Agenda Item 7. Grant Modifications

A. 15-157-3 – BOR-UNL Improving Access to Social & Environmental Sustainability Resources for Nebraska Farmers (Pages 7-5 thru 7-6)

The sponsor is requesting a one-year extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2021. The website development has been completed. The additional year will provide funding for updates to the website.

Staff recommends approving the one-year extension to June 30, 2021.

Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.

B. 15-181-3 – Pheasants Forever – Corners for Wildlife (Pages 7-7 thru 7-8)

The sponsor is requesting a one-year extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2021. Grant funds are obligated to multi-year landowner contracts and annual payments are made as project sites are reviewed. An additional year is requested to allow funds to remain available as projects to be completed.

Staff recommends approving the one-year extension to June 30, 2021.

Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.

C. 16-111 – Little Blue NRD - Puddles under the Pivots (Pages 7-9 thru 7-10)

The sponsor is requesting a one-year extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2021. Grant funds have been obligated but construction has been delayed by COVID 19 restrictions. An additional year is requested to ensure funds are available for project completion.

Staff recommends approving the one-year extension to June 30, 2021.

Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.

D. 16-116-3 – Lincoln – Eastern Saline Wetlands (Pages 7-11 thru 7-12)

The sponsor is requesting a six-month extension of the expiration date to December 31, 2020. Grant funds have been obligated and projects were scheduled to be completed by June 30. Work has been delayed by COVID 19 restrictions. An additional year is requested to ensure funds are available for project completion.

Staff recommends approving the six-month extension to December 31, 2020.

Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.

E. 16-125 – Lower Platte North NRD - Implementation of the Wahoo Creek Watershed Plan- Phase II (Pages 7-13 thru 7-14)
The sponsor is requesting a one-year extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2021. Landowner projects are scheduled to be completed this fall and work with Saunders County is being coordinated. The one-year extension will ensure funds remain available as the project is completed.

Staff recommends approving the one-year extension to June 30, 2021.

**Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.**

F. 16-189-3 BOR-UNL – Enhancing Soil Ecosystem Services with Cover Crops (Pages 7-15 thru 7-16)

The sponsor is requesting a one-year extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2021. A one-year extension will allow for loner-term data collection to support data analysis.

Staff recommends approving the one-year extension to June 30, 2021.

**Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.**

G. 16-200-3 BOR-UNL- Integrating the vadose zone for improved management of Nebraska’s ground water quality (Pages 7-17 thru 7-18)

The sponsor is requesting a one-year extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2021. Weather events and COVID 19 restrictions have delayed project work. A one-year extension will allow funds to remain available as the project proceeds

Staff recommends approving the one-year extension to June 30, 2021.

**Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.**

H. 16-217-3 – Pheasants Forever – Grassland Improvement (Pages 7-19 thru 7-20)

The sponsor is requesting a one-year extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2021. Grant funds are obligated to multi-year landowner contracts and annual payments are made as project sites are reviewed. An additional year is requested to allow funds to remain available as projects to be completed.

Staff recommends approving the one-year extension to June 30, 2021.

**Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.**
I. 17-113-3- Nebraska Community Foundation – Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Partnership Special Initiative (Pages 7-21 thru 7-22)

The sponsor is requesting a one-year extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2021. Grant funds are obligated to landowner projects but weather events and COVID 19 restrictions have delayed project work. A one-year extension will allow funds to remain available as projects are completed.

Staff recommends approving the one-year extension to June 30, 2021.

Possible Action: *a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.*

J. 17-122-3- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission – Trout in the Classroom (Pages 7-23 thru 7-24)

The sponsor is requesting a one-year extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2021. Project funding and staffing changes are allowing funding to cover additional equipment costs for schools. This extension will allow the project to expand to more schools when COVID 19 restrictions are eased.

Staff recommends approving the one-year extension to June 30, 2021.

