

AGENDA

Nebraska Environmental Trust Board
Special Meeting
Thursday, January 9, 2025
1:30 PM

Nebraska Environmental Trust
Telegraph Lofts West
2077 N St, Suite 310, Lincoln, NE

The public may attend the meeting at the physical address or via Zoom at <https://outdoornebraska.zoom.us/j/94198649294> or call 1-312-626-6799, Meeting ID 941 9864 9294.

1. Call to Order
 - a. Roll call
 - b. Verify Quorum
 - c. Notice of Meeting: Published Monday, December 23, 2024
 - d. Notification of Open Meetings Act Posting
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of November 7, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
3. Public Comment
4. **Public Hearing on Proposed Funding List for the 2025 Grant Cycle**
5. Basic Grant Contract updates
6. Grants Committee Report and Recommendations: Award of 2025 Grants
7. Directors Report
8. Next Meeting: Thursday, February 6, 2025, Telegraph Lofts West, 2077 N St, Suite 310, Lincoln, NE 68510, 1:30 p.m.
9. Adjourn

**This agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on December 20, 2024. A current copy is kept on file at the offices of the Nebraska Environmental Trust, 2077 N St, Suite 310, Lincoln, NE 68510. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda will not be altered later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting. Public comment may be offered on topics within the purview of the Board on any item before the Board by completing the sign-in sheet available at the meeting. The time for each speaker should not exceed 3 minutes.

Board Development
NET Board Agenda Materials

Item #: 2.

Object: To implement a consent agenda

Contact Person: Karl Elmshaeuser

For: ACTION

Attachment: 7 pages

BACKGROUND

The consent agenda includes a list of routine, uncontroversial items that can be approved in a single motion, no discussion, and one vote.

EXPLANATION

A consent agenda streamlines the approval of regular and routine agenda items and allows the Board to focus on more substantive issues. For a consent agenda to work, it is essential that all members review the items prior to the meeting. Although a member may request a consent agenda item to be moved to the regular agenda for discussion during a meeting, it is best to bring issues to the attention of the Executive Director prior to the meeting. The item can be placed on the regular agenda if further discussion is needed.

Consent Agenda Items:

a. November 7, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

Members may ask in advance of a meeting for a correction to unapproved minutes. If a correction is made, the draft minutes will be recirculated to the Board before the meeting.

PROPOSAL

Using a consent agenda to enhance meeting productivity, engage members, and create more time for strategic discussions that require debate and deliberation.

Recommended motion, "I move that the Board approves the Consent Agenda."

MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust Board
Fourth Quarter Meeting
Thursday, November 7, 2024
1:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Chair Christen called the meeting of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board (NET) to order at 1:30 p.m. in Suite 310, 2077 N St, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Advanced notice of the meeting and public hearing was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on October 29, 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 (13):

District I: Mr. Jeff Kanger, Lincoln; Mr. James Hellbusch, Columbus; Mr. Ted Vasko, Papillion

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

District III: Chair Rod Christen, Steinauer; Mr. Josh Andersen, Edgar; Mr. Eric Hansen, North Platte

State Agency Representatives: Mr. Jesse Bradley, Interim Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; Mr. Tim McCoy, Director, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission; Ms. Charity Menefee, Director, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Ms. Kara Valentine, Interim Director, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

Members Absent (1):

State Agency Representatives: Vice-Chair Sherry Vinton, Director, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Staff Present: Mr. Karl Elmshaeuser, Executive Director; Ms. Holly Adams, Grants Administrator; Ms. Madison Moe, Grants Assistant; and Ms. Sandra Weaver, Administrative Specialist

Executive Director Elmshaeuser introduced new board members, Ms. Kara Valentine and Mr. Jesse Bradley.

2. Consent Agenda

Background on Consent Agenda Items

The consent agenda included the August 1, 2024, Board meeting minutes, financial reports, approval to set financials aside for audit, the Grant Disbursement Report, Nebraska Lottery Proceeds Allocation Report, and the Grant Administration Report.

Motion by Mr. Quandahl, seconded by Mr. Davidson, "I move to approve the consent agenda."

Voting Aye: Hellbusch, Vasko, Davidson, Quandahl, Helgoth, Andersen, Hansen, McCoy, Menefee, Bradley, Valentine, Kanger, Christen

Absent: Vinton

13 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Board Development – Informational reviews

a. Nebraska Lottery Presentation

Mr. Brian Rockey, Director of the Nebraska Lottery and Charitable Gaming Division, provided a Nebraska Lottery briefing to the NET Board. As of October 2024, the Nebraska Lottery has paid out over a billion dollars to beneficiaries since its inception in 1993. As outlined in the Nebraska Constitution, the distribution formula for the State Lottery proceeds is as follows: education as directed by the Legislature (44.5%) – currently distributed to the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund; Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (44.5%); Nebraska State Fair (10%); and the Compulsive Games Assistance Fund (1%, plus the first \$500,000 in fund proceeds each fiscal year). As per legislative mandates, criteria for proceeds distribution are established by the beneficiary funds. Every county in Nebraska has received service through grants funded with Nebraska Lottery proceeds. Mr. Rockey answered questions from the NET Board members.

5. Public Hearing on Proposed Eligibility Recommendations for the 2025 Grant Cycle

As presiding officer, Mr. Quandahl opened the public hearing at 1:52 p.m. to accept testimony on the proposed eligibility recommendations for the 2025 Grant Cycle under consideration by the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-15,167 through 81-15,176.

Written Testimony

Ms. Sharon Powell, President, Parks & Recreation Board/Judith Stanton, Grant Administration & Consulting LLC, to appeal the proposed ineligibility status for grant 25-103 and to outline the benefits and issues of the swimming pool revitalization project.

