

AGENDA

Nebraska Environmental Trust
Grants Committee
Thursday, December 5, 2024
1:00 PM

2077 N Street, Suite 310
Lincoln, NE

1. Call to Order
 - a. Roll call
 - b. Verify Quorum
 - c. Notice of Meeting: Published Wednesday, November 27, 2024
 - d. Notification of Open Meetings Law Posting
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of October 22, 2024, Grants Committee meeting minutes
4. Grants Committee determinations and recommendations for funding for 2025 Grant Applications that were previously deemed eligible by the NET Board at the November 7, 2024, meeting.
 - a. Projects scored and Sorted by Score through ranking systems process.
 - b. Recommendations for funding to the NET Board at the January 9, 2025, meeting.
5. Next Meeting; TBD
6. Adjourn

**This Agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on December 2, 2024. A Current copy is on file at the Nebraska Environmental Trust offices, 2077 N Street, Suite 310, Lincoln, NE. 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
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

DRAFT

Review Grants – Recommendation for Funding

Grants Committee Agenda Materials

Item #: 4.a.b.

Object: Review information and recommend 2025 grant applications for funding.

Contact Person: Jeff Kanger, Holly Adams

For: ACTION

Attachment: 3 pages

BACKGROUND

The Grants Committee is presented with spreadsheets and documents that use a score for each grant application that is ranked to assist in developing a funding recommendation for the 2025 Grant Cycle to be presented to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board.

EXPLANATION

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-15,175

(2) establishes the process for a rating and ranking of grant applications. (NET Board approved on May 2, 2024)

(5) “The board may establish a subcommittee to rate grant applications. If the board uses a subcommittee, the meetings of such subcommittee shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act. The subcommittee shall (a) use the rating systems established by the board under subsection (2) of this section, (b) assign a numeric value to each rating criterion, combine these values into a total score for each application, and rank the applications by the total scores, (c) recommend an amount of funding for each application, which amount may be more or less than the requested amount, and (d) submit the ranked list and recommended funding to the board for its approval or disapproval.”

PROPOSAL

The Grants Committee will review the presented documents and create motions to recommend projects for funding.

Proposed motion: “I make a motion that the grant applications *must have X# of points or more* to be considered for available funding. Applications must meet the application requirements of financial documentation, administration limits, cash match, real estate requirements, and required documentation by the Executive Director as directed in Title 137 prior to allocation of a grant contract.”

Proposed motion: "I move that the Grants Committee recommends project (25-***), for the following amount (\$*****) and to be moved on for consideration by the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board".

Proposed motion: "I move that the Grants Committee recommends projects (25-Listed), for the full requested amounts and to be moved on for consideration by the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board".

