

Agenda Item 4. Minutes of the November 5, 2020 Board Meeting

Meeting minutes from the November 5, 2020 Board Meeting held at the Lincoln Children's Zoo in Lincoln.

MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust
4th Quarter Board Meeting
Thursday, November 5, 2020
1:30 p.m.

The Lincoln Children's Zoo
Multipurpose Room
1222 South 27th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Board met at the Lincoln Children's Zoo, Multipurpose Room, 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 Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

Chairman Kanger called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

Members present were: Mr. John Orr, Blair; Mr. Paul Dunn, Omaha; Mr. Mark Quandahl, Omaha; Mr. Felix Davidson, Valley; Ms. Sherry Vinton, Whitman; Mr. Rod Christen, Steinaur; Mr. Quentin Bowen, Humboldt; Mr. Jim Douglas, Game and Parks Commission; Mr. Tom Riley, Department of Natural Resources; Mr. Steve Wellman, Department of Agriculture; Mr. Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and Mr. Jeff Kanger, Lincoln.

Members absent: Mr. Jim Hellbusch, Columbus; and Dr. Gary Anthonie, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Staff present were: Mr. Mark Brohman, Executive Director; Ms. Holly Adams, Grants Administrator; Ms. Sheila Johnson, Public Information Officer; and Ms. Pam Deines, Administrative Secretary.

Mr. Brohman informed the Board, staff and audience that Dr. Anthonie will be joining late.

Introductions of the board and staff were made.

Agenda Item #3: Correction of the Minutes of the February 4, 2020 Board Meeting. The Corrected minutes of February 4, 2020, board meetings were received and reviewed. Mr. Macy double checked to make sure these are the corrected minutes, it was erred in listing Mr. Macy voting aye and abstaining, whereas it was an abstaining vote only. Correction was made and recorded in the official minutes.

Motion by Mr. Macy, seconded by Mr. Riley to approve the corrected minutes with a voting correction which corrects an error on the voting record and it was an abstain as received.

Voting Aye: Mr. Orr; Mr. Dunn; Mr. Quandahl; Mr. Davidson; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Christen; Mr. Bowen; Mr. Douglas; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman; Mr. Macy and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4: Minutes of the August 3-4, 2020 Board Meeting. Minutes of the August 3 and 4, 2020 board meetings were received. Ms. Vinton had a correction on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, minutes in Agenda #7, Ms. Vinton was recorded as voting aye twice. Request to correct and to delete the 2nd Ms. Vinton on the minutes.

Motion by Mr. Davidson; seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the minutes with the correction as pointed out by Ms. Vinton.

Voting Aye: Mr. Dunn Mr. Quandahl; Mr. Davidson; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Christen, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Douglas; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman, Mr. Macy, Mr. Orr and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5: Guest Speakers Brian Rockey, Director and Neil Watson, Public Information Officer, Nebraska Lottery, providing an update on the Nebraska Lottery.

Chairman Kanger called on Mr. Brohman to introduce guest speakers. Mr. Brian Rockey is the Director and Mr. Neil Watson is the Public Information Officer of the Nebraska Lottery. They gave, an update about the Nebraska Lottery, including information on the recently passed Constitutional changes on the ballot allowing casino gambling in Nebraska.

Agenda Item #6: Financial Report: Mr. Brohman noted the items in Agenda Item #6 and Ms. Vinton then started giving an overview of the Financial Committee meeting. Meeting took an hour discussing profit and non-profit grants, Ferguson House, Mr. Brohman informed the numbers of rentals are down and we have stopped scheduling any further events the rest of the year, and no Christmas Open House. Mr. Macy asked if it was an executive management decision resting on the director or the Board. Mr. Brohman explained listed in his duties it lists he is to operate the office duties so assumingly Ferguson House duties would be include in the decision based on that information. Mr. Brohman discussed the capacity rules and what guidelines we have to abide with COVID and for those we have in place. Mr. Macy had conference call with Governor Ricketts, wanting to figure out the safety for the teammates, taking proactive measures for the teammates. Mr. Brohman informed the board that we are informing people we are not taking any further reservations. Mr. Quandahl asked if the board should authorize there should suspend outside rentals until further notice. Mr. Macy asked about the number of renters, and sub-renter's. Mr. Brohman gave a summary of the two renters that are in the Ferguson House. Chairman Kanger agreed that Mr. Quandahl made an interesting point that since we have short staff and we have extra demands right now and are short staff, it seems like it is the appropriate time for this discussion.