Testimony During Hearing

Mr. Dakota Staggs – Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, outlined the benefits of grant application 25-113 to expand the Nebraska Youth Conservation Initiative.

Ms. Liz Elliott – City of Lincoln, spoke on behalf of Lincoln's StarTran grant application 25-111 and described the reasons for the request and the proposed benefits.

Ms. Sharon Powell – Village of Utica, outlined the purpose of grant application 25-103 and the benefits it would provide. Reconsideration of eligibility was requested.

Mr. Dale Gubbels – Firstar Fiber, Inc., described the struggles of rural recycling and how grant application 25-118 would provide ways for local communities to overcome challenges to sustain their recycling programs.

The public hearing concluded at 2:07 p.m.

6. Grants Committee Report and Recommendations for Grant Application Eligibility

Background on Grant Application Eligibility

After the September 3, 2024, deadline for grant applications, the Grants Committee received the applications after the Executive Director reviewed them for completeness. If necessary, a technical review was conducted. The results of technical reviews were provided to the Grants Committee members through the Grants Portal. The Grants Committee makes its recommendations to the NET Board for consideration. The NET Board may adopt or modify the eligibility determinations. After the Board's final determination, eligible applications will be referred to the Grants Committee to use the project ranking and scoring system approved at the May 2, 2024, NET Board meeting.

Committee Chairman Kanger reported that the Grants Committee included Board members Jim Hellbusch, Roger Helgoth, Eric Hansen, Tim McCoy, and Sherry Vinton. An explanation of the Committee processes was provided. The Grants Committee met on October 22, 2024, and determined 57 out of 66 applications to be eligible. Eligibility determinations were made following the rules and regulations in Title 137 and state statutes.

Motion by Mr. Kanger, seconded by Ms. Menefee, “As Chairman representing the Grants Committee, I move that the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board deems the following projects eligible, as recommended by the Grants Committee: 25-161, 25-164, and 25-160.”

Executive Director Elmshaeuser noted the full Board had an opportunity to review the applications in the Grants Portal before the meeting.

Discussion: None

Voting Aye: Vasko, Davidson, Quandahl, Helgoth, Andersen, McCoy, Menefee, Bradley, Valentine, Kanger, Hellbusch, Christen

Abstaining: Hansen

Absent: Vinton

12 Voted Aye. 1 Abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Kanger, seconded by Mr. Quandahl, “As Chairman representing the Grants Committee, I move that the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board deems the following projects eligible, as recommended by the Grants Committee: 25-102, 25-106, 25-124, 25-126, 25-142, and 25-155.”

Discussion: None

Voting Aye: Davidson, Quandahl, Helgoth, Andersen, Hansen, Menefee, Bradley, Valentine, Kanger, Hellbusch, Vasko, Christen

Abstaining: McCoy

Absent: Vinton

12 Voted Aye. 1 Abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Kanger, seconded by Mr. Quandahl, “As Chairman representing the Grants Committee, I move that the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board deems the following projects eligible, as recommended by the Grants Committee: 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.”

Discussion: None

Voting Aye: Quandahl, Helgoth, Andersen, Hansen, McCoy, Menefee, Bradley, Valentine, Kanger, Hellbusch, Vasko, Davidson, Christen

Absent: Vinton

13 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Kanger, seconded by Mr. Helgoth, “As Chairman representing the Grants Committee, I move that the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board deems the following projects be

ineligible, as recommended by the Grants Committee: 25-103, 25-119, 25-121, 25-125, 25-133, 25-151, 25-157, 25-158, 25-159.

Discussion: Mr. Andersen noted that the board material listed project 25-120 instead of 25-121 for ineligibility.

Amended motion by Mr. McCoy, second by Ms. Menefee, “I move to exclude 25-121 and include 25-120 in the previous motion.”

Discussion: It was clarified that grant projects deemed either eligible or ineligible were sent a notification after the Grants Committee made their recommendation. This allows the applicant to testify or provide written comments for the NET Board’s public hearing on the proposed eligibility recommendations.

Voting Aye: Andersen, Hansen, McCoy, Menefee, Bradley, Valentine, Kanger, Hellbusch, Vasko, Davidson, Quandahl, Helgoth, Christen

Absent: Vinton

13 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

Original motion as amended by Mr. Kanger, seconded by Mr. Helgoth, “As Chairman representing the Grants Committee, I move that the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board deems the following projects be ineligible, as recommended by the Grants Committee: 25-103, 25-119, 25-120, 25-125, 25-133, 25-151, 25-157, 25-158, 25-159.

Discussion: None

Voting Aye: Helgoth, Andersen, Hansen, McCoy, Menefee, Bradley, Valentine, Kanger, Hellbusch, Vasko, Davidson, Quandahl, Christen

Absent: Vinton

13 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

Executive Director Elmshaeuser reported the grants deemed eligible will return to the Grants Committee for the scoring process. The Committee will meet in December to review the scores for each project. In January, the full Board will act on the Grants Committee recommendations for the proposed funding of the 2025 grant projects.

7. **Property Request, Platte River Basin Environments, Inc. (PRBE)**

Background on Agenda Item 7

PRBE used NET funding to purchase property in grant project 11-164-2. The Warranty Deed specifies that the property may not be encumbered without the NET's prior approval. PRBE has held FSA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts in the past. Approval must be obtained from the NET Board before encumbering property under a new FSA contract.

Motion by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Davidson, “I move to approve the request by the Platte River Basin Environments, Inc. to encumber tracts 11770, 12925, 11139, and 13089 with a new FSA CRP and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contract.”

The Board took a break from 2:29 p.m. to 2:39 p.m.

Discussion: In response to a Board member’s question about the project’s purpose, a summary for grant 11-164-2 was provided. Mr. McCoy stated that the tracts in the project were still listed in the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission’s public access atlas.