2025 Grant Applications in Rank Order of Score

Rating	App ID	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Term of Request	Requested Year 1	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Amount Requested
41.00	25-106	Northern Prairies Land Trust	Restoring Nebraska's Oak Woodlands	3	\$ 134,000.00	\$ 133,000.00	\$ 133,000.00	\$ 400,000.00
40.80	25-142	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	WILD Nebraska Program	2	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
40.60	25-155	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Continuing the Preservation of Nebraska's Natural Legacy through Collaboration, Education, and Outreach	3	\$ 366,000.00	\$ 383,000.00	\$ 306,000.00	\$ 1,055,000.00
40.33	25-127	City of Bellevue - Public Works Department	Whitted Creek Rehabilitation	3	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
39.33	25-134	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Sandhills Habitat Improvement	3	\$ 114,500.00	\$ 123,000.00	\$ 107,000.00	\$ 344,500.00
39.00	25-131	Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (NLOM)	Reclamation of Crystal Springs Lake	1	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
38.40	25-161	Sandhills Task Force	Sandhills Stewardship Improvement	3	\$ 236,000.00	\$ 236,000.00	\$ 123,000.00	\$ 595,000.00
38.00	25-116	Farwell Irrigation District	Improving Resources 2.2	1	\$ 525,022.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 525,022.00
38.00	25-128	Ducks Unlimited, Inc	Platte Valley Habitat Restoration	3	\$ 155,000.00	\$ 155,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 400,000.00
38.00	25-135	Nebraska Community Foundation for Business of Rainwater Basin Joint Venture	Managing Nebraska's Mixed Grass Prairies	3	\$ 304,375.00	\$ 301,875.00	\$ 304,375.00	\$ 910,625.00
38.00	25-137	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Pathway For Soil Health and Wildlife	3	\$ 230,000.00	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 620,000.00
37.83	25-117	Nebraska Statewide Arboretum	Trees for Nebraska Towns	3	\$ 85,800.00	\$ 85,800.00	\$ 85,800.00	\$ 257,400.00
37.67	25-107	Southwest Weed Management	2025 - 2026 Western Republican River Basin Riparian Habitat Project	1	\$ 168,014.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 168,014.00
37.67	25-114	Wachiska Audubon Society	Prairie Habitat Improvement Program 2025-2028	3	\$ 95,086.00	\$ 70,086.00	\$ 34,318.00	\$ 199,490.00
37.50	25-130	Ducks Unlimited Inc.	North Platte River Valley Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Partnership IV	2	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 145,000.00	\$ -	\$ 290,000.00
37.40	25-160	Nebraska Cattlemen	Leopold Conservation Award Video and Tour Project	3	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
37.40	25-164	Sandhills Task Force	Sandhills Wetland and Stream Restoration Project	3	\$ 223,000.00	\$ 222,500.00	\$ 161,500.00	\$ 607,000.00
37.17	25-109	Platte River Basin Environments	Restoring Rangelands in the Wildcat Hills Through Long-term Cheatgrass Control Phase I	2	\$ 215,820.00	\$ 14,820.00	\$ -	\$ 230,640.00
37.00	25-112	Iain Nicholson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary	Restoring and Preserving Platte River Riparian Woodlands and Grasslands at Rowe Sanctuary	1	\$ 145,450.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145,450.00
37.00	25-118	Firstar Fiber, Inc.	Firstar Hub & Spoke	3	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 600,000.00
37.00	25-156	Panhandle Weed Management Area	Panhandle WMA Invasive Species Education, Outreach and Control	3	\$ 197,500.00	\$ 98,500.00	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 384,000.00
36.83	25-132	Quail Forever	Mobile Prescribed Burn Equipment, Outreach, and Rural Fire Departments	1	\$ 89,250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89,250.00
36.50	25-115	Trailblazer RC&D	Electronics Recycling Events	1	\$ 106,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 106,000.00
36.17	25-163	Sandhills Weed Management Area	Sandhills WMA Invasive Species Management, Biocontrol and Education	3	\$ 160,500.00	\$ 94,900.00	\$ 88,700.00	\$ 344,100.00
35.17	25-153	Keep Nebraska Beautiful	Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout Campaign - SC3 (2025 - 2028 Application)	3	\$ 62,500.00	\$ 62,500.00	\$ 62,500.00	\$ 187,500.00
35.00	25-149	Trailblazer RC&D	Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Events	1	\$ 66,350.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,350.00
34.20	25-126	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Windmill SRA Access and Aquatic Habitat Improvements	1	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00
34.00	25-165	Keep Nebraska Beautiful	Keep Nebraska Beautiful Used Oil Collection Program (2025 - 2026 Application)	1	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00
33.67	25-144	Keep Alliance Beautiful	Community Beautification and Environmental Education	1	\$ 63,891.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,891.00
33.60	25-102	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Eastern Red Cedar removal around Merritt Reservoir	2	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -	\$ 700,000.00
33.17	25-121	Nebraska Statewide Arboretum	Greener Towns	1	\$ 49,750.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49,750.00
33.00	25-104	Lower Platte North Natural Resources District	No-Till Grass Drill	1	\$ 27,960.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,960.00

