

AGENDA

Nebraska Environmental Trust
Grants Committee
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
1:00 PM

2077 N Street, Suite 310
Lincoln, NE 68510

1. Call to Order
 - a. Roll call
 - b. Verify Quorum
 - c. Notice of Meeting; Published Monday, October 2, 2023
 - d. Notification of Open Meetings Law Posting
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of September 20, 2023, Grants Committee meeting minutes
4. Determination of eligibility of applications for grant funding
 - a. Executive Director grant applications not eligible recommendations
 - b. Grant Committee not eligible considerations
 - c. Eligible grant applications recommended to NET Board for consideration
 - d. Eligible grant applications with notifications of deficiencies
5. Grant Portal Scoring process explanation
6. Next Meeting; December 6, 2023, NET Office, 1:00 PM
7. Adjourn

**This Agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on October 2, 2023. A Current copy is on file at the Nebraska Environmental Trust offices, 2077 N Street, Suite 310, Lincoln, NE 68510. Except for agenda items of an emergency nature, changes are not made later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting. Completing the sign-in sheet available at the meeting may offer public comment on any agenda item. The time for each speaker should not exceed 3 minutes.

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

- **November 3rd** – Grants Committee Scoring Begins
- **December 1st** – Scoring due into the Grants Portal by members
- **December 6th 1:00 pm at NET Office** – Grants Committee recommendations for awards meeting
- **January 4th 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.

Karl L. Elmshaeuser, Executive Director

Grants Committee

NET Agenda Materials

Item #: 4.a, b, c, d

Object: To make determinations of eligibility of NET grant applications

Contact Person: Josh Andersen, Karl Elmshaeuser

For: ACTION Attachments: Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-15,170.01, NET Policy Conflict of Interest, Eligibility Criteria Questions, Title 137 Chapters 3 & 7, NET Policy Grant Applications
Eligibility: Private Gain, Grant Applications, Executive Director Recommendations

BACKGROUND

Nebraska Environmental Trust Act from Nebraska Revised Statutes §81-15,167 to 81-15,176.
Nebraska Environmental Trust Board Rules and Regulations Title 137.
Nebraska Environmental Policy Section III: Conflict of Interest
Nebraska Environmental Policy Section V: Grant Applications

EXPLANATION

The Grants Committee receives an application after the Executive Director has reviewed it for completeness. A technical review is made, if necessary, and provided to the Grants Committee members in the Grants Portal. The Executive Director makes an eligibility recommendation to the Grants Committee. The Grants Committee makes a determination of eligibility and recommendation to the full NET Board for consideration.

After the Grants Committee makes their recommendations to the NET Board for consideration, the NET Board may adopt or revise the Grant Committee determination for eligibility. If the NET Board determines an applicant is eligible, it would then be scored by the Grants Committee. An application must be eligible before it is considered for scoring.

PROPOSAL

The Grants Committee received the grant applications, eligibility criteria and supporting documentation. The Grants Committee members have independently reviewed the applications. The Executive Director has provided recommendations of grants that are not eligible and the basis for those recommendations.

4.a. Executive Director recommendations. Recommended motion, "I move to determine that grant applications 24-159, 24-134, 24-157, 24-115, 24-178, 24-146, 24-151, 24-145, 24-141 are not eligible and forward to the NET Board for review and approval." Note: there may be potential abstentions due to potential conflicts of interest.

4.b. Grants Committee Member recommendations. Recommended motion, “I move to determine that grant application (listed) is not eligible and forward to the NET Board for review and approval.” Note: there may be potential abstentions due to potential conflicts of interest.

4.c. Eligible grant applications. Recommended motion, “I move to determine that grant applications (each listed) are eligible and forward to the NET Board for review and approval.” Note: there may be potential abstentions due to potential conflicts of interest.

4.d. Eligible grant applicants will be notified that although their application is eligible it may have deficiencies in the administrative amount proposed in their budget, match that is in their budget, or other relevant items that may affect the outcome of their ability to proceed if awarded after scoring. Applicants will be given the opportunity to withdraw if they are unable to proceed with the information they provided in the application.

81-15,170.01. Board members; conflict of interest; treatment.

Members of the board shall comply with the conflict of interest provisions of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act. Any member of the board who is also a director of a state agency shall abstain from voting on applications which would provide funding primarily to his or her agency.