Voting Aye: Hansen, McCoy, Menefee, Valentine, Kanger, Hellbusch, Vasko, Davidson, Quandahl, Helgoth, Andersen, Christen

Abstaining: Bradley

Absent: Vinton

12 Voted Aye. 1 Abstained. Motion carried.

8. Grant Modification Requests

a. Budget Modification – 23-117 – Middle Niobrara NRD

Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District (MNNRD) was notified in June that only 12% of the funds allocated for year one had been expended. Executive Director Elmshaeuser reported that a motion did not pass at the August 1, 2024, NET meeting to deobligate residual grant funds for grant project 23-117. On August 18, 2024, Assistant State Conservationist-Water Resources and Easements of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service clarified in an email that the Long Pine watershed plan was submitted to NRCS in March 2024, not 2023. The email also noted that the Deputy Chief of Programs had notified all watershed program managers the previous week that funding for the watershed programs is currently very low. As a result, the programs will be placed on a waitlist until additional funding becomes available. Grants Administrator Adams reported that the MNNRD still lacked the necessary matching funds from the federal government and had requested to move the activities planned for year two to year three.

Motion by Mr. Hellbusch, seconded by Mr. Quandahl, “I move to defund grant project 23-117.”

Discussion: Chair Christen questioned whether this project was being treated the same as other grant projects due to its quality. Concerns about MNNRD’s request to delay the implementation of the project were discussed.

Voting Aye: Kanger, Hellbusch, Quandahl, Andersen, Hansen, Christen.

Voting Nay: Bradley, Valentine, Vasko, Davidson, Helgoth

Abstaining: McCoy, Menefee

Absent: Vinton

6 Voted Aye. 5 Voted Nay, 2 Abstained. Motion carried.

b. Grant Extension – 23-127 – Village of Lindsay

Motion by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Andersen, "I move to approve the Village of Lindsay's request to extend project 23-127 for six months."

Discussion: None

Voting Aye: Menefee, Bradley, Valentine, Kanger, Hellbusch, Vasko, Davidson, Quandahl, Helgoth, Andersen, Hansen, McCoy, Christen

Absent: Vinton

13 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

9. Closeout Report of Grants

Background on the Closeout Report

Once a project contract has reached the end date, the grantee must submit a final report. NET staff reviews reports, disbursement requests, and project balances after the contract has ended. Before closing out projects in the Grants Portal, the staff creates a summary report for Board review regarding each grant's final status. Before this report is generated, the executive director reviews any grant project that has violated its contract and sends a written 15-day notice. If the grantee does not comply with the notice, the grant may be revoked, disbursements may be withheld, or the grantee may be required to reimburse the grantor. The final closeout report includes summary information for revoked grants.

Motion by Mr. Andersen, seconded by Ms. Menefee, "I move to approve the grant closeout report provided and presented by NET staff, for the closeout of the projects presented in the report."

Discussion: A concern was raised about unspent funding after the completion of grant projects. It was noted that inflationary increases and unknown landowner or public participation can affect the amount requested and what may remain after a project is completed. It is important for grantees to submit their reports on time and fulfill what is outlined in their grant application. Grantees are encouraged to manage their funding responsibly and are not penalized for not using all their appropriated funding. After the grant is closed, the remaining funding becomes available for future grant projects.

Voting Aye: Bradley, Valentine, Kanger, Hellbusch, Vasko, Davidson, Quandahl, Helgoth, Andersen, Hansen, McCoy, Menefee, Christen

Absent: Vinton

13 Voted Aye. Motion carried.

10. NET Policy, Grant Modification Requests

Background on Agenda Item 10

As a result of biennium budget preparations, additional historical and statutory reviews were conducted regarding the rollover of funding obligations for the NET. These reviews clarified the statutory limitations on requests for grant extensions. During the NET Board meeting on August 1, 2024, a motion to adopt additional policy language to make the limitations more accessible did not pass. During the discussion, there were questions about whether NET's statutes could be amended to permit funding extensions beyond the current or subsequent biennium, based on a case-by-case evaluation of the reasons for project delays.

Executive Director Elmshaeuser reported that further research indicates that the authority to reappropriate funding lies at the discretion of the Legislature as outlined in the legislative biennium and mid-biennium budget bills. The requirements to follow the Nebraska statutes remain without a NET policy change. It is unlikely that a NET project would be eligible for an extension resulting in a reappropriation request in the budget bill, nor would the necessary milestones coincide with the legislative process. Changing a NET statute to provide case-by-case authority to extend funds is outside the appropriation process.

11. Directors Report

a. Reviews of Annual Reports

Executive Director Elmshaeuser reported some general language issues in the annual reports for grant projects. Specific information on what was done and how it was done within the scope of

the application is needed. Generally, 80 to 90% of grantees stay on track with their project timeline. Any parameters outside the grant award come before the Board. Grants Administrator Adams noted some grant projects are completed quickly since they are for equipment purchases and installations. Approximately, thirty-five percent of the grant applicants this year have not applied for a grant in the last three or more years.

Thank you notes from grantees were shared with the Board.

12. Next Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2025, Telegraph Lofts West, 2077 N St, Suite 310, Lincoln, NE 68510, 1:30 p.m. A public hearing will be held to accept testimony on the proposed funding list for the 2025 grant cycle.

13. Adjourn

Chair Christen adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

Karl L. Elmshaeuser
Executive Director

Basic Grant Contract

NET Board Agenda Materials

Item #: 5

Object: To review and approve

Contact Person: Rod Christen, Karl Elmshaeuser

For: ACTION

Attachment: 12 pages

BACKGROUND

The former NET Trust 22 Committee worked with the former Center for Operational Excellence staff to improve NET processes. One of the improvements was to update the contractual grant requirements. This is now part of an annual review process of the contract terms.