2025 Grant Applications in Rank Order of Score

Rating	App ID	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Term of Request	Requested Year 1	Requested Year 2	Requested Year 3	Total Amount Requested
33.00	25-147	Little Blue Natural Resources District	The Little Blue NRD Well Meter Upgrades and Water Efficiency Project	2	\$ 198,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 198,000.00
32.83	25-122	Platte and Nuckolls County PF No-till Drills	No-Till Drills -- Platte County and Nuckolls County Pheasants Forever Chapters	1	\$ 70,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,000.00
32.00	25-140	Lower Platte South Natural Resources District	Enhancing Tallgrass Prairie Health via Grazing Management	1	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00
32.00	25-154	Twin Valley Weed Management Area	Eastern Republican and Little Blue Watershed Improvement Project	1	\$ 119,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 119,500.00
31.67	25-101	Green Recycling Enterprises, LLC	Recycling on the go!	2	\$ 122,692.00	\$ 122,692.00	\$ -	\$ 245,384.00
31.33	25-138	The Nebraska Soil Health Coalition with the Nebraska Community Foundation as fiscal agent	"Implementing Regenerative Agriculture Practices in a Southwest Nebraska Hub"	3	\$ 197,192.00	\$ 197,192.00	\$ 197,192.00	\$ 591,576.00
31.00	25-143	Village of Eagle	Waste Diversion - Recycling	2	\$ 94,000.00	\$ 64,500.00	\$ -	\$ 158,500.00
30.83	25-113	Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	Nebraska Youth Conservation Initiative	3	\$ 33,330.00	\$ 33,330.00	\$ 33,340.00	\$ 100,000.00
30.50	25-139	City of Omaha	Eagle Run Creek Improvements	2	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 300,000.00
30.50	25-166	Habitat for Humanity of Omaha	2024 HFHO Deconstruction	2	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00
30.33	25-110	City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department	City of Lincoln -Greenways	3	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 950,000.00
30.20	25-124	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	I-80 Lakes Invasive Tree Removal and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement	1	\$ 259,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 259,500.00
30.17	25-150	Edgerton Explorit Center	Raptorology - Conservation, Care, Community	3	\$ 43,551.00	\$ 28,272.00	\$ 28,272.00	\$ 100,095.00
30.00	25-111	City of Lincoln, Nebraska	Lincoln Multimodal Center - Sustainability Features	1	\$ 894,620.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 894,620.00
29.50	25-129	Sarpy County Public Works	Buffalo Road Channel Bank Stabilization	1	\$ 725,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 725,000.00
29.50	25-152	Lincoln/Lancaster County Habitat for Humanity	ReStore Waste Diversion Project	3	\$ 451,209.00	\$ 432,462.00	\$ 445,458.00	\$ 1,329,129.00
29.33	25-123	Heritage Elementary Parent Teacher Organization	Heritage Elementary Outdoor Classroom	1	\$ 85,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,000.00
29.17	25-141	Keep Columbus Beautiful Inc.	23rd Street Streetscaping Project	1	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
29.17	25-146	The Nature Conservancy	Increasing Habitat Impact on Conservation Lands	2	\$ 165,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 165,000.00
28.83	25-148	Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory dba Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	Prairie Stewards: Engaging the Next Generation in Habitat Conservation	2	\$ 19,442.00	\$ 25,258.00	\$ -	\$ 44,700.00
28.17	25-136	Sargent Irrigation District	Canal Automation Project	1	\$ 116,953.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 116,953.00
28.17	25-162	City of Omaha	City of Omaha Sewer Maintenance Facility Bioretention Cell Study	2	\$ 59,700.00	\$ 26,100.00	\$ -	\$ 85,800.00
28.00	25-108	Crane Trust	EVALUATING 25 YEARS OF SLOUGH RESTORATION USING BIOLOGICAL INDICATORS	2	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 23,600.00	\$ -	\$ 46,100.00
27.17	25-105	Village of Mullen	New bobcat	1	\$ 27,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,000.00
23.67	25-145	ROAM Share (dba Heartland Bike Share and Valentine Bike Share)	Securing Clean Air by Bike Share - Nebraska's Bike Share Enhancement Grant	1	\$ 884,063.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 884,063.00
							Total Requested	\$ 18,927,862.00

33.92 **Average**
4.16 **Standard Deviation**

Scores

