**Request for Proposal**: North Plains Groundwater Conservation District

April 1, 2022

Issued by: North Plains Groundwater Conservation District (North Plains GCD)

North Plains Groundwater Conservation District’s Representative: Odell Ward

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**Introduction**

The North Plains Groundwater Conservation District is seeking an individual or firm to create and maintain an interactive map of the groundwater resources of the northern Texas Panhandle. The District is currently accepting proposals for the project. The map is intended to assist the public in accessing District data through an intuitive and engaging design.

**Project description**

The District needs a new interactive map that is clean, functional, accessible across multiple platforms, mobile-compatible, and user-friendly.

• Provide well and aquifer data to the public

• Provide GIS information and data from other governmental agencies

• A set of mapping tools that allow users to measure distances, area, and buffering capabilities

• Allow for various base maps

• GPS capabilities during online and offline use

• Prefer opensource software and applications

• Yearly maintenance contract

This request for proposal’s objective is to find a development firm or contractor that will provide the best overall value and results for our organization. We hope to have our interactive map finished operational by December of 2022.

**Background of the North Plains GCD**

The Texas State Legislature in 1949 authorized the creation of groundwater conservation districts to perform certain prescribed duties and functions in addition to holding specific powers as set forth in Article 7880-3c, Texas Civil Statutes. The authorization was later moved to Chapter 52 of the Texas Water Code, then to Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code.

A confirmation election was held in 1955, and the vote to create a groundwater conservation district dedicated to protecting and conserving groundwater resources north of the Canadian River was affirmed. Sherman County, Hansford County, Ochiltree County, and the area north of the Canadian River in Hartley County, Moore County, and Hutchinson County comprised the original size of the District. In 1973 the people of Lipscomb County voted to annex into the District, and in 1993 and 2004, portions of Dallam County were annexed into the District. More Dallam County properties were annexed by landowner petitions from 2004 until July 2012 when the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ordered the remaining properties in Dallam County to join the District.

The District is charged with conserving, protecting and preserving the Ogallala aquifer and other water resources in the northern Texas Panhandle. The main District office is located in the city of Dumas, Texas, in Moore County. The Texas Panhandle is arid to sub-arid in climate with few surface water resources. For a large majority of the area, the only water supply is from the groundwater resources of the Ogallala aquifer. The Ogallala aquifer contains vast amounts of groundwater, but with little to no recharge and over 12,000 large active wells within this District alone--it is a finite and dwindling resource. Management of the Ogallala aquifer was and is recognized as a priority. To this end, groundwater conservation districts were created by the Texas State Legislature to address groundwater management.

We are receptive to additional features if you feel they would benefit the District and the people using the map.

Vendor or contractor responsibilities:

• Content strategy and copywriting

• Visual design

• Search engine optimization

• Mobile device optimization

• Front-end and back-end coding

• Accessibility for limited-vision users

• Testing and quality assurance

• Training to help us become familiar with the content management system and the process for updating the site

We have yet to establish a budget for the project due to its complexity but are willing to spend what is needed to get the right product and developer. We want to employ a development firm or contractor who has previously worked on interactive map projects, ideally for other conservation districts.

**Proposal guidelines**

Your proposal should follow the format below:

• Executive summary

• Background information about your business

• Note why we should choose your business over other vendors

• Note relevant experience that would help you deliver our project

• Proposed services or deliverables

• Provide a sitemap outlining all website pages and their connections

• Note the software and programming languages you intend to use and why you believe they are a good choice

• Pricing

• Note fixed price for the project with an itemized costing. Also, note the number of hours you expect the project to take.

• References

• Include name, contact details, and website URLs for three previous clients’ interactive maps.

• Any terms and conditions for working with you

Please submit your proposal electronically to oward@northplainsgcd.org or by mail to: North Plains GCD, PO Box 795, Dumas, Tx 79029 by September 1, 2022.

**Selection criteria**

North Plains GCD will evaluate the proposals based on the following criteria:

• Responsiveness to the requirements outlined in this RFP

• Relevant experience and performance

• Samples of your work

• References

• Quoted cost of the project

North Plains GCD reserves the right to award the contract to the vendor or developer representing the best value to the business, as determined by the District.

**RFP and project timelines**

North Plains GCD timeline for RFP and project is as follows:

Request for proposal issuance: July 1, 2022

Deadline for proposal submission: September 1, 2022

Selection of vendor: October 1, 2022

Project completion: January 31, 2023

Vendors may propose an optional completion date in their proposal. However, beyond January 31, 2023, competition dates should include a detailed explanation.