EXPLANATION

Nebraska Administrative Code, Title 137, Chapter 8 – Grant Administration

001 After the Board takes action to award grants to specific projects, the Executive Director shall begin notification procedures. The Executive Director shall also prepare grant documents for disbursement in accordance with this Chapter.

001.01 Grant documents shall include a notice of grant award, a disbursement schedule, standard conditions and any special conditions all of which will be included in a grant agreement to be signed by the grantee.

002 The Executive Director shall prepare standard conditions applicable to all grants and shall have discretion to negotiate specific conditions within the limits of the intent specified by the Board.

PROPOSAL

The new basic grant contract is provided to the NET Board members. It incorporated the policy changes made by the NET Board at the May 2, 2024, meeting concerning real and personal property.

Recommended motion. "I move that the NET Board approves the standard conditions grant contract for grant awards and that the Executive Director shall have discretion to negotiate specific conditions as allowed in Title 137, Chapter 8."

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST GRANT CONTRACT

**Between the
Nebraska Environmental Trust
and
«Sponsor»**

Regarding the implementation of a grant proposal

«Project_Name»

NET Reference Number: «App_ID»

THIS GRANT AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) and «Sponsor» (Sponsor) in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 85-15,168 et. seq. the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act;

WHEREAS, the Sponsor applied to the NET for grant funds to facilitate completion of «Project_Name» («App_ID») (the Project), pursuant to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act, and

WHEREAS, following evaluation of the application and any attachments, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board approved a grant of up to «Year_1» the Sponsor, subject to available funds and appropriations.

WHEREAS, the Sponsor agrees to comply with all provisions of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 85-15,168 et. seq., Nebraska Administrative Code Title 137, Rules and Regulations Governing Activities of the Nebraska Environmental Trust (Title 137), pertinent provisions of the Adopted Policies of the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the terms of this Agreement, and

WHEREAS, Sponsor intends to use the funds as set out in this Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties do hereby agree to the terms and requirements of this Agreement as follows:

I. TERM OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement will begin on the date it is executed by NET and will remain in effect until all identified tasks are completed for this Project unless terminated under this Agreement, but will not remain in effect past «Project_End_Date» (Project End Date). The Grant Period shall be the time between the execution of this Agreement by the NET and the Project End Date. No funds will be released until the start of the Grant Period, and all prerequisites of the NET Letter of Approval have been satisfied. All required activities and services, except for submission of final reports, administration, and audit, must be completed by or before the Project End Date. The provisions of this Agreement that survive the Project End Date include items that have a greater longevity (i.e. depreciation of personal property, easements, final report).

No assignment or transfer of this Agreement or any part hereof, rights hereunder, or interest herein by the Sponsor shall be valid unless and until it is approved by the NET and made subject to reasonable terms and conditions as the NET may impose.

II. AMOUNT OF GRANT AND BUDGET OUTLINE

The Sponsor will be awarded up to «Year_1» (Project Costs) to accomplish the Project.

1. BUDGET OUTLINE AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE. The final budget outline and disbursement schedule, whether it was submitted with the application or revised at the request of the NET is made part of this Agreement. The Sponsor is required to stay within the submitted budget categories. Any changes to the limit of a budget category requires a contract amendment. NET will not reimburse Sponsor for any expenditures that occur prior to the Grant Period.

If the project was a multi-year application, the NET Board approved funds for additional years. Each year of funding is subject to the prior year's project performance and milestone completion. Rollover funds from one year to the next will be evaluated based on grant performance and are not guaranteed.

- a. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. The NET limits the amount of General Administrative Expense for a grant. Costs that are administrative in nature but are in direct support of a project activity should be charged to the project activity and not to General Administration. General Administration costs relate to administration of the grant and project file. General Administration Expenses shall mean those expenses related to overall administration, including (but not limited to) salaries, wages, employer's share of social security and Medicare taxes, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, and employer-provided health, dental, or vision insurance premiums of Sponsor staff or others engaged in grant management, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. General Administration Expenses shall not exceed 5% of Project Costs or \$10,000, whichever is less.

The following limits apply to reimbursements for General Administrative Expenses: wages, per employee, shall be limited to a 40-hour work week; the employer's share of social security taxes and Medicare taxes on wages shall be limited to 7.65% of gross wages; the employer's share of employer-provided health, dental, or vision insurance premiums, which shall not exceed the actual cost or up to \$5.00 per hour in total, whichever is less.

- b. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.
 - 1) Personnel Expenses: submit a copy of the paycheck stub or payroll record showing hourly rate and hours worked, date and location. Submit a copy of Federal Form 941 if requesting reimbursement of the employer's share of social security and Medicare taxes or other proof of taxes paid.
 - 2) Supply and Operating Expenses: submit a copy of the detailed invoice or receipt.
 - 3) Travel Expense: submit a copy of the detailed, itemized receipt for food, hotel, and public transportation expenses. Submit a log for mileage for reimbursement

of business miles with date, starting and ending location, miles traveled and purpose for the travel.

- 4) Contractual Expenses: submit a copy of the detailed invoice and image of the cancelled check or proof of payment acceptable to NET.
 - 5) Personal Property Expenses: submit a copy of the detailed invoice (listing make, model, and serial number of item) and image of the cancelled check or proof of payment acceptable to NET.
 - 6) Matching Cash: submit a detailed list of expenses and calculations used for cash match.
 - 7) Telephone: submit a copy of the detailed bill; landline telephone, cell phone services, and internet are reimbursable only if the service contract is billed to the Sponsor.
2. MATCHING FUNDS. Matching funds, as identified in the application, shall be proportionally injected into the Project as NET funded activities are drawn down. Matching funds are cash match. The NET may waive this requirement for some or all of the Project upon a written request by the Sponsor.
3. NON-REIMBURSABLE PERSONNEL EXPENSES. The following personnel expenses will not be reimbursed with grant funds: Actual wages in excess of a 40-hour work week; health, dental, and vision insurance costs over \$5.00 per hour, limited to a 40-hour work week.

