STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

APPROVAL OF APPLICATION A-19317, PETITION FOR A WAIVER OF DRAWDOWN DWV-5262

AND PLAN OF RESERVOIR NUMBER 19143

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 7, 2013, Richard Alber filed petition VAR-3531 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 38 acre-feet of water from Buffalo Creek in the existing Alber Pond located in the NW¼NE¼ of Section 35, Township 1 North, Range 12 West of the 6th P.M. in Webster County for the purpose of erosion control and providing water for livestock.

3. On December 20, 2013, the Department granted petition VAR-3531 for leave to file an application for a permit to appropriate water.

4. On December 22, 2014, Richard Alber filed in the Department application A-19317 for a permit to impound water, plan of reservoir number 19143 and specifications according to *Title 457 Neb. Admin. Code* Chapter 11, and DWV-5262, a petition for a waiver of drawdown requirement, pursuant to the proposed application filed with VAR-3531.

5. Construction has been completed.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED Application A-19317, plan of reservoir number 19143, and DWV-5262 are APPROVED subject to the following limitations and conditions:

1. The source of water is Buffalo Creek.

2. The priority date is December 22, 2014.

3. The amount of water that may be diverted shall not exceed 38 acre-feet per year to be stored in Alber Pond. Alber Dam is located in the NW¼NE¼ of Section 35, Township 1 North, Range 12 West of the 6th P.M. in Webster County.

4. The water stored under this appropriation is for the purpose of erosion control and 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-19317 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 for a drawdown, DWV-5262, 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 number 19143, 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

February 13, 2015

James C. Schneider, Ph.D.
Acting 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 number 19143 were provided to the Department's field office in Cambridge, Nebraska. Copies of this approval and plan of reservoir number 19143 were mailed on February 13, 2015, to the following:

Richard Alber
2025 Road T
Blue Hill, Nebraska 68930