

Nebraska Environmental Trust  
Grants Committee Minutes  
November 5, 2020  
Ferguson House

Mr. Bowen called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Notice of this meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on October 20, 2020.

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

**Members present:** Mr. Jeff Kanger; Mr. John Orr; Mr. Felix Davidson; Mr. Steve Wellman, and Mr. Quentin Bowen, Chair. **Members absent:** Mr. Tim Riley (scheduled to arrive late).

**Staff present:** Mr. Mark Brohman, Executive Director, Ms. Holly Adams, Grants Administrator, and Ms. Pam Deines, Administrative Secretary.

**Agenda Item # 3 - Discuss Grant Review Process and Scoring Criteria:** Mr. Brohman discussed the grant review process and scoring criteria for this year. Mr. Brohman discussed scoring definitions. In Title 137, Chapter 5 is the Criteria for Eligibility, Chapter 6 is Evaluating Proposals for Eligibility, Chapter 7 is Project Ranking Systems and Chapter 8 is Ranking Eligible Projects for Funding. The Board wanted the Grants Committee to give any recommendations on the scoring and ranking process they may come up with. Any changes would have to go through a public hearing and would not go into effect until the next grant cycle. Next Grants Committee meeting was set for November 19, 2020.

Mr. Riley arrived at 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Brohman introduced Holly Adams, the new Grants Administrator. Continue with discussion on what to accomplish at this meeting.

**Agenda Item #4 - Financial Reports:** Mr. Brohman asked Ms. Adams to pull up the Financial Report.

Mr. Wellman added his summary on the reviewing the grants by sections and reminded members, in the end you can see how they are ranked and it is a continuous process and individual scores can be changed until the presentation to the board (the last Grants Committee meeting). Mr. Brohman wanted to make sure members let the Trust staff know if they make score changes. Gave a rundown on how typical meetings are scheduled. Change made by Marie to allow committee members to make changes on their process on the scoring. Mr. Bowen wanted to remind members to be consistent. Mr. Davidson asked how staff recommendation process takes place. Discussion and explanation of Geographic Points. Mr. Kanger went through the process of their responsibility as committee members according to the guidelines. Discussion. Mr. Orr also expressed his experience to share with the new members.

Mr. Brohman reviewed the 2020 and 2019 Recommendations by Category (Financial Report). Discussion.

**Agenda Item # 5 – Online Portal Review:** Discussion on the online portal review.

**Agenda Item #6 - Statements of Intent:** Mr. Brohman reviewed the Statements of Intent which had a total of 72. Discussion.

**Motion By:** Mr. Wellman; I move to award the grants, at the level outlined in the grant package, for applications: 20-174-2, 20-139-2, 20-165-2, 20-168-2, 20-183-2, 20-157-2, 20-121-2, 20-189-2, 20-182-2, 20-188-2, 20-123-2, 20-176-2, 20-129-2, 20-137-2, 20-122-2, 20-142-2, 20-194-2, 20-175-2, 20-167-2, 20-162-2, 20-186-2, 20-187-2, 20-134-2, 20-111-2 and 20-150-2. **Seconded By:** Mr. Orr.

Discussion.

**Voting Aye:** Mr. Orr; Mr. Davidson; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman; Mr. Kanger and Mr. Bowen. Motion carried.

**Motion By:** Mr. Davidson; I move to award the grants, for year 2, at the level outlined in the grant package, for applications: 20-219-2, 20-103-2, 20-128-2, 20-171-2, 20-191-2, 20-145-2, 20-101-2, 20-115-2, 20-153-2, 20-192-2, 20-130-2, 20-132-2, 20-131-2, 20-148-2, 20-204-2, 20-179-2, 20-114-2, 20-127-2, 20-135-2, 20-116-2, 20-143-2, and 20-193-2. **Seconded By:** Mr. Orr.

**Voting Aye:** Mr. Davidson; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman; Mr. Kanger; Mr. Orr and Mr. Bowen. Motion carried.

**Motion By:** Mr. Orr; I move to award the grants, for year 3, at the level outlined in the grant package, for applications: 19-169-3, 19-146-3, 19-101-3, 19-138-3, 19-162-3, 19-173-3, 19-186-3, 19-202-3, 19-175-3, 19-145-3, 19-200-3, 19-150-3, 19-139-3, 19-115-3, 19-151-3, 19-189-3, 19-136-3, 19-191-3, 19-107-3, 19-104-3, 19-110-3, 19-142-3, 19-123-3, 19-132-3 and 19-147-3. **Seconded by:** Mr. Wellman.

**Voting Aye:** Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman; Mr. Kanger; Mr. Orr; Mr. Davidson and Mr. Bowen. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item # 7: Review of Equipment:** Discussion followed on the six (6) grants designated in the equipment category. Grant numbers: 21-107, 21-108, 21-125; 21-126; 21-130, and 21-134. Mr. Brohman went over each grant to review with the committee. Mr. Wellman had questions on Uribe grant. Discussion followed on eligibility and other relevant questions on the grant process. Asked that staff mark 21-108 (Uribe) as a possible ineligible project because of private gain to a for-profit applicant.

**Agenda Item #8 – Discuss Eligibility of Applications (3 of 4 Nebraskensis applications, 21-165, 174 & 175):** Mr. Brohman then led discussion of the eligibility of applications 21-165, 21-174, and 21-175. Mr. Wellman asked about the 4<sup>th</sup> application, 21-166, from Nebraskensis. The grants committee decided that all four (4) grant applications were ineligible.

**Motion By:** Mr. Wellman moved that all four (4) grant applications by Nebraskensis be deemed ineligible. **Seconded By:** Mr. Orr.

**Voting Aye:** Mr. Wellman; Mr. Kanger; Mr. Orr; Mr. Davidson; Mr. Riley and Mr. Bowen. Motion Carried.

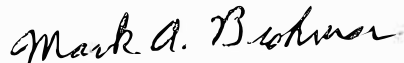
**Agenda Item #9 – Discussion of Future Meeting Dates:** Mr. Brohman led the discussion of determining Grants Committee meeting schedule. The committee had a discussion on changing the schedule of the Grants Committee. Discussion on schedules. To speed things up have staff compile information in spreadsheet, etc., available before the meeting so discussion will run smoother. Score 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> and have staff do their compiling and then get the information due to committee member December 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Due to schedules and overall availability, the committee decided that an entire day dedicated to review the grant applications with a backup date would work better. The new date for the Grants Committee meeting is Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> all day starting at 9:30 a.m. and having a backup day for Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. The meetings will take place at the Ferguson House. The last Grants Committee meeting will be in January and the date will be set in December.

**Agenda Item #10 – Public Comment/Good of the Order:** Lynn Roper and Chris Beutler from the public signed up to comment.

**Agenda Item #11 – Next Meeting:** The Grants Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at 700 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE.

**Agenda Item #12 – Adjourn:** Mr. Bowen adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director