At 2:35 p.m. Dr. Anthone arrived.

Motion by: Mr. Quandahl seconded by Mr. Davidson to suspend any outside activities at the Ferguson House until further action from the Board.

Discussion continued to pandemic concerns and staff issues, not fully staffed, and law suit has caused us to extend further efforts to address that and so there is questions on some of the policies and procedures of the Board so we should focus on those items. Ms. Johnson asked the Board if the advertising for the Ferguson House needs to be removed from the website and our Facebook pages. Mr. Kanger asked Mr. Brohman his input. Mr. Brohman suggested not to take off now but state we are not taking rentals at this time and until further notice. Discussion on those who have interest in renting and the COVID regulations that will apply to the Ferguson House. Dr. Anthone commented that things are only going to get

tighter. Mr. Brohman asked for clarification from the Board on our upcoming February meeting that if things do clear up is there a way to address in January.

Motion by: Mr. Quandahl reworded the motions, seconded by Mr. Davidson to suspend any outside rental activities at the Ferguson House until further notice and there is another motion by the board to begin renting the facility again.

Voting Aye: Mr. Quandahl; Mr. Davidson; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Christen, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Douglas; Dr. Anthone; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman, Mr. Macy, Mr. Orr; Mr. Dunn and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried.

Ms. Vinton continued with the Finance Committee report. The Disbursement Report was not provided initially but was sent to the board before the board meeting at which point Ms. Vinton noticed that expiration dates were not correct on pages 6-21 thru 6-27.

Motion by: Ms. Vinton to remove the Disbursement Report pages 6-21 thru 6-27 from the board book approval and address at the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Quandahl.

Mr. Macy requested that Mr. Brohman and Ms. Adams need to stamp this a little differently in next Finance Committee meeting so that we have a clearer understanding of previous disbursement and what the transfer in is and how that works. Mr. Vinton added what she would like to do is show a quarterly review along with this disbursement report. She would like a list showing a quarterly disbursement. Mr. Bowen wanted to ask why it wasn't available and Mr. Brohman responded at the time Ms. Adams did not have access to this database yet with clearance at the Game and Parks Commission.

Voting Aye: Mr. Davidson; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Christen, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Douglas; Dr. Anthone; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman, Mr. Macy, Mr. Orr; Mr. Dunn; Mr. Quandahl and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried.

Motion by: Ms. Vinton to accept the remainder of the Finance Committee report and minutes. Seconded by Mr. Christen.

Voting Aye: Ms. Vinton; Mr. Christen, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Douglas; Dr. Anthone; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman, Mr. Macy, Mr. Orr; Mr. Dunn; Mr. Quandahl; Mr. Davidson and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried

Agenda Item #7: Staff Report:

a.) **Ferguson House Report.** Mr. Kanger called on Mr. Brohman for the Ferguson House Report. Mr. Brohman showed that the rentals for the offices and the upcoming rentals. The Friday meeting has been canceled for Friday, November 6, 2020. Rentals have been postponed except for one meeting for the Gamblers Anonymous Program on November 20th. Mr. Macy asked for some clarification regarding some of the rentals but also about a sub-grantee renting the basement. Renters contract includes the ability to use the Ferguson House for meetings. Mr. Macy has a concern about the conflict of interest with having a sub-grantee as a renter. A copy of the leases was requested for both the Gambling Anonymous Program and the Nebraska Community Energy Alliance. Mr. Brohman gave an overview of what the Nebraska Community Energy Alliance provides. Leases will be sent out.

b.) Grants Administration Report. Mr. Brohman noted Ms. Adams prepared the report and has been doing a great job so far and prepared the following information. For the benefit of the new board members, Mr. Brohman explained the reason for grant modifications and when it goes to the board and when the staff can make the decision. Staff are allowed to extend a grant up to 3 years but if it is over 3 years it cannot be extended and must be a request in writing before the end of the expiration to the board. Also went into why projects may be extended and why you see more requests because of the pandemic.

Late Reports:

NET record keeping has been converted to the online grant portal. Reporting is being updated as grantees submit reports and staff updates files, so no late reports at this time.