Source: Laws 2002, LB 1003, § 50.

Cross References

Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act, see section 49-1401.

Adopted Policies of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board

*In addition to the Bylaws of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

Section III: Conflict of Interest

A. Board Members

The Executive Director shall provide all members of the Board of the Nebraska Environmental Trust with a form to declare potential conflict of interest at the same time annual application summaries are distributed, following the annual application deadline. Board members will review the application summaries and complete the form as necessary. Members will return the completed form directly to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

Agency representatives on the Board are exempt from filing these statements related to any applications submitted by their agencies.

Board members will abstain from voting on any application recommendation or grant award action where a conflict of interest has been found.

Any member of the Board who is also director of a state agency shall abstain from voting on applications, which would provide funding primarily to his or her agency.

Board members will not accept gifts of more than nominal value from applicants nor accept remuneration for travel costs, meals or other expenses during the course of visits to applicant sites from sources other than the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Proposed Date: 11/14/2001 Legislative Program Evaluation Unit

Adopted Date: 11/14/2001

Revised Date: 04/03/2002

Revised Date: 02/04/2010 Board Action Advice of Accountability and Disclosure
Commission Staff

B. Grant Staff

Trust staff members will not accept gifts of more than nominal value from applicants or grantees, nor accept remuneration for travel costs, meals or other expenses during the course of visits to grantee or applicant sites from sources other than the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Proposed Date: 04/3/2002 Ad-Hoc Committee on Bylaws, Policy and Contracts

Adopted Date: 04/3/2002

C. Technical Advisory Committee

Each member of the committee is expected to abide by the following conditions:

1. Treat information as confidential during the review process. Questions regarding the project should be referred to the Trust Office. Discussion of an application with other reviewers is appropriate.
2. Disclose any relationship s/he may have or have had with an applicant or project that could influence your evaluation.
3. Declare a conflict of interest, if s/he feels one exists for any reason. No explanation of the nature of the conflict is required. The reviewer is to return any such application to the Trust office immediately.

Adopted Policies of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board

*In addition to the Bylaws of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

4. Reviews will be completed and applications returned to the Trust office by a date determined annually by the Executive Director.

Proposed Date: 12/04/1994

Adopted Date: 02/13/1995

Revised Date: 04/03/2002

Eligibility

The eligibility questions were created using the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET), Title 137, Chapter 4 – Criteria for Eligibility and the Nebraska Revised Statute 81-15,176. The chapter and section information are listed in parenthesis after each question. You can go to that section to read more information. Answers in this section will be used by the Grants Committee to help determine eligibility of projects. Projects deemed eligible will be moved on to scoring.

More information on NET's legislation and regulations can be found here:

<https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov/about/lr.html>

Eligibility Criteria Questions

1. Does your project provide direct assistance to regulatory programs? (04.001.01)
2. Does your project implement actions mandated by regulations, excluding remediation? (04.001.01)
3. Will your project pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature? Compensation for contributions made to a project, such as land or land rights, shall not constitute payment for private benefits. (04.005)
4. Will your project relieve private liability for environmental damage (except for projects for remediation of soils or ground water) or provide assistance to projects in order to relieve such liability? "Private liability" shall mean liability to a person or entity and shall include fines or penalties imposed by a governmental entity. (04.001.01)
5. Does this project have direct beneficiaries who could afford these costs without experiencing serious financial hardship? Direct beneficiaries shall not be deemed to include a person who receives incidental benefits from a project which primarily benefits the general public. (04.001.02)
6. Does your project provide the greatest environmental benefits relative to cost? (04.001.02)
7. Does your project provide clear and direct environmental benefits? A project will be considered to have clear and direct environmental benefits if the realization of those benefits can be reasonable expected, as a result of the project and if those benefits will be obvious, even if not quantifiable. Educational projects may be considered to have clear and direct environmental benefits. (04.003)
8. Does this project make a real contribution to achieving the Board's environmental categories? (04.004)

Those categories are:

- a. **Habitat:** actions to preserve or restore native habitats and areas critical to at-risk, rare or endangered species; other preservation actions for at-risk, rare or endangered

species including actions to understand ecosystem relationships which inform sound management; community habitat enhancement emphasizing native and ecologically appropriate plantings which provide food and shelter for wildlife; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the fulfillment of this category.

