

Agenda Item 3. Minutes of the November 7, 2019 Board Meeting

Meeting minutes from the November 7, 2019 Board Meeting held at the Ferguson House in Lincoln.

MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust
4th Quarter Board Meeting
Thursday, November 7, 2019
1:30 p.m.

Ferguson House
Lincoln, Nebraska

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Board met at the Ferguson House, Lincoln, Nebraska for the transaction of business. Advanced public notice was given through release to news media and official public notice in the "Lincoln Journal Star" on Friday, October 11, 2019.

Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

Members present were: Mr. John Orr, Blair; Mr. Bob Krohn, Omaha; Ms. Gerry Lauritzen, Omaha; Ms. Sherry Vinton, Whitman; Mr. Jim Douglas, Game and Parks Commission; Dr. Gary Anthone, Department of Health and Human Services; Mr. Jeff Fassett, Department of Natural Resources; Mr. Steve Wellman, Department of Agriculture; and Mr. Paul Dunn, Omaha.

Members joining by telephone: Mr. Quentin Bowen, Humboldt

Members absent: Mr. Jeff Kanger, Lincoln; Mr. Jim Hellbusch, Columbus; Mr. Rod Christen, Steinauer; and Mr. Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.

Staff present were: Mr. Mark Brohman, Executive Director; Ms. Marilyn Tabor, Grants Administrator; Ms. Allison La Duke, Grants Assistant; Ms. Sheila Johnson, Public Information Officer; and Ms. Pam Deines, Administrative Secretary.

Introductions of the board were made to the new board member Dr. Anthone.

Agenda Item #3: Minutes of the August 5-6, 2019 Board Meeting. Minutes of the August, 5th and 6th, 2019 board meetings were received.

Motion by Mr. Fassett, seconded by Mr. Wellman to approve the minutes as received.

Voting Aye: Mr. Orr; Mr. Krohn; Ms. Lauritzen; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Douglas; Dr. Anthone; Mr. Fassett; Mr. Wellman and Mr. Dunn. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4: Financial Reports. Mr. Dunn called on Mr. Brohman to review monthly reports and the budget report. The Finance Committee did not meet prior to the board meeting. Mr. Brohman reviewed the reports with the board members at the meeting.

The report continued with the information provided by the Game and Parks Commission to compare and verify the report. Line items were discussed to explained the category. An explanation of the accounting column was discussed to clarify the amount. Discussion continued to explain what state accounting told Mr. Brohman.

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The Lottery Report showed the 3rd quarter figures were down because Mega Millions, Power Ball and Cash for Life didn't have as many high jackpots and there were some larger payouts on the State games so the figure is smaller.

Disbursements, Ferguson House Report, rentals and the office space rental. Track our expenses in comparison to our rent to make sure it is reasonable. We keep track of the expenses to make sure our costs justify our continued rental of the Ferguson House.

Reviewed our budget comparing how we are doing with the expenses to make sure that we are justified in the continued rent of the Ferguson House. Mr. Dunn gave a brief rundown of how the expenses had started to be broken down and where we stand today.

Motion by Mr. Wellman; seconded by Mr. Orr to approve the report on the financials.

Voting Aye: Mr. Orr; Mr. Krohn; Ms. Lauritzen; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Douglas; Dr. Anthone; Mr. Fassett; Mr. Wellman and Mr. Dunn. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5: Staff Report.

a.) Ferguson House Report. Mr. Brohman presented the Ferguson House report. We have several rentals on the first floor, we continue to draw in income from those events. As always, Allison does a good job of coordinating the events and docents. Office rental continues to be less because we do not have the third floor tenants anymore but we are open for potential options. Open house on Sunday December 8th coincides with the tree lighting at the Capitol, and the Kennard Open House. We have had a good response in the past and also inquiries this year which could result in a large number visiting the Ferguson House for the open house.

b.) Administration Report. Ms. Tabor presented the report. Ms. Tabor reviewed the late reports:

Late Reports:

App Id	Sponsor Name	Next Report
18-123	Nebraska Water Balance Alliance	4/30/2019
16-127-3	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	4/30/2019
18-118-2	Conservation Blueprint LLC	6/30/2019
18-152	Cook Grow Sew, LLC	6/30/2019
16-222-3	Five Rivers RC&D	6/30/2019
18-142	Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department	6/30/2019
17-122-3	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	6/30/2019
19-107	Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition	6/30/2019
19-207	Nextera	6/30/2019
19-143	Tekamah, City of	6/30/2019

Ms. Tabor had followed up with each one on the late reports with reminder letters and/or called each grantee.

Modifications Approved by Staff:

The following grant modifications were approved by the Executive Director. A copy of the requests and approval letters are included for your review in this section. (Pages 5- 2 through 5-?).