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 7-5 through 7-29)

App ID Sponsor Name Request:

14-111	Nebraska Forest Service Budget Modification
16-115-3	Northern Prairies Land Trust Budget Modification
16-140-3	NGPC -Legacy Budget Modification
18-102-2	State Irrigation Association Budget Modification
18-135-2	Tri-Basin NRD Budget Modification
18-154-2	NCEA Budget Modification
18-157-2	High Plains WMA Budget Modification
19-171	BOR-UNL Biochar Budget Modification
19-181	Angels on Wheels Budget Modification
19-181	Angels on Wheels Budget Modification
19-197	Five Rivers RCD Budget Modification

d.) Director's Comments: We are in the process of completing a Position Description Questionnaire (PDQ) on Allison's position, so we can upgrade the position to have more responsibility working with the grants and some of the finance parts. Federal Aid Administrator rather than Grant Assistant, which will allow for increased technical duties. Personnel at the State and Game and Parks Commission recommended completing the upgrade while the position is vacant. This will be a hardship on us, especially Holly but will be worth it when completed. Christmas open house is cancelled which correlates with the directive of today. Handouts on the Board contact information sheets, first to verify the board and staff sheet and the other one available, which is abbreviated for the public.

Agenda Item #8: Grant Modifications Request:

- A. 19-155-2 – Pheasants Forever – Conservation Ag, Urban, and Working Lands (Pages 8-2 thru 8-3)

The sponsor is requesting a budget modification to shift funds from the Foregone Income Payments budget category to the Cost-Share Assistance category. In their original application, they estimated their budget based on the assumption that landowners would choose the option to receive annual contract payments on their projects. However, they have found that landowners are seeking establishment cost-share and opting out of the annual payments. This grant modification will allow them to do more projects with their grant funding. Staff recommends approving the modification. Discussion followed on an explanation on how modifications are arrived and if the objectives are still accomplished.

Motion by: Mr. Douglas to accept the Grant Modification for Pheasants Forever. Seconded by Ms. Vinton.

Voting Aye: Mr. Christen, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Douglas; Dr. Anthone; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman, Mr. Macy, Mr. Orr; Mr. Dunn; Mr. Quandahl; Mr. Davidson; Ms. Vinton and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried.

A. 18-188 – Fontenelle Forest – Woodland, Savanna, and Prairie Habitat Restoration (Pages 8-4 thru 8-7)

The sponsor is requesting a budget modification to shift funds from Habitat Restoration, Education/Outreach, and Monitoring into the Equipment and Supplies budget category. They have made some changes to their program, which has significantly reduced their spending in restoration work (staff salaries). They have also received more partner funding for an outreach event. They believe that they can do more/better work with more and updated equipment. They also have a bigger need for supplies due to the discovery of new invasive plants. Staff recommends approving this modification.

Mr. Bowen started the discussion. Questioned why they are modifying a grant with equipment when they are closing out the grant. Mr. Kanger and Mr. Macy shared some information. Mr. Macy talked about tabling this and addressing it at the next board meeting after Fontenelle Forest had the opportunity to justify their request. Mr. Bowen discussed how it was touched on these very issues at the Grant Committee meeting this morning. Mr. Macy asked what are the options, which are deny or table to explain.

Motion by: Mr. Macy moves to reject this modification of 18-188 – Fontenelle Forest – Woodland, Savanna, and Prairie Habitat Restoration. Seconded by Mr. Orr.

Mr. Christen added comment on what was the Habitat restoration. Mr. Brohman and Ms. Adams addressed his question. Ms. Adams informed the board the end of the grant is June 30, 2021. Discussion continued with Mr. Riley sharing his concern with the completion and goals of the project, thought there should be a better explanation. Ms. Vinton states she maybe hadn't stated it properly. Mr. Wellman added to the discussion on habitat. Mr. Christen added we need to

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watch other projects. Mr. Bowen agreed with Mr. Christen and added to the equipment comments.

Voting Aye: Mr. Bowen, Mr. Douglas; Dr. Anthone; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman, Mr. Macy, Mr. Orr; Mr. Dunn; Mr. Quandahl; Mr. Davidson; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Christen and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried

Agenda Item #9: Report of Gants Committee and Schedule. Mr. Kanger asked Mr. Bowen to report on the Grants Committee meeting held this morning, November 5, 2020. The meeting was held at 10:00 a.m. at the Ferguson House. Discussion and review of 6 equipment grants and did the approval of the Statements of Intent. The agenda items for future Grant Committee meetings and scoring was revised. When to hold future meetings was discussed. Mr. Davidson entertained the idea of having all of the reviews in one day, starting at 9:30 in the morning of December 16, 2020, and go until done or a tentative follow-up date, December 19, 2020, was set in case the initial goal wasn't accomplished. Discussion lead to the decision based on the software, everyone doing the appropriate pre-meeting preparation and Ms. Adam's preparation of a spreadsheet. Mr. Macy said Ms. Adams was very experienced in spreadsheets and was a good staffer to have on this project and Mr. Bowen also expressed his compliments to Ms. Adam's work in the morning meeting. Mr. Riley appreciates having the electronic grant program available. Discussion of the process continued and Mr. Bowen said Ms. Adams would keep things up to date. Mr. Douglas asked if they are still following the categories. Mr. Bowen asked if Ms. Roper would address the board on what was said at the morning meeting. Ms. Roper, a former member of the Environmental Trust, said she had observed and her opinion was to focus on the projects that are eligible. Mr. Macy circulated a handout. Mr. Macy added the need of having an outside auditor's review. Mr. Douglas was asking further explanation on what kind of audit to be performed. Mr. Macy gave an example of what happens with the audits in Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's office.

Motion by: Mr. Macy moved to have a private company audit the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Seconded by Mr. Bowen.

Discussion continued with Mr. Douglas expressed he thinks it is a lot bigger task for what is expected between now and June. Mr. Macy continued to explain the process in his agency. Mr. Douglas also pointed out the auditors are around for up to 6 months in which Mr. Macy replied his agency takes 3 to 6 months. Mr. Dunn asked what is the problem for the audit which periodically takes place and Mr. Riley asked the same question. Ms. Vinton was wondering when the last audit was completed. Mr. Brohman will provide past audit and noted we are audited randomly as other agencies. Mr. Douglas continued with his understanding of the audit that is being referenced. Mr. Macy wants an outside firm to do the audit, finance and order of business by a private entity. Mr. Douglas asked to see if it could be done with a state auditor. Mr. Bowen also responded on the audit as well about an audit of 2017 that had serious deficiencies. Mr. Davidson reflected on his experience on audits being a good control, need to be very clear of the scope on the audit, sounds like we are up for one anyway because if you bring in private auditors you have two auditors at the same time, it can bring work to a stop dealing with both, be very clear on the scope. Review previous audits before proceeding on the audit and be clear on the scope of the audit. Mr. Riley echo's the review of the existing audit. Mr. Douglas asks that a modification on the motion.

Mr. Riley would like to modify the original motion to include evaluation of the previous or existing audit so it wouldn't stop disbursement's while being audited.

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Mr. Douglas would like to check with the Auditor's office when we are up for the next audit, because not comfortable having a third party auditor. The third party audit is a separate kind of audit and would like to have more information.

Chairman Kanger suggested as an amendment to consult with the state auditor to get the information when the next audit is scheduled and report back to the board at the next meeting with the information on the finding from the auditors and the schedule.

Mr. Macy countered with having a performance audit added to it and requested a December phone call with the information or would the Executive Committee deal with this issue. Mr. Riley asked clarification on Mr. Macy's suggestion. Mr. Macy would like to speed up the audit process. Mr. Quandahl asked if the intent of the motion was to have the Executive Committee review the audit and to engage in review. Mr. Davidson suggests reaching out to see where they are at in their schedule. Mr. Kanger mentioned an open audit and performance review. Yesterday's meeting provided some things that need to be addressed. Need to work toward best practices. Mr. Bowen asked about upcoming Grant's Committee meeting. Mr. Riley asked how you evaluate and that should be one of the first things to be determined. Mr. Douglas commented how you determine eligibility goes back to the statutes and who is going to do the performance audit, so you need to be careful when you go into the performance audit. Need to consult other people before performance audit, even Attorney General.

Chairman Kanger proposed a friendly amendment, due to the varying opinions how to conduct the audit, to the original motion by Mr. Macy, the Executive Committee be asked to put together an audit proposal before the February meeting to gather information regarding scope, time frame and deliverables for the board to look at, on both the performance and financial side. Mr. Macy expressed his concerns and conceded to February. Mr. Douglas is ok with the financial audit but expresses his concern about a performance audit. Mr. Bowen expressed we had a special meeting in June and November and wonders if the Executive Committee has something arranged before the February meeting, why we can't schedule a special meeting before February. Ms. Vinton noted we should move ahead on the financial audit and Executive Committee will put together more on the performance audit. Mr. Riley questioned a financial audit from outside of the state audit process. Mr. Douglas explained more on the difference of the two audits. Mr. Macy has been the one checking into the audits and Mr. Riley wants to make sure the full board has a chance to look at it. Mr. Christen asked how it applies to grants being reviewed now. Mr. Macy went on to explain the grants process as we are doing right now and we can make changes after the audit if it needed.