- b. **Surface and Ground Water:** actions to preserve or restore lakes, waterways and ground water from degradation or depletion; actions to research, design or foster best management practices; actions to conserve water and/or efficiently and effectively manage water use; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the fulfillment of this category.
 - c. **Waste Management:** actions promoting and implementing source reduction, waste management or toxicity reduction; actions promoting and implementing the development of recycling markets; actions promoting and implementing reuse and other disposal diversion actions; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the fulfillment of this category.
 - d. **Air Quality:** actions promoting and implementing clean air strategies; including greenhouse gas *reductions*; actions to research, design or foster best management strategies; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the fulfillment of this category.
 - e. **Soil Management:** actions and strategies to preserve, conserve and restore soil health; actions to research, design or foster the implementation and management of these strategies; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the fulfillment of this category.
9. Does your project offer public benefits? (04.005)
10. Will this project pay for land or easements acquired without the full and express consent of the landowner? Will this purchase eliminate the property tax liability? (04.001.05 and 81-15,176)
11. Is your project environmentally acceptable? (04.002)

A project is considered to be environmentally acceptable when:

- a. The project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or modification of the critical habitat of any such species and shall meet the requirements contained in the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act, Nebraska Revised Statute § 37-801; and (04.002.01)
- b. The plan of development minimizes any adverse impacts on the natural environment, adequately addresses existing cultural resources and results in environmental net gain. (04.002.02)

- c. In addition to any proposed mitigation measures, all aspects of the project which can be anticipated to result in environmental enhancement shall be considered in determining whether the plan minimizes adverse impacts. The Board may request additional information it deems necessary in determining environmental acceptability. The applicant, if required by the Board, will be provided a reasonable period of time to respond to requests for information and such other items as the applicant of the Board identifies as relevant to the issued of environmental acceptance. (04.002.03)

12. Is your project financially and technically feasible? (04.006)

- a. Financial Feasibility: A project is financially feasible if sufficient funds can be made available to complete the project and if sufficient annual revenues can be obtained to operate, maintain, and replace the project as applicable. Each applicant shall submit a project budget identifying the nature and amount of each source of funds to be used for the project; a schedule indicating when such funds will be received; and a schedule indicating when the funds available will be expended for project purposes. The remaining financial data supplied by the applicant will depend upon the type of applicant. (04.006.01)
- b. Technical Feasibility: A project that is structural in nature shall be considered technically feasible when it can and will be designed, constructed, and operated to accomplish the purpose(s) for which it was planned utilizing accepted engineering and other technical principles and concepts. A project which is nonstructural in nature shall be considered to be technically feasible when it can and will be designed and carried out to accomplish the purpose(s) for which it was planned. (04.006.02)

Internal Procedural Guidance for the Evaluation of Applications Regarding Prohibition of Directly Funding Regulatory Programs or Funding Actions Mandated by Regulations.

Method To Used To Determine Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-15,176(2)(a) Eligibility:

To make a determination as to whether an application would directly fund a regulatory program or fund an action mandated by regulations, staff and board members shall utilize the following decision tree to evaluate an application:

1. Is the grant providing direct assistance to a regulatory program?
 - a. Is the applicant a governmental entity? (If yes, proceed to b. If no, the grant does not provide direct assistance to a regulatory program, skip to 2.)
 - b. Is the program being funded regulatory in nature? (If yes, proceed to c. If no, the grant does not provide direct assistance to a regulatory program, skip to 2.)
 - i. Regulatory means to control, direct, or govern. Generally this means statutes, rules, regulations, or ordinances that direct or require some other entity or person to do something. (Definition from Title 137).
 - c. Is the applicant being funded the one in control of the program? (If yes, funding is prohibited. If no, the grant does not provide direct assistance to a regulatory program, skip to 2.)
2. Is the grant funding the implementation of actions mandated by regulations?
 - a. Is the grant funding an activity the applicant is required to do? (If yes, proceed to b. If no, grant is permissible.)
 - b. Is the requirement in regulation? (If yes, proceed to c. If no, grant is permissible.)
 - i. Note: regulations means only those rules codified in the Nebraska Administrative Code or the Code of Federal Regulations. (Definition from Title 137).
 - c. Is the grant for remediation? (If yes, grant is permissible. If no, grant is funding the implementation of actions mandated by regulations and is not permissible.)

If it is determined that an application fails either Question 1 or Question 2 above, it is not eligible for funding.