App ID	Sponsor Name	Request
18-126	Twin Valley Weed Management	Budget Modifications

c.) Director's Comments: E-mail from Dr. Mace Hack in reference to the Kelly Ranch was discussed and TNC still does not have an appraisal. Dr. Hack needed to get back to the NET with information and have the Performance Review Committee report to the full NET Board. The Performance Review Committee has been set up by our Chairman. Mr. Hack indicated that it would be after the first of the year when he would have the information. We would have a meeting after the first of the year once we get this information. Discussion continued on the background of this topic. Grand Island invited Trust board and staff to visit their household hazardous waste facility. Mr. Brohman attended a dedication for Lou Christenson at a Mahoney State Park. Mr. Brohman distributed a handout relating to the number of grants that the University of Nebraska applied for that we would like to get this number reduced. Mr. Brohman met with members of the University to try to reduce the numbers. Discussion continued to create structure for the University. Board directed Mark to contact the University to give directives, bullet points, and our criteria on how the applications should be constructed and those who would be effected.

Agenda Item #6: Grant Modification Requests: Mr. Dunn asked Ms. Tabor to report the grant modification requests:

Angels on Wheels, project #15-172 experienced multiple delays and was scheduled to happen this last April. They asked for an extension to the end of 2020.

Motion by Ms. Vinton; seconded by Mr. Orr to approve the grant modification.

Voting Aye: Mr. Krohn; Ms. Lauritzen; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Douglas; Dr. Anthone; Mr. Fassett; Mr. Wellman; Mr. Orr and Mr. Dunn. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #7: Reports of Grants Committee. Mr. Orr discussed the grant process, the financials and how things are going with the changes and keeping board members informed. Changes with the new systems and the dates of the committee meetings. 21-66 was removed from the list not fitting into the environmental criteria and #20-202, 20-203, 20-207, 20-207, 20-208 and also 20-209 we deemed ineligible. Next meeting will be December 6, 2019; December 20, 2019; January 3, 2020 and January 16, 2020.

Agenda Item #8: Post Completion Reports. Ms. Tabor presented the post completion report for project closeouts. Mr. Wellman asked what the post completion report actually consisted of and Ms. Tabor reported it was a summary or where the reports were and will follow up with a post completion report to make sure they are following through with the procedure. Discussion followed on some items that may cause a variable on the report, i.e. messaging the point system. Will follow up with annual reports to make sure everything is complete. The ballot was handed out. The projects included:

COMPLETED PROJECTS – ALPHABETICALLY BY SPONSOR

Voting with Ballots as the vote: Voting Aye: All Ballots. Motion Passed by ballot vote.

Agenda Item #9: Communication Plan 2020-2021. Ms. Johnson presented the report. Discussion on the key point of the Communication Plan. The Communication Plan isn't changing much, we are still working with the same budget with the same media sources. There was discussion on the various media programs that we used to inform Nebraskans on the Trust and our mission. In 2020 we will embark on the 5-year category review comments and results will be presented to the board. The Annual Report theme for 2020 is "Embracing Our Mission". The budget will remain the same as the previous year. The 2020-2021 Communication Plan will continue to build on the recognition of the Nebraska Environmental Trust as a key funding agency for environmental causes within Nebraska.

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Not increasing the budget because we are in the 3rd phase of our data plan. We collaborate with the Lottery with some of their advertising.

Motion by Ms. Lauritzen and seconded by Mr. Krohn to accept the staff's Communication Plan.

Voting Aye: Mr. Douglas; Dr. Anthone; Mr. Fassett; Mr. Wellman; Mr. Orr; Mr. Krohn; Ms. Lauritzen; Ms. Vinton and Mr. Dunn. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #10: Public Comment and Good of the Order. The Director of the Audubon Society, Ms. Kristol Stoner introduced herself and was attending to observe and learn from the meeting. Allison informed everyone she is engaged and the wedding is in 2020. Mr. Fassett mentioned the Platte River Recovery Implementation program we have had for 13 years is up for extension the end of December. Bills introduced in House and Senate have received support for extension and Federal Funds. Money has been designated in keeping the channel clear and what was once hard to create interest it has now the support of the people and the government representatives. Working on keeping the channel open and maybe establishing a maintenance fund. He noted a shift in applications in the Water Sustainability Fund towards flood related issues. Ms. Vinton talked about the burns on red cedars. She is hearing about follow up burns or chemical treatments being needed.

The Endowment Fund was mentioned by Mr. Douglas and explanation by Mr. Brohman. Mr. Fassett noted a new tax in Colorado on sports betting will generate \$30M/year for water projects and could include a dam on the South Platte River. Ms. Vinton mentioned separate endowments established for maintenance projects in Nebraska could be considered in the future.

Agenda Item #11: Date and Location of Next Meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the Ferguson House.

Agenda Item #11: Adjourn. Mr. Dunn adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Brohman

Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director