Non-reimbursable personnel costs that cannot be used as match: life insurance costs; retirement account contributions; tuition or higher education paid as an employee benefit; a payout for unused sick or vacation leave; indirect costs as a percentage of gross wages; any bonuses.

If Sponsor uses indirect costs as a cash match to the grant, the NET will not reimburse costs for office rent, utilities, phone, internet, printing, etc.

4. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS. Not allowed.
5. FEDERAL RATE REIMBURSEMENT. Same-day meals and lodging expenses are not permitted for reimbursement. Travel must be at least two days (overnight) and the destination at least 60 miles from the workplace to be eligible for reimbursement. Reimbursement for meals and lodging for overnight travel will be reimbursed at the actual cost of said expenses except that this reimbursement shall be capped at the Federal rate per meal for food and per day for lodging. Alcohol reimbursement is prohibited.

Mileage may be reimbursed for both same-day and overnight travel at the current standard IRS mileage rate. Travel logs are required, which include the following information: starting point and destination, number of miles driven, and purpose of the trip.

Automobile rentals, airfares, and taxi/shuttle transportation will be reimbursed at the actual reasonable cost. A bank card receipt that displays only the total cost of the transportation expense is not sufficient documentation.

6. REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FORMS. To request payment of allowable expenses, the Sponsor must submit a request for payment in the manner and form prescribed by the NET. Paid invoices that are over 180 days old at the time of the reimbursement request will not be allowed. The Sponsor has 90 days from the Project End Date to submit a final reimbursement request with an invoice incurred before the Project End Date.
7. RETAINAGE. NET reserves the right to retain a portion of each requested reimbursement in an amount or percentage determined by NET.
8. UNAUTHORIZED EXPENSES. Sponsor will not be reimbursed for unauthorized expenditures, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Recognition expenses such as prizes, plaques, awards, certificates, or trophies.
 - (b) Late fees on invoices.
 - (c) Promotional items of clothing and/or accessory items (ex: hats, t-shirts, jackets, etc.) will be eligible for reimbursement, provided the purchase is proposed in the original grant application and the purpose is clearly defined for public environmental benefit. Reimbursement for the purchase of any clothing and/or accessory item is limited to \$500 per grantee per grant year.

III. WORK DESCRIPTION AND SCHEDULE

This Project shall complete objectives and work items as described in the Project application, which by this reference are made part of this Agreement.

IV. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. REIMBURSEMENT ONLY. NET operates using a reimbursement process only. Prospective payments, advances, or early payments are prohibited. Bills which would become due and owing after the term of this Agreement or payment for memberships, services, or contracts which extend beyond the term of this Agreement are prohibited. Any funds remaining at the Project End Date will be returned or retained by NET. Funds shall be disbursed to the grantee no more than once per month in accordance with the grant agreement as per Title 137.
2. STATUTES AND REGULATIONS. The Sponsor will comply with all local, state, and federal statutes, rules, regulations, ordinances, and orders applicable to Sponsor. Sponsor shall acquire, obtain, or receive all state and Federal licenses and/or permits required by law prior to initiation of the Project. Violation of this condition will be considered a breach of this Agreement and be subject to penalties or termination as set forth in this Agreement.
3. FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION. If Sponsor provides false or misleading information, or withholds material facts during the application, administration, or reporting process in any way,

it will be considered a breach of this Agreement, and be subject to penalties or termination as set forth in this Agreement.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. Sponsor represents that all legal requirements have been or can be met prior to allocation or disbursement of funds pursuant to Title 137.
5. NO OBLIGATION OF NET. Sponsor acknowledges that NET is not obligated to make additional grants beyond this Project, and that the award of this grant does not bind the NET, its Board, or Grants Committee to award similar grants to the Sponsor in the future.
6. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. The Sponsor is and will perform this Agreement as an independent contractor, and as such will have and maintain exclusive control over all of its employees, agents, and operations. Neither the Sponsor nor any person employed by the Sponsor shall act, propose to act or be deemed the NET's agent, representative or employee.
 - a. The Sponsor assumes full and exclusive responsibility for the payment of all premiums, contributions, payroll taxes, and other taxes now or hereafter required by any law or regulation.
 - b. The Sponsor and any contractor or subcontractor will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and orders, including but not limited to, those relating to social security, unemployment compensation, OSHA, affirmative action, equal employment opportunity, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - c. The Sponsor and any contractor or subcontractor of the Sponsor is required to use the EVerify Program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324a to determine the work eligibility status of newly hired employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska.
 - d. The Sponsor, by executing this Agreement, certifies and assures that the Sponsor and any contractor or subcontractor operates a drug-free workplace as addressed in the State of Nebraska Drug-Free Workplace Policy of February 9, 2017.
 - e. The Sponsor and any contractor or subcontractor will comply with the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act.
7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST. The Sponsor certifies that it will not employ or utilize any individual or entity known by the Sponsor to have a conflict of interest. The Sponsor certifies that there does not now exist any relationship between the Sponsor and any person or entity which gives the appearance of a conflict of interest. Any new, undiscovered, or undisclosed conflicts of interest arising during the duration of this Agreement may be considered a breach of this Agreement and be subject to penalties or termination as set forth in this Agreement.
8. RELATED PARTIES. Transactions between the Sponsor and related parties must be disclosed to the NET if grant funds will be used for reimbursement of the transaction or the transaction will be counted towards the Sponsor's match. NET may deny reimbursement or reject as match if Sponsor:
 - 1) Fails to receive NET approval prior to incurring expense, or