CHAPTER 3 - APPLICATION PROCESS

001. FORM OF APPLICATION AND ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS. An applicant for financial assistance from the Trust shall comply with prevailing application method(s) approved by the Board no later than three (3) months prior to the submission deadline. The application shall be complete in every aspect at the time of submittal and may include additional information to demonstrate the project's eligibility for funding.

001.01 The Executive Director shall review each application submitted and shall determine whether the application is substantially complete for initial review. The Executive Director shall review the eligibility criteria to provide an eligibility recommendation to the Grants Committee. The Grants Committee of the Board shall review each such application and shall make a preliminary recommendation of approval or rejection of the proposal for eligibility based on the recommendation of the Executive Director.

001.02 For any application, the Grants Committee will determine whether further information will be needed to evaluate the eligibility of the proposal. If additional information is needed, the Executive Director will so notify the applicant, and provide a reasonable time period for submission of the additional material.

002. TIMEFRAME FOR FILING AND REVIEW. All applications shall be filed by the dates set by the Board as part of the adopted calendar for the application and review processes. All necessary reviews of each application shall also be completed in accordance with that calendar.

CHAPTER 7 - RANKING ELIGIBLE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING

001. After the evaluation of applications for eligibility, all eligible projects shall be ranked according to the Project Ranking System established and adopted by the Board for the competition to which the application was submitted.

002. Preliminary ranking shall be performed by the Grants Committee of the Board appointed by the Chairperson. In deciding the assignment of points for each eligible project, the Committee shall do so in a manner which provides a fair comparison of projects regardless of cost. More expensive projects shall not receive additional points just because they are larger in scale. Points shall be assigned with consideration of the anticipated effects of the project relative to its costs. The Committee may request assistance from the Executive Director to the extent necessary to evaluate each proposal.

003. The Grants Committee may request additional information from any applicant in written form. All additional supplements shall be in writing and signed by the applicant.

004. The Grants Committee shall report the results of the ranking process to the Chairperson by the date established therefore on the calendar approved annually by the Board. The report shall indicate the results of the ranking process with the highest scoring project at the top of the list along with the number of points scored and the amount of funding recommended to be approved. Lower ranked projects shall follow in sequential order showing the same information for each.

005. Upon receipt of the Grants Committee report, the Chairperson shall call a meeting of the Board to adopt or revise and adopt the Committee report and schedule a public hearing on the proposed funding list.

006. After the public hearing is conducted on the proposed funding list, the Board may take action on actual funding. If the Board decides that any proposed project does not have sufficient merit to justify funding from the Trust, the Board may choose not to fund the project notwithstanding its consistency with eligibility criteria or its final ranking. The proposed list may be revised after the public hearing only with the approval of a majority of Board members present.

007. Notwithstanding ratings determined in this Chapter, no allocation of funds shall be made for remediation in a manner inconsistent with Nebraska Revised Statute § 81-15,176(2)(b).

D. Eligibility: Private Gain

Benefits from a Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant must be public in nature. Private benefit, especially private financial gain, must be incidental to the project. This may create a special challenge for private landholders seeking to improve their property or for for-profit enterprises seeking assistance for their operations. The following list is provided as an illustration of some, though not all, possible options that may demonstrate predominant public benefit of a project. An applicant could incorporate any or all of the following components into a proposal in order to demonstrate that a project results in public gain:

1. The project is co-sponsored by at least one public entity in full partnership. The entity will determine appropriate public benefit as a pre-condition to partnership.
2. Incidental private gain, e.g. increased equity value, reverts to the public sector.
3. The project returns a benefit value to the public exceeding the dollar amount of the grant, and the grant represents the minimum investment required in order to produce the projected benefits to the public; and there is clear public need that is unmet and the private sector is unlikely to meet this need without public assistance.

An applicant could incorporate the following into a proposal to help determine that a project results in public gain when seeking funds for the improvement of private property:

1. The increase in ecosystem value can be quantified; e.g., tons of soil conserved, volume of water with measures of clarity, purity, etc.
2. The increase in value of private property is quantified; and the increase in ecosystem value clearly exceeds the increase in the value of private property; and the grant represents the minimum investment required in order to produce the projected benefits to the public.
3. A private property owner might enter into an agreement granting equity interest, a conservation easement, or like arrangement with a public entity to demonstrate how the private gain is to be repaid.