Friendly amendment to the motion by Mr. Macy which would authorize a financial audit to proceed as soon as state auditor schedules and advise and consent for a performance audit from the state auditor to come back to the board to review on what that would mean and when it could be performed with discussion at that meeting.

Mr. Macy withdrew the original motion and Mr. Bowen consented.

Discussion. Mr. Dunn asked if on the end of the motion it could include for review and approval. Asked it should be added at the next meeting of the board to set up a time frame.

Motion by Mr. Macy to authorize the Executive Committee to follow up with the State Auditor to conduct a financial audit and check on a performance audit with the State Auditor that would include a definition and scope to report back to the full board for review and approval at the next board meeting. Seconded by Mr. Orr.

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Mr. Davidson suggested coming up with a plan with an audit going on and the extra job of dealing with the audit and balance the day to day work. Mr. Wellman asked if there was any indication on the schedule of the auditors if this could be scheduled. Mr. Macy shared his conversation with Mr. Phil Olsen, he told Mr. Macy about the auditor's schedule. A person named Mary does legislative audits.

Voting Aye: Mr. Wellman; Mr. Macy; Mr. Orr; Mr. Dunn; Mr. Quandahl; Mr. Davidson; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Christen; Mr. Bowen; Mr. Douglas; Mr. Riley; and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried.
Absent: Dr. Anthone.

Grants Committee meeting discussion in the morning meeting continued. Mr. Davidson addressed questions about how we can do it better. Desire of Grants Committee to get input earlier in the cycle. How can Grants Committee incorporate what is important to other board members earlier in the process? Mr. Douglas asked about scoring and how it can be incorporate the input into how you score something. Have to be careful to be transparent to the public. Mr. Christen talked about ranking system and how do you determine how they are scored. Mr. Douglas still wants to know how you are going to deal with the inputs, informal or formally? Mr. Macy noted example of the Board's ability to designate priorities. Ms. Vinton talked about the eastern red cedar grants. Mr. Dunn said when he has not been on the Grants Committee he contacts the staff and grants committee chair. There was additional discussion.

Agenda Item #10: Report of the Performance Review Committee. Mr. Davidson gave a report on the Performance Review Committee meeting from September. Goal of the first meeting was trying to get going again and trying to get things done with better results, help manage outcomes, and discussion points. The three concepts reviewing for land acquisitions, develop standards around land acquisitions and evaluate doing some validation on projects that were done. Centering on concepts with the goal, the focus on these three items of ultimately doing a better job. Mr. Kanger added looking back it is a committee that was assigned to people but has never had deliverables and now excited, it feels it will have deliverables for future activity of this committee and for the public. Mr. Christen asked how the use of this committee changes what Mr. Macy is seeking to address. Mr. Riley noted we should look at performance all the way through. Why would it be divided? Mr. Kanger summarized the difference between the two, Performance Committee, scope look at projects of past and Performance Audit was boards' operational activities with laws, statutes and policies. Mr. Douglas discussed how list of requirements for those who apply for certain grant application he saw the guidelines be subject to the performance review. Mr. Macy added, after talking to state Auditor to see what they outline in the Performance Review and talk with the board to match up items to see what we want that audit to accomplish. Mr. Christen unsure how we are talking about performance, say for instance as an easement which has a requirements to be done, money paid out and what if the things weren't done, who reviews and what happens with that. Mr. Macy replied that he did not know the answer. Mr. Dunn gave his definition of the two performance reviews is only dealing land purchase and reviewing and who we grant them to versus a performance review of words in of earlier motion of how we do our operation. Ms. Vinton added that she concurs completely with Mr. Dunn he is correct, as it has been historically. Since this committee is dealing specifically with real estate as Mr. Dunn mentioned, review current land acquisition transfers and develop standards for that, does part of that include easement and easement modification/transfers. Mr. Davidson felt it fell into the two concepts the committee addressed. Ms. Vinton wanted it to be added.

Agenda Item #11: Report of the Legislative Committee. Mr. Dunn gave the report on the Legislative Committee meeting. There is no legislation to be considered at this time or any on the horizon but will see what comes up in January.