Possible Action: *a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.*

K. 17-216 – Sandhills Task Force - Sandhill Lake/Wetland Renovations; a Public Sector and Private Land Partnership (Pages 7-25 thru 7-26)

The sponsor is requesting a one-year extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2021. Grant funds are obligated but weather events have delayed projects. A one-year extension will allow funds to remain available as projects are completed.

Staff recommends approving the one-year extension to June 30, 2021.

Possible Action: *a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.*

L. 16-130 - Community Investments Opportunities, LLC - Environmental Improvement Demonstration Project (Pages 27- thru 7-29)

The sponsor is requesting a one-year extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2021. Grant funds are obligated but COVID restrictions have delayed the final events. A one-year extension will allow funds to remain available as projects are completed.

Staff recommends approving the one-year extension to June 30, 2021.

Possible Action: *a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.*
Title 137, chapter 9, Section 010. If a grantee wished to modify a project other than one covered by section 006 above, the grantee must submit a proposed amendment to the grant agreement including a revised line-item budget. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the Executive Director at least 30 days prior to the requested changes with an explanation of need. The Executive Director will then either approve or deny the proposal and inform the grantee in writing of his or her decision.

Nebraska Statute 81-15-175 (4). The board may commit funds to multiyear projects, subject to available funds and appropriations. No commitment shall exceed three years without formal action by the board to renew the grant contract. Multiyear commitments may be exempt from the rating process except for the initial application and requests to renew the commitment.
March 20, 2020

Amy Millmier Schmidt, Ph.D., P.E.
Assistant Professor, Biological Systems Engineering & Animal Science
Livestock Manure Management
University of Nebraska–Lincoln
213 L. W. Chase Hall,
P.O. Box 830726
Lincoln, NE 68583-0726

Reference: NET 15-157 – Improving Access to Social & Environmental Sustainability Resources for Nebraska Farmers

Dear Amy:

We are in receipt of your March 19, 2020 letter requesting a one-year extension of this grant. We understand the website has been developed. This extension will ensure funds remain available to fund staff during updates. We will take your request to the NET Board at the May 21, 2020 meeting and notify you following the meeting of their decision.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brahman
March 19, 2020

Marilyn Tabor  
Nebraska Environmental Trust  
Grants Administrator  
700 South 16th Street  
Lincoln NE 68509-4913

Dear Ms. Tabor:

I would like to request a no-cost extension through June 30, 2021 for the NET-funded project (15-157) titled, Improving Access to Social & Environmental Sustainability Resources for Nebraska Farmers.

The initial objectives of the grant—development of the Ag Site Planner website, the Risk Management Tool, the Regulatory Guidance Tool and the online Land Application Training Module—have been completed and are fully deployed at https://agsiteplanner.unl.edu/. Marketing and promotion of the tools and website are underway, and I have enjoyed sharing these new resources with current and potential livestock and poultry producers, policy makers, and other stakeholders at a number of meetings and conferences in the past several months. Most recently, I co-presented with the Executive Director of A-FAN (Steve Martin) and Livestock Development Coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (Jacy Thoman) at the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association (NPZA) spring conference to help county regulators utilize the website and tools in their livestock development efforts.

I have focused efforts in the past several months on updating map components such as the identification of counties designated as Livestock Friendly. Necessary updates to the website and tools and relevant requests for integration of new capabilities continue to be identified by stakeholders. At the request of the Nebraska Poultry Industries, Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association, and the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska, we have been working with programmers to incorporate a number of revisions and capabilities that I consider highly relevant and valuable to the clientele who are using this website and tools. The Nebraska Odor Footprint Tool is being integrated as a component of the Risk Management Tool to equip users to evaluate odor-related siting considerations in addition to the existing water quality-related evaluation. Updates to our database of county planning and zoning requirements is continuing to allow us to return more useful information in both the Risk Management and Regulatory Guidance Tools. Programmers continue to explore access to relevant external databases that may allow overlaying locations of residences on current GIS-referenced map outputs within the Risk Management Tool to further increase value of the report for assessing the suitability of sites for livestock production.