- 2) Does not include a bid from the related party as part of the grant application.
 - 3) Non-disclosed funding partner in application and/or duplication of grant.
9. RECOGNITION. Sponsor agrees to recognize funding from the NET on all published materials and news releases related to its NET funded project or activities. The NET may also require that personal property partially or wholly funded with grant dollars be identified by a decal or other means provided by the NET acknowledging the source of funding. Sponsor agrees to NET's disclosure of the Sponsor's name, project name and description.
 10. PUBLICATION. All parties shall have publication and reproduction rights for all reports and materials which are produced as a result of this Agreement.
 11. INSURANCE. The Sponsor must provide NET proof of coverage under an insurance policy which covers the NET's investment in personal property with a purchase value greater than \$5,000 or any real property.
 12. SITE INSPECTIONS. NET staff or its designee may schedule visits during the Grant Period and, if applicable, throughout the estimated useful life of personal property, real property, easements or improvements purchased with grant funds. Sponsor will comply with requests for information and grant access for inspection of all grant funded activities to NET or its designee.
 13. NET GRANT FUNDS. NET grant funds cannot be used to offset costs when bidding for services for any other grant funded activities. NET grant funds cannot be used as matching funds for another NET grant, or another grant funded in part by NET.
 14. CLAWBACK. If the NET determines, at any time prior to or following expiration of this Agreement, that the Sponsor has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, it may terminate this Agreement and take action to recover NET contributions to the Project in addition to other penalties as set forth in this Agreement.
 15. OPERATIONS. All operation, replacement, and maintenance of the Project components shall be carried out and applied in such a manner so as to accomplish the purposes of the Project as set forth in the Sponsor's application and associated materials, including any amendments thereto which have been approved by the NET, for the useful life of the Project.
 16. ENGINEERING. The Sponsor will provide for and maintain competent and adequate architectural and engineering supervision and inspection at any construction site as appropriate to ensure that the completed work conforms substantially in accordance with the proposed plans and specifications, according to accepted standards and practices.
 17. APPLICABILITY TO SUBGRANTEE AND CONTRACTORS. All provisions of this Agreement including but not limited to Section IV (6), will be made binding on any subgrantee or contractor of the Sponsor. The Sponsor will, nonetheless, remain fully obligated under the provisions of this Agreement. Any such subgrantee or contractor of the Sponsor must be authorized to transact business in the State of Nebraska. All subgrantees and contractors are expected to comply with all Nebraska Secretary of State and Department of Revenue registration requirements, including any registration requirements pertaining to types of business entities (e.g. sole proprietorship, partnership, foreign/domestic limited liability company, association, or foreign/domestic

corporation). Construction contractors are expected to meet all applicable requirements of the Nebraska Contractor Registration Act and provide a current, valid certificate of registration to the Sponsor for its records. Upon request of the NET, the Sponsor must submit copies of written agreements executed between the Sponsor and any subgrantees or contractors relating to the Project.

18. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. If the Project results in any copyrightable material or inventions, the NET and/or the State of Nebraska reserves the right to a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use and/or authorize others to use the work, data collected, or materials for governmental purposes.
19. ANTI-LOBBYING. To the best of the Sponsor's knowledge and belief, no funds have been paid or will be paid, nor will any gifts be presented by or on behalf of the Sponsor to any person or business for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence an officer, Board member or employee of the NET, any Nebraska State agency, a State Senator, or other employee of the State of Nebraska in connection with the awarding of any NET grant or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any NET contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
20. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this contract or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity will not affect other provisions of this contract.
21. HOLD HARMLESS. The Sponsor agrees to hold the State of Nebraska, the NET and its Board, officers, agents, and employees harmless from any and all claims, demands, damages, leases, costs, expenses, liability, and actions based upon or arising out of any activities or services performed by the Sponsor or by its officials, officers, employees, agents, subgrantees, or associates.
22. SURVIVAL. The following terms of this Agreement shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement: Section IV paragraphs 2-3, 9-12, 14-15, 18, 20-23, Section V paragraphs 1, 2c, and all of Section VI except paragraph 1c.
23. GOVERNING LAW, VENUE, AND MODIFICATIONS. Nebraska law shall govern the interpretation and enforcement of this Agreement. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement contains the entire agreement between them, supersedes any prior agreements and conversations, and may not be modified except by written agreement signed by all parties. The parties agree that the Nebraska District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska is the proper venue for the resolution of any disputes regarding this Agreement.
24. DEBARMENT. The Sponsor certifies by signing this Agreement that neither the Sponsor nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any federal or state department or agency from participating in transactions. The Sponsor shall include the above requirements in any and all subcontracts into which it enters. The Sponsor shall immediately notify the NET if, during the term of this Agreement, the Sponsor becomes debarred.

25. HISTORIC PRESERVATION. The Sponsor shall undertake at its own expense any action that may be required to determine the presence of cultural resources and to undertake any subsequent measures which may be required to ensure the preservation of such resources which may be discovered. The Sponsor agrees to comply with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, where historic structures are determined to exist on any site where NET funds are expended.
26. THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES. The Sponsor shall undertake at its own expense any action that may be required to ensure compliance with the Nongame and Endangered Species Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 37-801 et. seq.

V. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS OF THE SPONSOR

1. FINANCIAL REPORTS, ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RECORDS AND REQUEST FOR DISBURSEMENT. The Sponsor shall submit properly documented statements of costs for which grant funds are sought, pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, for approved grant activities in a manner and form prescribed by the NET. Proper documentation shall be considered to be copies of invoices containing the name and address of the vendor and an itemized list of services or goods with costs and the date of service or delivery. These statements and reports shall be signed by the Project representative of the Sponsor.