Agenda Item #12: Post Completion Reports Update. Mr. Brohman noted The Nature Conservancy was listed twice so there is only 46 not 47 projects that are listed to be closed. Mr. Brohman has approval from the Attorney General's Office to vote on as a page.

Motion by: Mr. Dunn to accept each report and to close each of the following grants as follows: 13-138-3, 16-114-3, 17-152-2, 18-106, 16-163-3, 15-155-3, 18-118, 18-136, 16-183, 16-194, 18-192, 19-108, 16-222-3, 19-157, 16-113, 19-112, 18-201, 19-144, 18-181, 18-146, 15-216-2, 18-175-2, 19-195, 18-196, 15-135-3, 16-127-3, 16-103-3, 19-163, 18-125-2, 16-219, 18-184, 15-186, 18-199, 12-171-3, 18-139, 16-112-3, 19-161, 19-141, 15-129, 16-147, and 18-134. **Second by:** Mr. Orr. Mr. Orr noted Mr. Dunn said 16-192 instead of 18-192 and Mr. Christen noted Mr. Dunn said 18-188 instead of 18-181, Mr. Dunn accepted the two corrections

Voting Aye: Mr. Macy; Mr. Orr; Mr. Dunn; Mr. Quandahl; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Christen; Mr. Bowen; Mr. Douglas; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried.

Absent: Mr. Davidson; Dr. Anthone.

Motion by: Mr. Dunn to accept each report and to close each of the following grants as follows: 15-201-3, 19-113, 19-117, 15-166 and 19-154. **Seconded by:** Mr. Orr.

Voting Aye: Mr. Orr; Mr. Dunn; Mr. Quandahl; Mr. Davidson; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Christen; Mr. Bowen; Mr. Douglas; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman; Mr. Macy and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried.

Absent: Dr. Anthone.

Agenda Item #13: 2021-2022 Communication Plan. Ms. Johnson presented the Communication Plan for 2021 to 2022. Summarized the plan, increased the budget by about 15% from \$69,900 to \$79,900 which was approved by the Finance Committee. Increase goes toward advertising and publicizing. Ms. Johnson shared the radio ad that is running during Nebraska football games as an example of our advertising in the upcoming weeks. Ms. Johnson was given compliments on a job well done by board members.

Motion by: Mr. Wellman to approve the 2021-2022 Communication Plan. **Seconded by** Mr. Macy.

Voting Aye: Mr. Orr; Mr. Quandahl; Mr. Davidson; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Christen; Mr. Bowen; Mr. Douglas; Mr. Riley; Mr. Wellman, Mr. Macy, and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried.

Absent: Mr. Dunn and Dr. Anthone.

Agenda Item #14: Category Roundtable Update. Mr. Brohman sent an email out to the board members with preliminary numbers, email addresses of the attendees, and the letters that came into the Trust. The University of Nebraska monitored, recorded and reported the summary information that Mr. Brohman provided to the board. In reviewing the three meetings, most attendees wanted the categories to stay the same, one wanted to change habitat to be broader, some wanted climate change to be a category and some of the other category breakdowns. Also, the University wanted to correct an error from 1 to 10 on those who thought the Nebraska Environmental Trust was doing a good job. Once we have a chance to look at the information, we may want to address more thoroughly at the February meeting.

Agenda Item #15: Public Comment and Good of the Order. Mr. Kanger had an item for the good of the order. The board members need to approve the minutes from Wednesday November 4, 2020, meeting. Mr. Brohman said we had to have minutes ready by next meeting.

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Motion by: Mr. Orr to approve meeting as presented. Second by Mr. Douglas

Voting Aye: Mr. Orr; Mr. Quandahl; Ms. Vinton; Mr. Bowen; Mr. Douglas; Mr. Riley; Mr. Macy; and Mr. Kanger. Motion carried.

Abstaining: Mr. Dunn; Mr. Davidson; and Mr. Christen

Absent: Mr. Wellman and Dr. Anthone.

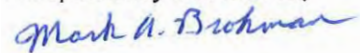
Mr. Brohman asked if we should try to go paperless with the board book in the future. Mr. Davidson suggested give the board members the option. Mr. Christen would still prefer paper.

Mr. Kanger wanted to thank the board for the efforts of the last two days. Mr. Buetler wanted to thank the board for allowing citizens to participate in the meetings of the last two days.

Agenda Item #16: Date and Location of Next Meeting. Mr. Macy offered his facility as a location. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. at the new Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy Office.

Agenda Item #17: Adjourn. Mr. Kanger adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director