While we have been granted previous extensions to this project, it is important to me to maintain the ability to fund the computer programmers whose expertise is needed to perform the desired updates. A no-cost extension through June 30, 2021, should provide sufficient time and resources to complete currently identified revisions to the website and tools, and ensure continuous improvement of these resources that are being regularly used throughout Nebraska. I appreciate the board’s consideration of this request. If there are questions or a need for additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Amy Schmidt, Project PI
aschmidt@unl.edu
(402) 472-0877
March 23, 2020

Kelsi Wehrman
Pheasants Forever
P O Box 146
Nelson, NE 68961

Reference: 15-181-3 - Corners for Wildlife

Dear Kelsi,

We are in receipt of your March 2, 2020 letter requesting a one-year extension of this Environmental Trust grant to June 30, 2021. We understand the grant funds are obligated to multi-year landowner contracts and annual payments will be made as projects are reviewed. An extension will ensure grant funds remain available until projects are completed.

The request for an extension of this grant will be reviewed by the Board at their May 21, 2020 meeting and you will be notified if the extension is granted.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brohman
March 2, 2020

Marilyn Tabor
Nebraska Environmental Trust
700 South 16th Street
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Nebraska Environmental Trust,

This letter is a one-year extension request for the 15-181 Corners for Wildlife grant. The grant is scheduled to close on June 30, 2020, but all of the funds will not be expended by that date. Due to the nature of the five year landowner contracts in the program, some funds will need to be expended after June 30, 2020. All of the funding is obligated in landowner contracts and a contract list with future obligations is supplied with every quarterly progress report. All goals and objectives of the grant will be met with this extension.

The Corners for Wildlife Program has been an essential habitat program in Nebraska since 1995 and has established over 12,000 acres of habitat on private lands. With the help of important partners such as the Nebraska Environmental Trust, PF/QF local chapters, the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Natural Resource Districts, and landowners, we have spent over $9.2 Million.

Please consider this request for an extension. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Kelsi Wehrman
State Coordinator
Kelsi Wehrman
PO Box 146
Nelson, NE 68961
402-621-0744
kwehrman@pheasantsforever.org

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April 13, 2020

Kyle Hauschild
Little Blue NRD
P O Box 100
Davenport, NE 68335

Reference: 16-111 - Puddles under the Pivots

Dear Kyle,

We are in receipt of your April 10, 2020 letter requesting a one-year extension of this Environmental Trust grant to June 30, 2021. We understand all grant funds have been obligated and progress has been delayed due the Covid-19 issues. This extension will ensure grant funds remain available until projects are completed.

The request for the extension of this grant will be reviewed by the Board at their May 21, 2020 meeting and you will be notified if the extension is granted.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brohman
April 10, 2020

Ms. Marilyn Tabor
Grants Administrator
Nebraska Environmental Trust
PO Box 94913
Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

NET 16-111 – Puddles under the Pivots: One Year Extension Request

Dear Marilyn,

Please accept this letter from Little Blue Natural Resources District for an additional one-year extension for grant 16-111 "Puddles under the Pivots". Little Blue Natural Resources District in coordination with other Rainwater Basin Joint Venture partners to develop 11 unique projects. These projects will support wetland restoration and upland buffer establishment on flood-prone cropland embedded in pivot irrigated fields. These projects provide cost-share for non-traditional items like floatation tires and grazing infrastructure to ensure these projects will be integrated into working farm and ranch operations.

This extension will allow the following project elements to be completed: upland buffer establishment, construction of grazing infrastructure (i.e. perimeter fence, cross fence, livestock water, etc.), and pivot modifications that will ensure the pivot can cross the restored wetland. Pivot modifications to support technology upgrades for variable rate irrigation technology will also be completed. Cost-share for this technology allows producers to evaluate crop growth stage and field specific soil water holding capacity to maximize irrigation efficiency and limit irrigation inputs over the restored wetlands. The combination of wetland restoration and pivot technology upgrades, reduces irrigation, improves recharge to the aquifer, and provides habitat. Projects completed through this extension will provide benefits for producers, wildlife, and residents of Nebraska.

