

## MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust  
Grants Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, September 20, 2023  
1:00 p.m.

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Andersen called the virtual, on-site meeting of the Grants Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. in Suite 301 at 2077 N St, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Advanced notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on September 12, 2023. 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:** Mr. Jeff Kanger, Lincoln.

**District II:** Mr. Felix Davidson, Valley; Mr. Mark Quandahl, Omaha.

**District III:** Committee Chairman Mr. Josh Andersen, Edgar.

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

#### **Members Absent (1):**

**State Agency Representative:** Mr. Jim Macy, Director, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.

#### **Staff present:**

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

### 2. Public Comment

None.

### 3. Approval of December 8, 2022, Grants Committee meeting minutes

**Motion by** Mr. Quandahl, seconded by Mr. Kanger, "I move to approve the December 8, 2022, Grants Committee meeting minutes."

**Discussion:** None.

**Voting Aye:** Quandahl, Davidson, Vinton, Kanger, Andersen

**Absent:** Macy

**5 Voted Aye. Motion carried.**

### 4. Grant application process timeline

Mr. Elmshaeuser reviewed the Grants Committee timeline as follows:

- **September 20<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm via Zoom** – Grants Committee Meeting to Review Timeline and Process
- **October 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm at NET Office** – Grants Committee recommendations for eligibility meeting
- **November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:30 pm at NET Office** – Board Meeting (Board will approve/modify recommendations for eligibility)

- **November 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Grants Committee Scoring Begins
- **December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Scoring due into the Grants Portal by members
- **December 6<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm at NET Office** – Grants Committee recommendations for awards meeting
- **January 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm at NET Office** – Board Meeting (Board will approve/modify recommendations for funding)

#### **5. Review Eligibility questions and criteria**

Executive Director Elmshaeuser discussed that, as per Title 137, the Executive Director will provide eligibility recommendations to the Grants Committee prior to scoring. Discussion centered around the grant eligibility questions and criteria that was created using Title 137 and the Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-15,167 to § 81-15,176 and the differentiation between the “should’s” and the “shall’s.”

#### **6. Review Scoring questions and possible points criteria**

Mr. Elmshaeuser noted the scoring criteria was revised using Title 137 and the Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-15,167 to § 81-15,176 by the NET Board at the Board Meeting on May 4, 2023. Scoring will be completed in the Grants Portal by the Grants Committee after eligibility has been determined by the NET Board on November 2, 2023.

#### **7. Review Title 137 minimum scoring criteria for funding consideration**

Mr. Elmshaeuser outlined the new minimum scoring criteria which comes from Title 137– Chapter 6, which states: “No application receiving fewer than twenty-five percent (25%) of the maximum points will be funded.” Mr. Quandahl thanked the NET staff for the on-going efforts being made to improve the grants process.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

The next Grants Committee meeting will be held October 11, 2023, at 2077 N Street, Suite 310, Lincoln, NE at 1:00 pm.

#### **9. Adjourn**

Committee Chairman Andersen adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.



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Karl L. Elmshaeuser, Executive Director