The burden of proof of any of these conditions lies with the applicant.

Proposed Date: 12/13/1994
Adopted Date: 02/07/1995

NET 2024 List of Applications

App ID	Project Sponsor	Project Name
24-101	Twin Valley Weed Management Area	Eastern Republican and Little Blue Watershed Improvement Project
24-102	Audubon Great Plains	Solar Energy Installation & Demonstration
24-103	Conservation Nebraska	Common Ground
24-104	Nemaha Natural Resources District	Burr-Cook Paleovalley Aquifer Sub-Area Resiliency Project
24-105	City of Ralston	Ralston Creek Improvements
24-106	Grand Island Area Clean Community System	Established Regional Household Hazardous Waste Facility
24-107	South Central Economic Development District, Inc.	Small Towns Achieving Recovery & Resiliency (STARR) through Waste Management
24-108	Corn Country NE Pheasants Forever Chapter	No-Till Drills Corn Country - York County Pheasants Forever Chapter
24-109	Northern Prairies Land Trust	Extending the Tallgrass Prairie Partnership
24-110	Green Recycling Enterprises, LLC DBA Second Nature	Recycling on the Go!
24-111	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Habitat Share Program
24-112	Nebraska Water Balance Alliance	Using Field-Scale Electrical Data to Estimate Real-time Water Delivery
24-113	Keep Omaha Beautiful	Trees for Tomorrow: An Urban & Community Tree Planting Program
24-114	Heartland Bike Share	Bike Share Updates
24-115	Nebraska State Irrigation Association	Nebraska Water Leaders Academy
24-116	City of South Sioux City	Nebraska's First Plastic Road
24-117	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Roof Collected Rainwater Study for Drinking Water
24-118	Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation & Development Inc.	Household Hazardous Waste Collections
24-119	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Climate Smart Agriculture: Building capacity among agricultural advisors
24-120	Heritage Elementary PTO	Heritage Elementary Outdoor Classroom

App ID	Project Sponsor	Project Name
24-121	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Soldier Creek Habitat, Water Quality, and Access Improvement Project
24-122	Nebraska Community Foundation for benefit of Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	Rainwater Basin Watershed Restoration and Enhancement
24-123	Platte Valley Weed Management Area	Invasive Plant Species Control Along the Central Platte River
24-124	Friends of Heron Haven, Inc	Educational Program and Wetland Habitat Enhancements
24-125	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Grassland Enhancement Initiative
24-126	Friends of Nebraska Monarchs Incorporated	Bringing Back Butterflies: Native Plant Giveaway and Public Education Fair
24-127	Southwest Weed Management	2024 -2025 Western Republican River Basin Riparian Habitat Project
24-128	Nebraska Community Foundation fbo Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	Water Delivery Infrastructure for Western Rainwater Basins
24-129	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Tires to Trail: Evaluation of Porous Asphalt with Recycled Tire Rubber in Nebraska Trails
24-130	Nebraska Community Foundation for Benefit of Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	Rainwater Basin Wetland Conservation; Supporting Aquifer Recharge and Wildlife Habitat
24-131	Nebraska Recycling Council	Durable Medical Equipment Rehome & Collection Events
24-132	Nebraska Recycling Council	Recycling Equipment Grants
24-133	FarWide Conservation Trust	Ninemile Creek Restoration
24-134	Jessica Wooley	Wetland Health Assessment along Missouri River
24-135	Nebraska Community Foundation for benefit of Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	Divots in the Pivots II
24-136	Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District	Groundwater Monitoring for Public Health
24-137	Lincoln Public Schools	Outdoor Teaching and Learning Program
24-138	Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District	Remote Telemetry Upgrades on Flow Meters for Groundwater Irrigation Management in the Lower Elkhorn NRD
24-139	Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District	Bow Creek Watershed Project
24-140	Pine Lake Association	Pine Lake Rehabilitation Project
24-141	Lexington Community Foundation	Johnson Lake Invasive Carp Removal
24-142	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Community Based Approach to Increasing Public Access on Private Lands
24-143	KEEP KEITH COUNTY BEAUTIFUL	Waste Management & Environmental Education in Western Nebraska