All of these projects have construction plans and bid packages completed. Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic has reduced the effectiveness to have site showings, finalize contracts, and initiate construction ahead of the June 30 deadline. We are confident that as a result of all of our past work we will be able to complete this project with a one year extension.

Sincerely,

Kyle Hauschild
General Manager
Little Blue Natural Resources District
May 29, 2020

Tom Malmstrom
Natural Resources Coordinator
Lincoln Parks & Rec Dept.
3131 O Street
Lincoln NE 68510

Reference: 16-116 - Eastern Saline Wetlands Project

Dear Tom,

We are in receipt of your May 29, 2020 letter requesting a six-month extension to December 31, 2020. We understand all funds have been obligated and projects were scheduled to be completed prior to the grant expiration. However, COVID restrictions have delayed the projects. The extension will ensure funds remain available to finish the grant and deliverables that are underway.

Your extension request will be reviewed by the Board at their June 11, 2020 meeting and you will be notified of their decision following the meeting.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brahman
May 29, 2020

Mark Brohman
Executive Director
Nebraska Environmental Trust
P.O. Box 94913
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4913

RE: Project No. 16-116-3, Eastern Saline Wetlands Project 2016
Request to extend grant period

Dear Mark:

This letter is to request an extension of the project period from June 30, 2020 to December 31, 2020. This would allow remaining grant funds to be expended. The City of Lincoln is very appreciative of the funding it has received from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) for the conservation of the eastern saline wetlands. In 2019, the Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership executed a new inter-local agreement, which is effective through June 30, 2024.

This six month grant extension to December 31, 2020 is to expend remaining NET funds for the implementation of projects currently under contract or in the process. The extension request is due to unforeseen delays related to the Covid-19 pandemic. We appreciate your efforts in the conservation of natural resources and look forward to working with you and the NET on future projects. If you have any questions, please contact me at 402-441-7063 (Parks) / 402-476-2729 (LPSNRD) or tmalmstrom@lpsnrnd.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Tom Malmstrom
Natural Resources Coordinator
Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership
April 8, 2020

Tom Mountford
Lower Platte North NRD
511 Commercial Park Road
Wahoo, NE 68066

Reference: NET 16-125 – Implementation of the Wahoo Creek Watershed Plan – Phase II

Dear Tom,

We are in receipt of your April 8, 2020 letter requesting a one-year extension of this grant. We understand you have approved summer conservation programs underway along with a landowner grade stabilization project that should be completed by fall. Additional work with Saunders County is being coordinated for erosion control near bridges. We will take your request to the NET Board at the May 21, 2020 meeting and notify you following the meeting of their decision.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brohman
April 8, 2020

Mark A. Brohman, Executive Director
Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund
P.O. Box 94913
Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

RE: Grant Extension Request for Wahoo Creek Plan Phase II (16-125)

Dear Mr. Brohman,

As sponsor of the Wahoo Creek Water Quality Watershed Plan, the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District has joined together with the Nebraska Environment Trust, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to assist landowners and Saunders County in reducing soil erosion and pollutants in Wahoo Creek.

We have been very active with our partners assisting landowners with the application of land treatment best management practices in 2019, however we submitted our last reimbursement request to NDEQ that qualifies as match to our NET grant. For 2020, we have approved summer conservation program contacts (Lands for Conservation Program) and a large landowner grade stabilization dam project we anticipate being completed by fall. This stabilization project was delayed after a redesign of the project was determined necessary by NRCS. We had anticipated that Saunders County desired to partner with us to establish several channel erosion control structures near their bridges, but we have not received a formal assistance request to date. If the county does not move forward, we will allocate available funding for other water quality conservation projects. Our intention is to use our remaining NET grant funds by June 30, 2021.