The NET will reimburse the Sponsor for these costs following receipt of the statements and reports specified in this section, subject to conditions contained in this section, and elsewhere in this Agreement.

The NET or its agents will have full access to and the right to examine, audit, excerpt, and/or transcribe any of the Sponsor's records pertaining to all matters covered by this Agreement. The Sponsor shall transfer records pertinent to this grant and work undertaken as part of the Project to the NET or its agents upon request.

Financial records, supporting documents and all other records pertinent to this grant shall be retained for a period of three years following notification from the NET Board that the grant has been officially closed, except the records shall be retained beyond the three-year period if audit findings have not been resolved.

2. PROJECT PROGRESS AND ACTIVITY REPORTS. The Sponsor agrees to provide periodic reports in a manner and form prescribed by the NET including a narrative description of all Project activities, participants, outcomes, variances, and deviations from the Project application according to the below schedule. Sponsor must include a statement on the continued payment of property taxes or payments in lieu of property taxes on any NET project.
 - a. Quarterly Reports. The Sponsor agrees to file such statements and reports according to the following schedule:

| PROJECT PERIOD | REPORT DUE DATE |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | |

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| FROM INCEPTION THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 | October 31, 2025 |
| FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025 | January 30, 2026 |
| FROM JANUARY 1, 2026, THROUGH MARCH 31, 2026 | April 30, 2026 |
| FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026 | July 30, 2026 |

- b. Annual Reports. Sponsor shall submit an annual report to NET on July 30 of each year in a form and manner prescribed by NET.
- c. Final Report. A final report is due 30 days after the completion or termination of the Agreement. This report must include a summary of the activities, partners, and results of the Project from inception to completion and include all matching contributions. This final report must also include quantifying results and statistics about the Project's success.

All financial reports, requests for reimbursement, progress and activity reports are deemed filed or submitted when properly uploaded to the NET Grant Portal.

VI. PERSONAL PROPERTY, CONTRACTUAL SERVICES, AND REAL ESTATE PROVISIONS

- 1. PERSONAL PROPERTY. The Sponsor will report to the NET all personal property purchased with full or partial funding in a manner and form prescribed by the NET. The Sponsor will identify by year, make, model, and serial number if available, such personal property as purchased with NET funding in the Sponsor's inventory of the personal property. Personal property and other personal property purchased with grant funding shall be used only for the purposes of the Project during the grant project.
 - a. Bids. For any purchase of personal property valued at \$5,000 or more, or purchases of services valued at \$20,000 or more, the Sponsor is required to obtain at least 3 (three) bids for personal property or services, for which more than one vendor is available. Specifications shall be drawn such that it will be possible for three or more manufacturers, vendors, or suppliers to submit competitive bids.

The Sponsor must accept the lowest reasonable bid when products are substantially equivalent. If Sponsor provides adequate justification, as determined by the NET, why the lowest bid is unacceptable, the NET may approve the selection of a higher bid.

The Sponsor will provide the names of bidders to the NET at the time a request for reimbursement is submitted. Such bids shall be held in the Sponsor's files for three (3) years.

- b. Insurance. The Sponsor agrees to purchase and maintain property insurance at its own expense to insure all personal property valued at \$5,000 or more which is purchased in whole or in part with funds received from the NET. This insurance shall include "all risk" insurance for physical loss or damage including, without duplication of coverage, theft, vandalism, and malicious mischief. Such insurance shall be maintained on all such personal property in an amount equal to the replacement value of the personal property during the grant project. The Sponsor shall name the NET beneficiary of the policy and shall assure that proof of coverage shall be kept current. Evidence of current coverage will be provided annually to the NET office by the Sponsor. Upon request for reimbursement the Sponsor will provide the NET with the policy of insurance for personal property purchased, in whole or in part, with funds received from the NET.
- c. Personal Property Usage. Personal property will be used only for Project purposes throughout the grant project. Sponsor will make effective and efficient use of the personal property.
 - a. If personal property is used for a purpose that is not approved, or the Sponsor fails to make effective and efficient use of the personal property throughout the grant project, the NET may:
 - i. Require the Sponsor to repay all or a portion of the grant used to reimburse for the purchase of the personal property as determined by the NET,
 - ii. Decline reimbursement for other, unrelated approved expenses in an amount up to the grant funds used for personal property purchase, or
 - iii. Require the Sponsor to surrender the personal property to the NET.
 - 1. Sponsor must store surrendered personal property safely until the NET can arrange for the personal property to be redistributed.
 - 2. Sponsor must complete all paperwork required for transfer of surrendered personal property.
 - b. Personal property Maintenance. The Sponsor is responsible for all necessary and reasonable maintenance of personal property and may be held liable by the NET for any loss, damage, neglect, or unreasonable deterioration of the personal property throughout the grant project.
 - c. Personal property Liens. The NET will maintain first lien status on all redistributed personal property and personal property purchased, in whole or in part, with grant funds, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director. Length of lien on redistributed personal property and personal property

purchased with grant funds shall correspond to the useful life of the personal property.