App ID	Project Sponsor	Project Name
24-144	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Habitat Supporting Native Bee Foraging
24-145	University of South Dakota	Effects of Invasive Eastern Redcedar on Bird Biodiversity and Performance Within the Missouri National Recreational River
24-146	Blue Valley Lutheran Homes	Environmental and Residential Enrichment Project
24-147	Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust, Inc.	Benefiting Nebraska's Species of Conservation Concern through Multiple Land-Management Prescriptions
24-148	Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center	Tallgrass Prairie Conservation and Restoration at Spring Creek Prairie and across the Denton Hills Landscape
24-149	Brant Burkey	Near real-time, in-field nitrate measurements to enable optimized fertilizer application
24-150	Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust, Inc.	Enhancement of Field Equipment for the Continued Benefit of Nebraska's Species of Conservation Concern
24-151	CITY OF RANDOLPH	RANDOLPH COMMUNITY GOLF COURSE
24-152	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Increasing Awareness of Nebraska's Aquatic Resources
24-153	Loup Central Landfill Association	2023 Metal Recycling Facility
24-154	Keep Alliance Beautiful	2024/2025 Recycling Center Operations and Education Program
24-155	Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency	Advancing Clean Air Through Bike/Pedestrian Counter Implementation
24-156	Loess Canyons Rangeland Alliance	Loess Canyons Grassland Stewardship
24-157	Ducks Unlimited Inc.	Keeping the "Country," country
24-158	Nebraska Pharmacists Association	Promoting a Healthy Nebraska: Mitigating Contamination, Ensuring Safe Disposal, and Enhancing Medication Access
24-159	John Connor	1623 Passive House
24-160	Lexington Community Foundation	Johnson Lake Community Playground Water Station
24-161	Darrell Beck- Edgar Vol. Fire Dept.	South Central Mutual Aid Group - Micro-Blaze Out Foam
24-162	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Restoring Nebraska's Riverine Systems
24-163	North Platte Natural Resources District	Windbreak Renovation Pilot Project
24-164	Trailblazer RC&D	Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Recycling Events
24-165	Trailblazer RC&D	Electronics Recycling Events
24-166	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Vadose zone water and nitrogen movement under different crop management practices in west central Nebraska
24-167	Arbor Day Farm / Arbor Day Foundation	Arbor Day Farm Trail Charge Oasis
24-168	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska	Tribal National Park at Rulo Bluffs

App ID	Project Sponsor	Project Name
24-169	Omaha Public Power District	OPPD's Solar Corners Pilot Project
24-170	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Advancing Environmental Stewardship Education Using Aerial and Satellite Imagery
24-171	Omaha Public Schools	EV Charging Stations
24-172	Buffalo County Historical Society/Trails & Rails Museum	Environmental Traveling Exhibits
24-173	The Nature Conservancy	Increasing Sandhills Resilience: the Future on the Fireline
24-174	Nebraska Community Foundation for benefit of Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	Funk Waterfowl Production Area Restoration
24-175	Sandhills Task Force	Sandhills Prairie and Wetland Habitat Improvement Project
24-176	Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory dba Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	Monitoring Migratory Songbird Habitat Use in the Panhandle
24-177	Lincoln - Solid Waste Management Division	The Biochar Initiative
24-178	Nebraska Wildlife Rehab, Inc.	Historic Barn and Prairie Restoration for Wildlife
24-179	Sandhills Task Force	Birdwood Creek Stream Restoration
24-180	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Rainwater Basin Public Lands Restorations

24-159

Eligibility: Will your project pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature?

Response: Yes

Explanation: Yes, payment will provide private benefits as it is a private home.

The fund shall not pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature. Reference 81-15,176(2)(c)

24-134

Eligibility: Will your project pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature?

Response: No

Explanation: The Wetland Ecology lab will not pay for any private benefits. Their contribution is in the form of equipment, operations, and partial travel expenses.

NET Budget request: \$5,197 for Personnel/Fringe Benefits and Travel

Explanation: The only thing the university lab does not pay for is my second year summer months, during which I am not employed by the university and must find my own individual funding. I am seeking grant assistance to help receive a living stipend, and partial travel expenses.

The fund shall not pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature. Reference 81-15,176(2)(c)

24-157

Eligibility: Will your project pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature?

Response: No

Explanation: Landowner is giving up property rights for the grander public benefit of ensuring that a landscape will persist for people to observe and wildlife to thrive on.

The fund shall not pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature. Reference 81-15,176(2)(c)

Eligibility: Does your project offer public benefits?