We are requesting a year extension from June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021, on our NET Grant: Wahoo Creek Plan Phase II (16-125). Your consideration on our request is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Mountford
Assistant Manager
Lower Platte North NRD
March 20, 2020

Humberto Blanco
Agronomy & Horticulture
UNL
Lincoln NE 68853-0915

Reference: NET 16-189 – Enhancing Soil Ecosystem Services with Cover Crops

Dear Mr. Blanco:

We are in receipt of your March 17, 2020 letter requesting a one-year extension of your grant to June 30, 2021. The extension will allow longer-term data collection to determine how cover crops affect soil ecosystems and incorporate additional weather variability.

We will take your request to the NET Board at the next meeting (May 21) and notify you following the meeting of their decision.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brahman
March 17, 2020

Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director
Nebraska Environmental Trust

Dear Director:

I am writing to request a second year of no-cost extension of our funded project “Enhancing Soil Ecosystem Services with Cover Crops”, which expires on June 30, 2020. The second year would extend the project for one additional year till June 30, 2021. This extension is needed because adverse weather conditions, such as those in spring 2019, are just one of the challenges with short-term research. Such challenges necessitate the continuation of experiments for more years to collect valuable long-term data and reach more definitive conclusions. Further, some soil health parameters are slow to change and require long-term cover crop management to detect changes.

This additional year is needed to accomplish the following tasks:

- **Summer 2020**: Analysis of soil and plant samples and data collected in spring 2020.
- **Fall 2020**: Corn harvest to determine yield, impose residue removal treatments, and plant cover crops.
- **Winter 2021**: Analysis of soil and plant samples and data collected in fall 2020.
- **Spring 2021**: Collect cover crop biomass, collect soil samples for analysis, and analyze samples and data.
- **Spring 2021**: Prepare journal and extension articles. We will submit at least three peer-reviewed publications.

We are extremely thankful to NET for funding this project and providing an opportunity to study how we can enhance the health of our soils with cover crops. As per our quarterly reports, our research output has been notable. In the past three years, we have published three journal articles. We have also disseminated the results through numerous extension articles, invited talks, conferences, and other outlets and we will continue to do so in the year ahead. This unique project provides an excellent opportunity to train the next generation of postdoctoral associates as well as undergraduate and graduate students in research and data collection and management in the coming year. The remaining budget would partially fund some of those researchers and fund the analysis of soil samples for C, N, and other soil health parameters. We greatly appreciate your support to this project.

Please let us know if you need any additional information. We would be happy to provide additional justification for this no-cost extension request if needed.

Sincerely,

Humberto Blanco, Professor of Soil Science
367 Keim Hall, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture
University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0915
Phone: 402 472 1510; Fax: 402 472 7904
Email: hblanco2@unl.edu
http://agronomy.unl.edu/blanco
April 3, 2020

Chittaranjan Ray
Director Nebraska Water Center
2021 Transformation Dr
Lincoln NE 68583

Reference: 16-200 - Integrating the vadose zone for improved management of Nebraska's groundwater quality

Dear Dr. Ray,

We are in receipt of your April 1, 2020 letter requesting a one-year extension to June 30, 2021. We understand considerable progress has been made but that weather events, and now the COVID-19 issues are delaying progress. The extension will ensure funds remain available to finish the grant and deliverables that are underway.

The extension request will be reviewed by the Board at their May 21, 2020 meeting and you will be notified of their decision following the meeting.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brahman
4/1/2020

Marilyn Tabor
Nebraska Environmental Trust
Grants Administrator
700 South 16th Street
Lincoln NE 68509-4913

Re: NET16-200 Integrating the vadose zone for improved management of Nebraska's ground water quality

Dear Marilyn,

We would like to request a 6-month extension of our project grant: *Integrating the vadose zone for improved management of Nebraska's ground water quality* (NET16-200). Over the project period, we have digitized and uploaded data from over 700 vadose cores in 30 counties and 14 Nebraska natural resources districts (NRD). We are nearly finished with hydraulic conductivity measurements for approximately 100 core samples and have used the hydraulic profiling tool at 20 different sites. This project has already been leveraged by matching funds from vadose zone monitoring projects in 8 NRDs and 3 wellhead protection areas.

