STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

APPROVAL OF APPLICATION A-19281

PETITION FOR A WAIVER OF OUTLET WORKS DWV-5135

AND PLAN OF RESERVOIR 19033

WATER DIVISION 1-B

BACKGROUND

1. On July 14, 2004, the Department of Natural Resources (Department) issued an Order declaring a formal moratorium in the Republican River Basin on the issuance of all new surface water appropriations.

2. On February 13, 2013, Steve and Debbi Jo Blank filed petition VAR-3541 in the Department for Leave to File or Consider an Application for a New Surface Water Appropriation within a Moratorium Area. The draft application and documentation attached to the petition is for a permit to impound approximately 28 acre-feet of water from a tributary to Little Cottonwood Creek in the existing Blank Pond located in the NW¼SW¼ of Section 32, Township 3 North, Range 15 West of the 6th P.M. in Franklin County for the purpose of erosion control, water for livestock, and hazard protection.

3. On December 20, 2013, the Department granted petition VAR-3541 for leave to file an application for a permit to appropriate water.

4. On August 7, 2014, Steve and Debbi Jo Blank filed in the Department application A-19281 for a permit to impound water, plan of reservoir number 19033 and specifications according to *Title 457 Neb. Admin. Code* Chapter 11.

5. Construction has been completed.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED Application A-19281, Petition DWV-5135 and plan of reservoir 19033 are APPROVED subject to the following limitations and conditions:

1. The source of water is a tributary to Little Cottonwood Creek.

2. The priority date is August 7, 2014.

3. The amount of water that may be diverted shall not exceed 28 acre-feet per year to be stored in Blank Pond. Blank Dam is located in the NW¼SW¼ of Section 32, Township 3 North, Range 15 West of the 6th P.M. in Franklin County.

4. The water stored under this appropriation is for the purpose of providing water for livestock.

5. *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-241(5) states in part, "The owner or possessor of a reservoir or intentional underground water storage facility does not have the right to store water in such reservoir or facility during the time that such water is required in ditches for direct irrigation or for any reservoir or facility holding a senior right. Every person who owns, controls, or operates a reservoir or intentional underground water storage facility, except political subdivisions of this state, shall be required to pass ... a portion of the measured inflows to furnish water for livestock ... ."

6. The owner or possessor of the reservoir storing water pursuant to A-19281 shall have structural controls in place or other mechanical means to immediately release a portion of the measured inflows in such amounts and at such times if so ordered by the Department.

7. A waiver of the requirement of outlet works, by petition DWV-5135, has been granted. This waiver does not relieve the owner from the responsibility to pass a portion of the reservoir inflow by some method for downstream appropriators should there be a need for water administration; or if water should be required for livestock needs, unless the appropriator is a political subdivision. The Department may rescind the waiver and require installation of appropriate outlet works at a later date if it is determined that the responsibility to pass inflows is not being met or cannot be met by another method.

8. The appropriator must comply with all relevant statutes. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

   A. Notify the Department of any change in ownership or address.

   B. Receive approval prior to taking any action that changes the storage capacity of this reservoir, plan of reservoir 19033, or the type of appropriation.

   C. Assume liability for all damages due to leakage, overflow or structural failure of the structure.

   D. Release a portion of the reservoir inflows for livestock where required, unless appropriator is a political subdivision.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Failure to comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to surface water appropriations and any orders issued by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources may result in the cancellation of the appropriation, temporary closing of the appropriation, administrative penalty, criminal prosecution, or any combination thereof.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

September 29, 2014

Brian P. Dunnigan

Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E., Director

The applicant and any person with sufficient legal interest who has been or may be substantially affected by this approval may request a contested case hearing in accordance with the *Neb. Admin. Procedures Act* §§ 84-901 et. seq. RRS and the Department's *Rules of Practice and Procedure Title 454 Admin. Code* Chapter 7. The request must be received by the Department at its Lincoln office (Nebraska State Office Building, 4th Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94676, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4676) within 30 days of the date of the Approval and be accompanied by a filing fee of $10.

A copy of this approval was posted on the Department's website. Copies of this approval and plan of reservoir 19033 were provided to the Department's field office in Cambridge, Nebraska. Copies of this approval and plan of reservoir 19033 were mailed on September 29, 2014, to the following:

Steve and Debbi Jo Blank
232 R Road
Wilcox Nebraska 68982