

MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust
Grants Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 5, 2024
1:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Committee Chairman Mr. Kanger called the Grants Committee meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. in Suite 310 at 2077 N St, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Advanced notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on November 27, 2024. The agenda and documents to be considered at the meeting were provided. The Open Meetings Act was posted near the meeting room entrance and on the Nebraska Environmental Trust website.

Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was present.

Members Present (5):

District I: Committee Chairman Mr. Jeff Kanger, Lincoln; Mr. James Hellbusch, Columbus.

District II: Mr. Roger Helgoth, Omaha.

District III: Mr. Eric Hansen, North Platte.

State Agency Representative: Ms. Sherry Vinton, Director, Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

Members Absent (1):

State Agency Representative: Mr. Tim McCoy, Director, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Staff Present:

Mr. Karl Elmshaeuser, Executive Director; Ms. Holly Adams, Grants Administrator; Ms. Madison Moe, Grants Assistant.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of October 22, 2024, Grants Committee meeting minutes

Motion by Mr. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Hellbusch, "I move to approve the October 22, 2024, Grants Committee meeting minutes."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Helgoth, Hansen, Vinton, Hellbusch, Kanger
5 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

4. Grants Committee determinations and recommendations for funding for 2025 Grant Applications that were previously deemed eligible by the NET Board at the November 7, 2024, meeting

a. Projects Scored and Sorted by Score Through Ranking Systems Process

Executive Director Mr. Karl Elmshaeuser discussed current requests versus available funding and previous ranking systems/scoring. Discussion was had regarding the process of how questions are generated for scoring, specifically as to their basis in Statute and subsequent approvals by the full Board. It was also noted that applicants are made aware in advance of scoring questions/criteria and that scoring a zero on a question will not automatically eliminate an

application from consideration due to the structure of the current scoring rubric. Additional discussion centered around the best way for the Grants Committee to establish a cutline for those grant applications that should be considered for available funding and whether available appropriations should affect the number of grants awarded. Committee Chairman Mr. Kanger highlighted the Board's on-going efforts to support higher quality applications which could be established through a cutline as it could help to maintain the quality of the grants recommended to be moved forward for the funding consideration of the Board.

Motion by Mr. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Helgoth, "I make a motion that the grant applications must have 29.76 points or more to be considered for available funding. Applications must meet the application requirements of financial documentation, administration limits, cash match, real estate requirements, and required documentation by the Executive Director as directed in Title 137 prior to allocation of a grant contract."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Hansen, Vinton, Hellbusch, Helgoth, Kanger
5 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

b. Recommendations for funding to the NET Board at the January 9, 2025, meeting

Executive Director Mr. Karl Elmshaeuser went over the documentation provided to the Grants Committee members and noted that – due to the cap on the amount of administration funding – some of the requested funding totals had been reduced accordingly.

Motion by Mr. Hellbusch, seconded by Mr. Hansen, "I move that the Grants Committee recommends project 25-144 is reduced by \$1,837 and to be moved on for consideration by the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board."

Discussion: Clarification was made that this reduction is solely due to the cap on the amount of administration funding.

Voting Aye: Vinton, Hellbusch, Helgoth, Hansen, Kanger
5 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Hellbusch, seconded by Mr. Hansen, "I move that the Grants Committee recommends project 25-156 is reduced by \$5,000 and to be moved on for consideration by the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Vinton, Hellbusch, Helgoth, Hansen, Kanger
5 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Hellbusch, seconded by Mr. Hansen, "I move that the Grants Committee recommends project 25-163 is reduced by \$5,000 and to be moved on for consideration by the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Hellbusch, Helgoth, Hansen, Vinton, Kanger
5 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Helgoth, seconded by Mr. Hansen, "I move that the Grants Committee recommends project 25-137 for the full requested amount and to be moved on for consideration by the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Helgoth, Hansen, Vinton, Hellbusch

Abstain: Kanger

4 Voted Aye. 1 Abstention. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Hellbusch, seconded by Mr. Helgoth, "I move that the Grants Committee recommends projects 25-161, 25-164, 25-160 for the full requested amounts and to be moved on for consideration by the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Vinton, Hellbusch, Helgoth, Kanger

Abstain: Hansen

4 Voted Aye. 1 Abstention. Motion carried.

The Board took a break from 1:49 p.m. to 1:55 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Hellbusch, seconded by Mr. Hansen, "I move that the Grants Committee recommends projects 25-106, 25-142, 25-155, 25-127, 25-134, 25-131, 25-116, 25-128, 25-135, 25-117, 25-107, 25-114, 25-130, 25-109, 25-112, 25-118, 25-132, 25-115, 25-153, 25-149, 25-126, 25-165, 25-102, 25-121, 25-104, 25-147, 25-122, 25-140, 25-154, 25-101, 25-138, 25-143, 25-113, 25-139, 25-166, 25-110, 25-124, 25-150, and 25-111 for the full requested amounts and to be moved on for consideration by the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Vinton, Hellbusch, Helgoth, Hansen, Kanger

5 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

5. Next Meeting

The next Grants Committee meeting date has yet to be determined.

6. Adjourn

Committee Chairman Mr. Kanger adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.



Holly Adams, Executive Director

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