While we have had very good success with digitizing previous data and working with NRDs and municipalities on new monitoring projects, collection of new data is slow and highly dependent on access to crop fields before or after the growing season. Identification and access to the remaining locations in the Bazile Groundwater Management Area has been hampered first by weather (extensive flooding in spring 2019) and most recently by the COVID-19 pandemic which has suspended almost all field work at the University. We are confident that collection of data from the remaining locations later this year will help ensure best use of the vadose zone website Nebraskavadose.unl.edu, and further encourage data sharing and access for managing Nebraska water resources. This website, hosted by the University of Nebraska, provides a GIS map of the digitized vadose zone data, information to the public on the importance of vadose zone monitoring, instructions for data submission, and monitoring guidance for current and future projects. Our goal is to have data from 1000 cores available for the public by the end of this year.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Chittaranjan Ray, Ph.D.
Director Nebraska Water Center
March 23, 2020

Kelsi Wehrman  
Pheasants Forever  
P O Box 146  
Nelson, NE 68961

Reference: 16-217 – Grassland Improvement

Dear Kelsi,

We are in receipt of your March 2, 2020 letter requesting a one-year extension of this Environmental Trust grant to June 30, 2021. We understand the grant funds are obligated to multi-year landowner contracts for prescribed burning and grazing management. An extension will ensure grant funds remain available until projects are completed.

The request for an extension will be reviewed by the Board at their May 21, 2020 meeting and you will be notified if the extension is granted.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor  
Grant Administrator  
Environmental Trust  
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brahman
March 2, 2020

Marilyn Tabor
Nebraska Environmental Trust
700 South 16th Street
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Nebraska Environmental Trust,

This letter is a one-year extension request for the 16-217 Grassland Improvement Program grant. The grant is scheduled to close on June 30, 2020; however, the NET funds will not all be expended by that date. We are still accepting projects and continue to have landowner enrollment. Due to the project activities relying on appropriate weather for deferment and burning, we will need more time to expend the funds. COVID-19 is also having an impact on the program with staff travel limitations to meet with private landowners and Prescribed Burn Associations (PBAs) not traveling or gathering to complete projects. With this program, landowners are required to defer grazing for an entire year, conduct a prescribed burn, and follow a grazing management plan for three years. Since the payment is made following the prescribed burn, the funds will remain obligated until the project is complete and the landowner is issued a payment.

The Grassland Improvement Program has been an essential habitat program in Nebraska since 2007 and has improved over 39,000 acres on 282 projects. With the help of important partners such as the Nebraska Environmental Trust, PF/QF local chapters, the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, and landowners, we have spent over $1.1 Million.

Please consider this request for an extension.

Sincerely,

Kelsi Wehrman
Pheasants Forever, Inc.
State Coordinator

www.NebraskaPF.com
April 15, 2020

Diane Wilson
NE Community Foundation
P O Box 83107
Lincoln NE 68501

Reference: 17-113 - Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Partnership Special Initiative

Dear Diane,

We are in receipt of your April 9, 2020 letter requesting a one-year extension of this Environmental Trust grant to June 30, 2021. We understand all grant funds have been obligated to various private landowner projects. This extension will ensure grant funds remain available until projects are completed.

This request for extension of this grant will be reviewed by the Board at their May 21, 2020 meeting and you will be notified if the extension is granted.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brohman
April 9, 2020

Ms. Marilyn Tabor  
Grants Administrator  
Nebraska Environmental Trust  
PO Box 94913  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

NET 17-113 – Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership – Special Initiative: One-Year Extension Request

Dear Marilyn,

Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) for benefit of the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWBJV) partnership is requesting a one-year extension for grant 17-113 “Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership – Special Initiative”. The RWBJV partners are in the process of developing 10 unique projects that will support wetland/upland buffer restoration of flood-prone cropland embedded in pivot irrigated fields. These projects build off numerous projects completed by the RWBJV partners over the last 28 years. Past projects often focused the wetland restoration activities, but the projects associated with 17-113 demonstrate the evolution of the partnership. Projects pursued with this grant include cost-share for non-traditional items like floatation tires and grazing infrastructure to ensure these projects will be integrated back into privately owned working farm/ranch operations across Central Nebraska.

