

MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust
Grants Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 22, 2024
1:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Committee Chairman Mr. Kanger called the Grants Committee meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in Suite 310 at 2077 N St, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Advanced notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on October 16, 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 (4):

District I: Committee Chairman Mr. Jeff Kanger, Lincoln.

District II: Mr. Roger Helgoth, Omaha.

District III: Mr. Eric Hansen, North Platte.

State Agency Representative: Mr. Tim McCoy, Director, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Members Absent (2):

District I: Mr. James Hellbusch, Columbus.

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

Staff Present:

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of September 9, 2024, Grants Committee meeting minutes

Motion by Mr. Helgoth, seconded by Mr. McCoy, "I move to approve the September 9, 2024, Grants Committee meeting minutes."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Helgoth, Hansen, McCoy, Kanger

4 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

4. Determination of Eligibility of Applications for Grant Funding

a. Determination of Eligibility of Applications for Grant Funding: Eligible Grant Applications Recommended to NET Board for Consideration

Executive Director Mr. Elmshaeuser gave his recommendations as per his obligation under Title 137: "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." Executive

Director Mr. Elmshaeuser outlined his recommendations regarding which grants should be deemed eligible. Executive Director Mr. Elmshaeuser noted that while some grants are determined by the committee to be eligible that there may be some issues in the future with certain grant applications if they are moved on to scoring or are awarded.

Motion by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Helgoth, "I move to determine that grant applications 25-161, 25-164, and 25-160 are eligible and forward to the NET Board for review and approval."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: McCoy, Helgoth, Kanger

Abstain: Hansen

3 Voted Aye. 1 Abstention. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Helgoth, seconded by Mr. Hansen, "I move to determine that grant applications 25-102, 25-106, 25-124, 25-126, 25-142, and 25-155 are eligible and forward to the NET Board for review and approval."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Helgoth, Hansen, Kanger

Abstain: McCoy

3 Voted Aye. 1 Abstention. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Helgoth, "I move to determine that grant applications: 25-101, 25-104, 25-105, 25-107, 25-108, 25-109, 25-110, 25-111, 25-112, 25-113, 25-114, 25-115, 25-116, 25-117, 25-118, 25-119, 25-121, 25-122, 25-123, 25-127, 25-128, 25-129, 25-130, 25-131, 25-132, 25-133, 25-134, 25-135, 25-136, 25-137, 25-138, 25-139, 25-140, 25-141, 25-143, 25-144, 25-145, 25-146, 25-147, 25-148, 25-149, 25-150, 25-152, 25-153, 25-154, 25-156, 25-162, 25-163, 25-165, and 25-166, are eligible and forward to the NET Board for review and approval."

Discussion: Mr. Hansen suggested reviewing the list of grants with potential future issues. Substantive concerns varied by grant application and were taken into consideration.

Motion as amended by Mr. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Helgoth, "I move to remove 25-119 and 25-133 from the eligibility recommendation."

Discussion: Discussion centered around the public/private benefit of these projects and whether the environmental education component was sufficient to have the projects fit within one of NET's funding categories.

Voting Aye: Helgoth, Hansen, Kanger

Voting Nay: McCoy

3 Voted Aye. 1 Voted Nay. Motion carried.

Motion as amended by Mr. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Helgoth, "I move to remove 25-136 from the eligibility recommendation."

Discussion: Discussion centered around the eligibility questions #5 (04.001.02), #6 (04.001.02) and #8 (04.003). Concerns were raised about whether the irrigation district was regulatorily mandated to do maintenance. Concerns were voiced about whether the grant application met the standard of one of the five funding categories for NET due to the nature of the proposed resource to be managed. Mr. McCoy noted that, while a grant may be deemed

eligible, that they may not do well under scoring and that eligibility determinations are far less subjective than scoring.

Voting Aye: Hansen

Voting Nay: Helgoth, McCoy, Kanger

1 Voted Aye. 3 Voted Nay. Motion failed.

Original Motion as amended by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Helgoth, "I move to determine that grant applications: 25-101, 25-104, 25-105, 25-107, 25-108, 25-109, 25-110, 25-111, 25-112, 25-113, 25-114, 25-115, 25-116, 25-117, 25-118, 25-121, 25-122, 25-123, 25-127, 25-128, 25-129, 25-130, 25-131, 25-132, 25-134, 25-135, 25-136, 25-137, 25-138, 25-139, 25-140, 25-141, 25-143, 25-144, 25-145, 25-146, 25-147, 25-148, 25-149, 25-150, 25-152, 25-153, 25-154, 25-156, 25-162, 25-163, 25-165, and 25-166, are eligible and forward to the NET Board for review and approval."

Discussion: None.

Voting Aye: Helgoth, Hansen, McCoy, Kanger

4 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

b. Determination of Eligibility of Applications for Grant Funding: Grant Applications Not Eligible Recommendations

As per Title 137, Executive Director Mr. Elmshaeuser gave an overview of his recommendations regarding which grants could be deemed ineligible. Executive Director Mr. Elmshaeuser discussed the reasons why each grant could be deemed ineligible with his explication centering largely around the statutory requirements underlying his recommendations. Special attention was made toward determining the quantitative public benefit as outlined within each grant application, the scope of said benefit, and whether the subjective nature of the public/private benefit should affect eligibility.

Motion by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Helgoth, "I move to determine that grant applications 25-103, 25-120, 25-125, 25-151, 25-157, 25-158, 25-159, 25-119, and 25-133 are not eligible and forward to the NET Board for review and affirmation."

Discussion: Public and private entities are welcome to apply for NET grants and will not be deemed ineligible based solely on the nature of the entity itself.

Voting Aye: Hansen, McCoy, Helgoth, Kanger

4 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

5. Grant Portal Scoring Process Explanation

Grants Administrator Ms. Adams reviewed the scoring procedures in the NET Grants Portal for the Grants Committee members. Discussion highlighted the questions themselves, the scoring criteria for each, and those with which the staff will be assisting directly.

6. Next Meeting

The next Grants Committee meeting will be held December 5, 2024, at 2077 N Street, Suite 310, Lincoln, NE at 1:00 pm.

9. Adjourn

Committee Chairman Mr. Kanger adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.



Karl L. Elmshaeuser, Executive Director