

MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust
Grants Committee Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2024
1:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Committee Chairman Mr. Kanger called the virtual, on-site meeting of the Grants Committee 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 August 30, 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.

District II: Mr. Roger Helgoth, Omaha.

District III: Mr. Eric Hansen, North Platte.

State Agency Representative: Ms. Sherry Vinton, Director, Nebraska Department of Agriculture;
Mr. Tim McCoy, Director, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission.

Members Absent (1):

District I: Mr. James Hellbusch, Columbus.

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 13, 2023, Grants Committee meeting minutes

Motion by Mr. Helgoth, seconded by Mr. McCoy, "I move to approve the December 13, 2023, Grants Committee meeting minutes."

Discussion: None.

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

Absent: Hellbusch

5 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

4. Grant application process timeline

Executive Director Mr. Elmshaeuser reviewed the Grants Committee timeline as follows:

- **September 9th 1:00 pm via Zoom – Grants Committee Meeting:** Information Session on Process
- **October 22nd 1:00 pm at NET Office – Grants Committee Meeting:** Grant Eligibility Determinations & Recommendations
- **November 7th 1:30 pm at NET Office – Public Hearing & Board Meeting** (Board will approve/modify recommendations for eligibility)
- **November 8th – Grants Committee Scoring Begins**

- **November 27th** – Scoring is due into the Grants Portal by Grants Committee members
- **December 5th 1:00 pm at NET Office – Grants Committee Meeting:** Grant Application Scoring & Recommendations for Funding
- **January 9th 1:30 pm at NET Office – Public Hearing & Board Meeting** (Board will approve/modify recommendations for funding & make decisions for grant awards)

Mr. James Hellbusch arrived at 1:08 pm.

5. Review Eligibility questions and criteria

Executive Director Mr. Elmshaeuser discussed the importance of divulging conflicts of interest prior to eligibility recommendations/scoring and the previous history of eligibility scoring versus how it is currently handled. Grants Administrator Ms. Holly Adams demonstrated the use of the Grants Portal.

Executive Director Mr. Elmshaeuser stated that the Executive Director is directed by Title 137 to provide eligibility recommendations to the Grants Committee prior to scoring. Discussion centered around the grant eligibility questions, the differentiation between the “shoulds” and the “shalls” for eligibility criteria, and the responsibility of the Grants Committee in determining the eligibility proposals to be made to the full Board.

6. Review Scoring questions and possible points criteria

Executive Director Mr. Elmshaeuser noted that scoring will be completed in the Grants Portal by the Grants Committee after eligibility has been determined by the NET Board on November 7, 2024.

7. Next Meeting

The next Grants Committee meeting will be held October 22, 2024, at 2077 N Street, Suite 310, Lincoln, NE at 1:00 pm.

8. Adjourn

Committee Chairman Kanger adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m.



Karl L. Elmshaeuser, Executive Director