Response: Yes

Explanation: General public and wildlife are receiving the primary benefit through this proposal. Protecting open space directly off highway 26 to be viewed by all for generation to come and ensuring that wildlife will continue to thrive are the true benefits of this project.

The grants should assist those projects which offer the greatest public benefits. Reference 81-15,176(2)(h)

24-115

Eligibility: Will your project pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature?

Response: No

Explanation: The Water Leaders Academy project objective is to develop leaders in water and natural resources for public benefit for all of Nebraska.

Project Narrative: Class size is limited to 20 participants annually to ensure engagement, aid in communication, and foster strong networking.

NET Budget request: \$234,000

The fund shall not pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature. Reference 81-15,176(2)(c)

24-178

Eligibility: Will your project pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature?

Response: No

Explanation: This project will not pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature.

NET Budget request: \$320,100 for Real Estate/Real Property

Project Narrative: It is overall in good shape but needs to be renovated in order to be properly preserved.

The fund shall not pay for private benefits or provide assistance to projects or portions of projects whose benefits are primarily private in nature. Reference 81-15,176(2)(c)

24-146

Eligibility: Will your project relieve private liability for environmental damage (except for projects for remediation of soils or ground water) or provide assistance to projects in order to relieve such liability? "Private liability" shall mean liability to a person or entity and shall include fines or penalties imposed by a governmental entity.

Response: Yes

Explanation: In order to meet state code with the Fire Marshall we will need to fix the retaining wall as this is an exit residents, staff or families would use if there was a fire and they would need to evacuate.

The fund shall not relieve private liability for environmental damage or, except for projects for remediation of soils or ground water, provide assistance to projects in order to relieve such liability. For purposes of this section, "private liability" shall mean liability to a person or entity and shall include fines or penalties imposed by a governmental entity. Reference 81-15,176(2)(a)

Codified in Nebraska Administrative Code, NE Life Safety Code 101 & NFPA 101 Regulations

24-151

Eligibility: Does this project have direct beneficiaries who could afford these costs without experiencing serious financial hardship?

Response: No

Explanation: Funding of this project is necessary because the direct beneficiaries cannot afford these costs.

Project Narrative: Because of the reduces costs, memberships, greens fees, and cart rentals/stalls are lower than nearby competitive public courses.

Budget: Have other sources of funding not listed in Funding Partners been approached for project support? If yes, name them and explain the outcome of your request.

Explanation: City of Randolph owns the RCGC Golf Course property, however they feel that the RCGC Golf Board should cover the costs of the Northeast Pond Bentonite Liner.

Funding partner attachment letter from RCGC Board of Directors meeting: Bill talked to Larry Jensen in regards to repairs to the pond. No decision has been made.

The fund shall not pay for projects to the extent such projects have direct beneficiaries who could afford the costs of the benefits without experiencing serious financial hardship. Reference 81-15,176(2)(d)

24-145

Eligibility: Does this project have direct beneficiaries who could afford these costs without experiencing serious financial hardship?

Response: No

Explanation: The direct beneficiaries of the project will be the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) Unit of the National Park Service and the direct benefit will be to management planning for MNRR properties in Nebraska. The MNRR does not have available funds in their budget to support project costs outside of contributing to the Missouri River Natural Resource Intern Program at the University of South Dakota.

Budget: Have other sources of funding not listed in Funding Partners been approached for project support? If yes, name them and explain the outcome of your request.

Response: No

NET Project Title: Effects of Invasive Eastern Redcedar on Bird Biodiversity and Performance Within the Missouri National Recreational River

Grant awarded by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Wildlife Diversity, Small Grants Program awarded 02/16/2022, not disclosed.

Project Title: Impacts of Redcedar Invasion along the Missouri National Recreational River on Winter Riparian Bird Richness and Abundance

The fund shall not pay for projects to the extent such projects have direct beneficiaries who could afford the costs of the benefits without experiencing serious financial hardship. Reference 81-15,176(2)(d)

24-141

NET Grant Application: Will this project receive other State of Nebraska funds or require a state review or permit?

Response: No

Confirmed with the Nebraska Game and Parks (NGPC) that a permit would be required. This is a public body of water under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission No. 1417 with the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District. NGPC leases two recreation areas from Central on Johnson Lake, stocks the fish and monitors the fishing pressure.