

 3/14/12

San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3688  
Shiprock, New Mexico 87420  
March 7, 2012

Attn: Grants and Agreement Specialist  
Customer Service Division  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 2890  
Washington, D.C. 20013

Reference: NRCS No. 68-3A75-6-133

Dear Mr. Lukash:

I am responding to the letter sent January 11, 2012, I know I was given two weeks to response, I have repeatedly tried to contact you in reference to your letter. Per you request attached is the Final Performance Report and the Final Financial Report Form 425 for NRCS Grant No. 68-3A75-6-133.

On 2011, August 16, at 1325 hour, I spoke with a Mr. Robert Sanford in regards to the Grant No. 68-3A75-6-133. In our conversation we discussed:

1. the extension of the grant;
2. He stated he would close out the contract;
3. He will sent an email to me once this done;
4. Will receive a formal letter once this was done.

To this day I have not receive a letter or an email, I was not inform a final financial report was needed along with a final report. Please accept my apology that these reports were not done to complete and finalize the grant.

During the process of the CIG we came upon a barrier, which was the reimbursement process, the reimbursements were not timely for San Juan River Dineh Water User, Inc., to carry the grant to the finish, and, the other barrier was local were the San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc., were not given the authorization to implement irrigation water measurement by the local San Juan River Farm Board who has the authority to transfer responsibilities about irrigation water in the local San Juan River Navajo area.

Nevertheless, the Conservation Innovation Grant was very helpful and educational for the farmers in learning new conservation practices in addition to gaining knowledge in taking care of their farm lands and irrigation water delivery areas.

In conclusion, San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc., along with some Navajo farmers appreciates all the educational outreach that was done during the three years.

Sincerely,

  
Martin Duncan

**San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc. (NM)****\$165,000.00***Irrigation Water Management and EQIP Project Coordinator***CONSERVATION INNOVATION REPORT  
FINAL PROGRAM REPORT**

**GRANTEE NAME:** *San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc.*  
**Project Title:** *Environmental Quality Incentive Report*  
**Project Director:** *Martin Duncan*  
**Contact Information:** *Phone Number (505) 368-2656*  
**Period Covered on Report:** *October 2006 to March 2010*  
**Project End Date:** *November 30, 2009*

In October of 2006 San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc. hired an EQIP Project Coordinator who worked eight months but resigned. In May of 2007 another individual was hired. The new EQIP Project Coordinator started working with the NRCS staff in contacting and locating producers who had existing EQIP contracts, and conducting status reviews on the existing contracts. The results of the status reviews showed some producers had been waiting for design and engineer to design the practice implementation of water gates, water delivery systems, some producers were awaiting modifications on their contracts, and some decided to cancel their contracts because they had some misunderstanding of how EQIP program works. Even though Shiprock is in New Mexico, Shiprock is under the state of Arizona NRCS office and the NRCS office Engineers were assigned to projects in Arizona and were not able to come to Shiprock on a regular routine basis which hindered some of the contracts in Shiprock. The Shiprock NRCS office also did not have a server or computer that the District Conservationist could have access to the contracts, and this was also another hindrance for the producers. The producers have to wait on modifications on their contracts until the District Conservationist could get to a server in Arizona. Out of 23 existing contracts in 2007, only three completed their implementation of conservation practices by 2009. Six producers completed their practices but their contracts had expired before their implementation was done. 14 producers cancelled their contracts because some did not have a design to implement, and some had misunderstood how implementation of EQIP conservation practices works. By 2009 four new applicants had signed up. Only NRCS office will know the status of these applicants. In December of 2011 there were 16 producers that signed up for EQIP to improve their farm or rangelands.

In 2007, 2008, and 2009 various educational outreach workshops were held at the local chapter houses, and in areas outside the San Juan Basin area. Workshops on NRCS EQIP were given in English language and the native Navajo language in which the majority of the producers speak. Other workshop such as, Record Keeping, Preparation of Income Tax, and, a more conservative way of irrigation practices were also presented. An approximate amount of individuals that attended these workshops and mini seminars amounted to 4,000 people between 2007 and 2009; this was really an eye opener to a lot of farmers and ranchers, because this was never done before. A continuation of these workshops is still being done in our area today because this outreach is greatly needed for the Navajo people who are farmers and ranchers.

A tour of an irrigation system in May of 2007 to Bloomfield was conducted and the San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc. employees were introduced to irrigation water management into the delivery system that can be transferred to the farmer and water

measurement and reporting program. The irrigation water system on the Navajo tribe Federal trust land compared to the one in Bloomfield was so old and needed much improvements in order to implement a better delivery system but due to funding the San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc. improvise to a standard measuring system of reporting irrigation water delivery. A recommendation and begin the implementation of irrigation water management into the delivery system that can be transferred to the farmer, initiate a water reporting program based on water delivery was done but is only performed by the irrigation office presently. This project also implemented a flow measuring, recording, and reporting program, these were done in a standard manner, the grant required the San Juan River Dineh Water Users to obtain a water reporting software, this was not done because the San Juan River Farm Board never agreed or authorize the San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc., to administer irrigation water delivery and control, therefore developing a water reporting database was not accomplish.

But one very important aspect of this process that was learned is that the value of water is lost when it is not measured. Another important feature learned is that in order to learn a new practice, to implement a practice, a producer has to have a thorough understanding of the practice before he puts it into application, teaching conservation practice had to be translated for a lot of the farmers in the area, this in itself was a process as well. One of San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Inc. objective and mission is to continue to teach farmers in the area the art of conservation.