This one-year extension will allow partners to finalize wetland conservation plans and irrigation system upgrades. Currently partners are finalizing agreements with landowners about seed mixes for upland buffers to maximize wetland filtration and forage production for cattle grazing, necessary infrastructure (i.e. perimeter fence, cross fence, livestock water, etc.) for grazing, and pivot modifications that will ensure pivot travel through restored wetlands and adjacent upland buffers. Several of the pivot upgrades also include components that will allow producers to adopt variable rate irrigation technology. This technology allows producers to evaluate crop growth stage and field specific soil water capacity to maximize irrigation efficiency and limit irrigation inputs over the restored wetlands. The combination of the wetland restoration and pivot technology upgrades will reduce irrigation, improve recharge to the aquifer, and provide habitat for resident and migratory species. Projects completed through this extension will provide benefits for producers, wildlife, and residents of Nebraska. The RWBJV partners feel confident that the objectives outlined in this grant can be achieved through this extension.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Wilson  
Manager of Public/Private Partnerships
March 17, 2020

Lindsay Rogers
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
2200 N 33rd Street
Lincoln NE 68503

Reference: 17-122-3 – Trout in the Classroom

Dear Lindsay,

We are in receipt of your March 17, 2020 letter requesting a one-year extension of this Environmental Trust grant to June 30, 2021. We understand that following changes in available funding and staff, NGPC is providing all staff costs. NET funding is again available for equipment funding. This extension will allow the program to expand by providing equipment for additional schools.

This request for the extension of this grant will be reviewed by the Board at their next meeting (date to be determined) and you will be notified if the extension is granted.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brohman
March 17, 2020

Re: NET Grant 17-122-3

Dear Marilynn,

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission seeks a one-year extension for the Trout in the Classroom Grant (17-122-3).

Due to staffing and funding changes, the Commission is now providing all funding for a new position – Aquatic Ecology Education Specialist. This position will be responsible for coordination the Trout in the Classroom program meaning the NET funding dedicated for staff as part of our grant is no longer needed. We have requested, and received, permission to transfer these funds from the ‘staff’ category to the ‘equipment’ category. That said, having one more year on this grant will allow us to spend these funds in a coordinated and conservative manner.

With a one-year extension, we will be able to provide full equipment to new schools seeking to join the Nebraska Trout in the Classroom program for the 2020-2021 school year.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Rogers
Division Administrator
Fish & Wildlife Education Division
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Lindsay.rogers@nebraska.gov
402-471-5581
March 23, 2020

Shelly Kelly
Sandhills Task Force
P O Box 482
Broken Bow, NE 68822

Reference: NET 17-216 – Sandhill Lake/Wetland Renovations; a Public Sector and Private Land Partnership

Dear Shelly,

We are in receipt of your March 23, 2020 letter requesting a one-year extension of this Environmental Trust grant to June 30, 2021. We understand that weather and above-average precipitation have delayed lake renovations. This extension will ensure funds remain available as projects are completed.

