

MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust
Grants Committee
January 26, 2022
9:30 AM

1. Call to Order

The Grants Committee was called to order by Chairman Kanger at 9:33 AM at the Ferguson House, 700 South 16th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

A roll call was, conducted and a quorum was present.

Advance public notice was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on January 24, 2022. The agenda and documents to be considered at the meeting were provided. The Open Meetings Act was posted in the meeting room.

Members present:

Mr. Mark Quandahl, Mr. Rod Christen, Mr. Quentin Bowen, Mr. Jim Macy, Chairman Jeff Kanger.

Members absent: Mr. Steve Wellman.

Staff present:

Mr. Karl Elmshaeuser, Executive Director, Ms. Holly Adams, Grants Administrator, and Ms. Pam Deines, Grants Assistant.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approve January 13, 2022, meeting minutes

Motion by Mr. Bowen, seconded by Mr. Macy, "I move to approve the minutes of January 13, 2022, Grants Committee meeting."

Discussion: None

Voting Aye: Christen, Bowen, Macy, Quandahl, Kanger.

Absent: Wellman.

5 Voting Aye. Motion Carried.

4. Financial Report

Ms. Adams provided financial information for the 2022 grant applications. The amounts available for grant awards, eligible projects, and statements of intent for years 2 and 3 of previously awarded grants were reviewed.

5. Review Grants

a. Review Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) grants awarded and Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) Grant Applications

Ms. Adams reported checking for overlapping grant applications between NDEE and NET to ensure the same project is not funded by both agencies. Grant applications for 22-102, 22-128, and 22-185 were flagged for review to ensure awards are not being duplicated.

b. Review 2nd and 3rd Year Statements of Intent

Ms. Adams reported on statements of intent for the 2nd and 3rd-year grant projects previously scored. The amount awarded would be the first deduction of available funds before the next phase of the grant cycle.

Background on agenda item 5. b

The Grants Committee may issue multi-year grant awards from funds on account or issue statements of intent to fund projects for up to two years forward, pending available funds and satisfactory progress and compliance with grant conditions. Second-year statements of intent may not exceed 40% of the total amount available to be awarded each year. Third-year intents may not exceed 15% of the total.

Motion by Mr. Bowen, seconded by Mr. Quandahl, "I move the Grants Committee recommend the 2nd and 3rd year statements of intent for funding; **Statements of Intent 2021 Project Recommendations: 21-158-2, 21-177-2, 21-148-2, 21-215-2, 21-197-2, 21-122-2, 21-201-2, 21-216-2, 21-205-2, 21-144-2, 21-147-2, 21-211-2, 21-193-2, 21-218-2, and 21-162-2. **Statements of Intent 2020 Project Recommendations:** 20-174-3, 20-139-3, 20-183-3, 20-157-3, 20-189-3, 20-175-3, 20-162-3, 20-111-3, 20-150-3, 20-219-3, 20-103-3, 20-171-3, 20-101-3, 20-115-3, 20-153-3, 20-148-3, 20-204-3, 20-179-3, 20-127-3, 20-116-3 and 20-143-3."**

Discussion: Mr. Macy suggested that the Performance Review Committee review grant outlay expenses. Executive Director Elmshaeuser clarified that as process improvements proceed, the contract language will be reviewed and strengthened for grant performance. Post-processing of grants will be assessed through the Center of Operational Excellence (COE). Mr. Quandahl reported COE process improvement meetings would be held on February 7, 9, and 11, 2022.

Voting Aye: Bowen, Macy, Quandahl, Christen, Kanger.

Absent: Wellman.

5 Voting Aye. Motion Carried.

c. Poll Committee on individual projects for discussion and clarity

Committee Chair Kanger polled Committee members to identify any projects needing further discussion or clarity.

Discussion: Mr. Macy suggested ways to improve the reviewer's scoring process. Director Elmshaeuser clarified that staff cannot identify scorers on the grant application eligibility reviews. The software provider is the only one with access.

d. The minimum score for Committee recommendations and funding

Background on agenda item 5.d

The Grants Committee discusses and recommends a minimum rating score for funding grant projects.

Motion by Mr. Quandahl, seconded by Mr. Christen, "I move that the Grants Committee set a minimum score of 130 for grant funding."

Discussion: Committee members examined the reasons for setting the minimum score for grant eligibility at 130.

Voting Aye: Macy, Quandahl, Christen, Bowen, Kanger.

Absent: Wellman.

5 Voting Aye. Motion Carried.

e. Discussion on individual applications-pulled projects from 5. c.

Ms. Adams noted grant application 22-102 identified earlier as a duplicate application for the first year with NDEE, was the only grant project flagged above the 130-funding line score.

The Grants Committee discussed and clarified the motions needed.

Motion by Mr. Bowen, seconded by Mr. Christen, "I move that the Grants Committee recommend funding for grant application 22-102 for year 2 and year 3 only, due to a duplication in year 1."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Macy, Quandahl, Christen, Bowen, Kanger.

Absent: Wellman.

5 Voting Aye. Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Macy, seconded by Mr. Christen, "I move to recommend funding for projects scored 130 and above."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Quandahl, Christen, Bowen, Macy, Kanger.

Absent: Wellman.

5 Voting Aye. Motion Carried.

f. Grants Committee Recommendation for funding for 2022 Grant Applications

Background on agenda item 5. f

The Grants Committee will review the 2022 grant application spreadsheets with the final scores and create motions to recommend projects for funding.

Mr. Macy clarified funding would be approved this year for years 1, 2, and 3. A statement of intent will not be required for the second and third years of the project. If issues are faced with finishing a grant project, a request can be made for an extension. Executive Director Elmshaeuser stated performance requirements must be met by the grantee to continue the funding in years 2 and 3.

Motion by Mr. Quandahl, seconded by Mr. Macy, "I move the Grants Committee recommend funding to the full Board for years 1, 2 and 3 of all grant applications scoring 130 and above; 22-147, 22-150, 22-207, 22-174, 22-159, 22-173, 22-143, 22-145, 22-123, 22-148, 22-130, 22-166, 22-119, 22-170, 22-209, 22-200, 22-155, 22-157, 22-102, 22-214, 22-146, 22-183, 22-172, 22-122, 22-138, 22-177, 22-141, 22-182, 22-161, 22-144, 22-178, 22-112, 22-137, 22-217 and 22-162."

Discussion. None.

Voting Aye: Christen, Bowen, Macy, Quandahl, Kanger

Absent: Wellman

5 Voting Aye. Motion Carried.

6. 2022 Grants Award Schedule

Executive Director Elmshaeuser reported the full Board would meet on February 3, 2022. The Board may adopt or revise the Grant Committee determination for eligibility. A grant application may be deemed not eligible, or a project may be brought forward as eligible. If the Board determines an applicant is eligible, it would be sent back to the Grants Committee to be scored. A public hearing will be held at the full Board meeting in March to accept testimony on the proposed funding list for the 2022 grant cycle.

7. Next Meeting

Since all agenda items were completed, the follow-up meeting scheduled on January 27, 2022, was canceled.

8. Adjourn

Chairman Kanger adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.



Karl L. Elmshaeuser
Executive Director