danahy
Nebraska State Records Board
440 S 8th St. Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 471-2745

MERRICK COUNTY



Board of Supervisors
308-946-2881

P O Box 27
1510 18th Street
Central City, NE 68826

September 8, 2009

Nebraska State Records Board
440 S. 8th St. Suite 210
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Planning and Zoning Application

To whom it may concern:

We are writing this letter in support of the Merrick County Planning and Zoning Department's request for funding for getting their regulations and planning maps updated using the County's GIS database. Merrick County implemented GIS into the County a couple of years ago with the intentions of this being used by many offices within the County. This system is finally to the point where it can serve many levels of services to the respective users. The Planning and Zoning Department's regulations are getting close to 40 years old. We greatly support their efforts updating these regulations and zoning maps with the usage of the County's GIS database.

Sincerely,


John Jefferson
Chairman Merrick County Board of Supervisors