This request for extension of the grant will be reviewed by the Board at their May 21, 2020 meeting and you will be notified if the extension is granted.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541
March 23, 2020

Marilyn Tabor
Nebraska Environmental Trust
PO Box 94913
Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

Marilyn,

I would like to request a one-year extension for our grant titled “Sandhill Lake/Wetland Renovations; a Public Sector and Private Land Partnership” number 17-216. Projects have been identified for this grant, and we have accomplished as much work as possible, but the area has received up to three times the average precipitation in the last year which makes completing the lake renovations impossible. We are working directly with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and their recommendation has been to wait on treating lakes. We are very hopeful that we can complete the lake renovations this summer or this fall/winter. We want to complete the projects when they will be successful, instead of pushing it when conditions are not right. The projects, once completed, will meet or exceed expectations in the grant application.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Shelly Kelly
Executive Director
Sandhills Task Force
June 9, 2020

Marta Sonia Londoño Mejía
Executive Director
Midlands Latino Community Development Corporation (MLCDC)
4923 S 24th St, Ste 201
Omaha, NE 68107

Reference: 16-130 Environmental Improvement Demonstration Project

Dear Marta,

We are in receipt of your June 9, 2020 letter requesting a one-year extension of this project to June 30, 2021. We understand the design and feasibility study are completed and the education component of the project was scheduled but has been delayed due to the COVID restrictions. The extension will ensure the funds remain available as project continues.

Your request for the extension of this grant will be reviewed by the Board at their June 11, 2020 meeting and you will be notified if the extension is granted.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brohman
June 9, 2020

NEBRASKA ENTERPRISE FUND
700 S 16TH STREET
LINCOLN, NE 68508

Dear Officers:

This letter is to ask for one-year extension to use the funds assigned to the Project Number 16-130, Environmental Improvement Demonstration Project. The fund was assigned for the feasibility study.

We presented a request in February 2020 to shift funds from Cost Analysis and Reproduction to provide additional education. We considered that additional education would be a better use of the funding. You approved the modification in our budget giving us the possibility to invest $10,500 in our educational project.

We started working on the planning of our Sustainability and engine of Economic Development conference on February 26, 2020. We decided to hold the conference at the Kroc Center on April 30, 2020. We worked to create a logo and a save the date card with our graphic designer.

We contacted several professionals and specialists on the topic of Sustainability throughout the state of Nebraska. Finally, we received the confirmations of the following speakers:

Mark Brohman, Executive Director, Nebraska Environmental Trust
Anne McCollister, Executive Director, Nebraska Community Energy Alliance
Kirk Estee, Customer Alternative Energy Solutions Manager, OPPD
Dave Rich, Sustainable Energy Manager, NPPD
David L. Bratch, Former Nebraska Energy Director; current of counsel KUTAKROCK
Cliff Mesner, Principal of Mesner Development Co.
Pedro Benavidez, CIO’s member, mechanical Engineer, and solar energy student
We selected a web designer from a group of three professionals who had presented a proposal to CIO. Renier Navas was selected for the design of the Web site. The Web site is finished as is the program for registration of attendees. Web site: http://ciopportunities.com/ciocms/

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund received all of the recognition for its support in the planning and organization of our solar energy project and in our Web site. When we offer our education programs to the community, the Nebraska Environmental Trust will be recognized in our social media and in the printed material describing the conference and workshops.

We contacted the Governor, Mayor of the city of Omaha, Senators and other dignitaries to officially invite them to the conference. We made phone calls, send e-mails, and completed online research to create a data base of potential attendees at the educational programs. We sent the save the date cards by e-mail. And, we had to send an additional e-mail on March 31st to postpone the conference due to the problem of COVID-19.

We have the first draft of the program for the discussion with our speakers; and, we are waiting for their power point presentations to prepare the printed material for our educational programs in the area of sustainability.

We will schedule the date of the conference as soon as the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer a danger for the participants, the persons operating the Kroc Center, and the speakers. For this reason, we are asking for an extension of the period of the grant.

As of today date, we have expended $3,486.60. For this reason, we have a balance of the budget to expend in our educational programs of $7,013.40.

We want to have a conference and workshops to educate people from our community. The conditions of the COVID-19 have forced us to postpone our educational programs that we presented in our grant.

Thank you so much for your consideration to our request.

Respectfully,

Marta Sonia Londono Mejia
President Board of Directors
martaslondon@hotmail.com
http://ciopportunities.com/ciocms/

Community Investments Opportunities
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