

Nebraska Environmental Trust
Grants Committee Minutes
December 16, 2020
Ferguson House

Mr. Bowen called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. Notice of this meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on December 1, 2020 and December 10, 2020.

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

Members present: Mr. Jeff Kanger; Mr. Felix Davidson; Mr. Tom Riley; Mr. Steve Wellman, and Mr. Quentin Bowen, Chair.

Member participating on Zoom: Mr. John Orr.

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

Several members of the public were on Zoom.

Agenda Item # 3 - Minutes of the November 5, 2020 Meeting: Minutes of the November 5, 2020 Grants Committee meetings were received.

Motion By: Mr. Wellman seconded by Mr. Davidson to approve the minutes.

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

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

Mr. Brohman reviewed the financial report with the board. The numbers reflect the November 5, 2020 meeting discussion including Statements of Intent. No vote required.

Chairman Bowen asked for any public comments before proceeding into the discussion of reviewing the grants.

Mr. Wickersham addressed the board. Senator Julie Slama was recognized and she noted she had no comments and thought she needed to sign-in.

Agenda Item # 5 – Review Grants: Discussion to clarify some questions proceeded the review process. The Grants Committee agreed 200 words for the description and 1200 words for the narrative was sufficient for the applicant and allowing attachments for additional information worked. The Grants Committee agreed to eliminate year 3 funds and consolidated in years 1 and 2 some of the funds requested in year 3 and in some cases eliminate year 3 funding. The exception is the Department of Natural Resources application, noted in Statutes, receives funding in year 3. Chairman Bowen led the discussion on the list of all grant applications, with the exception of equipment grants, discussed at the November 5, 2020 meeting.

The following list are the grants suggested by the Grants Committee:

App ID	Project Sponsor	Status	Comments
21-184	The Nature Conservancy	Modified	Fund year 1 only. Allow them to have 3 years to complete.
21-200	Lower Loup Natural Resource District	No Changes	
21-133	Middle Niobrara Natural Resource District	Modified	Fund year 1 only. Allow them to have 2 years to complete.
21-177	Loess Canyon Rangeland Alliance	Modified	Move year 3 into year 1 and 2. Allow them to have 3 years to complete.
21-118	Snake River Preservation Group	No Changes	
21-107	Middle Niobrara Natural Resource District	No Changes	
21-148	Northern Prairies Land Trust	Modified	Move year 3 funds into year 1 and 2. Allow them to have 3 years to complete
21-106	Village of Stapleton	No Changes	
21-215	Sandhills Task Force	Modified	Move year 3 funds into year 1 and 2. Allow them to have 3 years to complete.
21-130	Upper Loup Natural Resource District	No Changes	
21-158	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources	No Changes	**NOTE Mr. Riley did not score on this grant because he is the Director.
21-108	Middle Niobrara Natural Resource District	Modified	Reduced requested funds from \$366,351 to \$290,000.
BREAK	11:08 a.m.-11:23 a.m.		
21-152	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska - Lincoln	Modified	Fund year 1. Allow them to have 2 years to complete.
21-197	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	No Changes	
21-122	Pheasants Forever, Inc	No Changes	
21-201	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	No Changes	
21-124	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	No Changes	
21-104	Transit Authority of the City of Omaha, dba Metro	Modified	Fund half of the amount requested. Reduced \$1,012,000 to \$506,000. Require at least two 36" NET logos on funded bus. Do not fund the liquid cooled generator.
21-123	Quail Forever	No Changes	
21-216	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln	No Changes	
21-111	Bluestem Energy Solutions, LLC	No Changes	
BREAK	11:57 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.		
21-145	Nebraska Community Energy Alliance	No Changes	
21-205	Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory dba Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	No Changes	
21-144	Habitat for Humanity of Omaha	No Changes	
21-147	Nebraska Community Foundation fbo Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	Modified	Fund year 1 and 2 and not year 3. Allow them 3 years to complete.
21-209	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska – Lincoln	Modified	Fund only year 1. Allow them to have 3 years to complete.
21-213	Conservation Nebraska	No Changes	
21-115	Keep Alliance Beautiful	No Changes	
21-211	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska – Lincoln	No Changes	
21-193	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	No Changes	
21-138	Village of Bennet	Modified	Move funds from year 3 into year 2. Allow them 3 years to complete.
21-169	Chadron State College	Modified	Require NET signage and recognition on project.

After this initial review to the cut off point for funding, discussion with the Grants Committee on funding for years 1, 2 and 3 continued but it was decided to stay with the ranking as they are at this point. Staff will follow up on some of the requirements added on certain grants.

Agenda Item #6 – Next Meeting: The Grants Committee will meet on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the Ferguson House, 700 South 16th Street, Lincoln, NE.


Mr. Orr mentioned to add to the agenda, GEO points for the upcoming Grants Committee meeting so we can make a recommendation to the full board.

Chairman Bowen asked for any Public Comments: Mr. Wickersham addressed the Grants Committee with a few ending comments.

Agenda Item #7 – Adjourn: Mr. Bowen adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

Agenda items are complete and no meeting is required for Saturday, December 19, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director