- d. Ownership Interest. The NET maintains an ownership interest in all personal property during its useful life. The Sponsor shall notify the NET when a piece of personal property reaches the end of its useful life. The Sponsor will gain unrestricted ownership after the useful life period expires unless Sponsor was required to surrender the personal property.
 - e. Personal Property Disposition. The Sponsor shall not sell, transfer, lease, exchange, or encumber personal property purchased with grant funds throughout its useful life without first notifying and receiving written approval from the NET. Funds realized from the sale of personal property will revert to the NET in an amount congruent with the percentage of funding provided by the NET for purchase of the personal property.
2. REAL ESTATE. Real estate includes, but is not limited to, land acquisitions, easements, or improvements. Sponsor shall abide by the NET Land Acquisition/Easement Policy. Sponsor shall provide continued access to the properties affected by this Agreement for periodic reviews and visits, annual accounting reports on NET funded real estate, and proof of annual tax payments. The NET must also be notified in writing of any plans to sell, lease, transfer, exchange, mortgage, or encumber the property. The Sponsor will be required to obtain written NET approval for any such transaction and negotiate the terms of the transaction with the NET (which may include partial or whole repayment of the grant). If Sponsor receives a grant from NET for the purchase of real property and subsequently sells or otherwise transfers an ownership interest in such real property, Sponsor shall repay to NET the amount of the grant used to purchase the real property.

VII. TERMINATION OR AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT PRIOR TO PROJECT END DATE

The Sponsor understands and agrees that failure to comply with any of the terms of this Agreement may result in the revocation or cancellation of NET approval and funding and/or a demand for repayment of any funds previously paid to the Sponsor by the NET.

The NET may terminate the Project, in whole or in part, at any time before the expiration date of this Agreement whenever the NET determines that the Sponsor has failed to comply with the conditions herein. The Executive Director of the NET will promptly notify the Sponsor in writing of the determination and the reasons for the termination, together with the effective date as stated in Title 137.

By mutual agreement, the Project may be terminated, modified or amended. When both parties agree to terminate the Agreement, in whole or in part, the parties will agree upon the termination conditions, including the effective date, and in the case of a partial termination, the portion to be terminated. The

Sponsor shall not incur new obligations for the terminated portion after the effective date and shall cancel as many outstanding obligations as possible.

[Separate Signature Page follows]

SPONSOR («Sponsor»)

I attest that I am authorized to sign this Agreement on behalf of the Sponsor and that all representations in the application, attachments, and exhibits submitted by Sponsor in connection with this grant are true and correct.

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

By: _____
NET Executive Director

Date: _____

By: _____
NET Board Chair

Date: _____

**Grants Committee Report and Recommendations; Award of 2025 Grants
NET Board Agenda Materials**

Item #: 6

Object: To Award Grants for the 2025 Grant Cycle

Contact Person: Jeff Kanger, Karl Elmshaeuser

For: ACTION

Attachment: 2 pages

BACKGROUND

The Grants Committee consists of six members of the NET Board. The Chairman position rotates each year by Congressional District. One member from each Congressional District and two Agency Directors are required. These members are appointed every August by the incoming Chairman of the NET Board.

At the May 2, 2024, NET Board Meeting, following a public hearing, the Board adopted a new Project Ranking System for the 2025 grant round.

The Grants Committee reviewed 66 applications for eligibility, determined 57 projects were eligible, scored eligible projects, and developed recommendations for funding.

EXPLANATION

The Nebraska Environmental Trust received 66 applications submitted by the September 3, 2024, deadline. The NET Grants Committee met on September 9, 2024, to review the eligibility and scoring process. The Committee met again on October 22, 2024, to develop a recommendation of eligible projects.

At the November 7, 2024, NET Board Meeting, the Board approved the Grants Committee's eligibility recommendations, moving 57 projects to scoring.

The Grants Committee members independently reviewed the applications, including the applicant's answers to each of the scoring criteria, reviewed the applicable standard, then made a scoring determination on each criterion.

On December 5, 2024, the Grants Committee developed their recommendations for funding. The Committee recommends funding projects with a minimum average score of 29.76 points or higher. Some of the projects had reduced recommended funding amounts due to limitation set on project administration expenses.

- **Rank Order Listing** – The projects are presented in rank order by rated score, including a recommendation for funding amounts. - Pages 6-1 through 6-2.

2025 Grants Committee Recommendations for Funding

| Rating | App ID | Project Sponsor | Project Name | Term of Request | Recommended Year 1 | Recommended Year 2 | Recommended Year 3 | Total Amount Recommended |
|--------|--------|---|---|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 | \$ 195,834.00 | \$ 96,833.00 | \$ 86,333.00 | \$ 379,000.00 |
| 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 | \$ 158,834.00 | \$ 93,233.00 | \$ 87,033.00 | \$ 339,100.00 |
| 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 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 62,054.00 |
| 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 |

2025 Grants Committee Recommendations for Funding

| Rating | App ID | Project Sponsor | Project Name | Term of Request | Recommended Year 1 | Recommended Year 2 | Recommended Year 3 | Total Amount Recommended |
|--------|--------|---|--|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 |
| 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 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 29.50 | 25-152 | Lincoln/Lancaster County Habitat for Humanity | ReStore Waste Diversion Project | 3 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 29.33 | 25-123 | Heritage Elementary Parent Teacher Organization | Heritage Elementary Outdoor Classroom | 1 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 29.17 | 25-141 | Keep Columbus Beautiful Inc. | 23rd Street Streetscaping Project | 1 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 29.17 | 25-146 | The Nature Conservancy | Increasing Habitat Impact on Conservation Lands | 2 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 28.83 | 25-148 | Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory dba Bird Conservancy of the Rockies | Prairie Stewards: Engaging the Next Generation in Habitat Conservation | 2 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 28.17 | 25-136 | Sargent Irrigation District | Canal Automation Project | 1 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 28.17 | 25-162 | City of Omaha | City of Omaha Sewer Maintenance Facility Bioretention Cell Study | 2 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 28.00 | 25-108 | Crane Trust | EVALUATING 25 YEARS OF SLOUGH RESTORATION USING BIOLOGICAL INDICATORS | 2 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 27.17 | 25-105 | Village of Mullen | New bobcat | 1 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 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 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| | | | | | | | Total Amount Recommended | \$ 15,387,280.00 |