



For Immediate Release

Nebraska Environmental Trust Invites Comments on 2020 Board Recommendation Rank Order List

At its meeting in Lincoln on February 4, 2020, the Board of the Nebraska Environmental Trust revised the Grant Committee's Recommendations for Funding Placed in Rank Order.

The Board of the Nebraska Environmental Trust chose to increase funding to the project submitted by Green Plains Inc. and Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy for the Nebraska Renewable Fuels & Air Quality Program (20-137). This grant application seeks to provide a 50% cost match in the installation of bio-fuel ethanol blender pumps. The total increase is \$1,851,891.00 over three years. These funds became available by shifting funding from five other projects.

In a 7-2-2 vote, the board approved a motion that was made to revise the Grant Committee's recommendations. This modification of the Grant Committee's recommendation was made under the Trust's Title 137 Rules and Regulations, specifically Chapter 6.005 and 8.005.

The motion de-funds the following projects from the Grants Committee's Recommendations For Funding Placed In Rank Order that was first published on the Trust website on January 23, 2020.

The grants affected are:

Grant Number	Applicant	Project Name	Total Amount De-funded Over 3 years
20-178	Ducks Unlimited	Restoring Wetlands of the North Platte River Valley	\$ 201,000

20-181	Ducks Unlimited	Platte River Watershed Conservation	\$ 536,331
20-214	Ducks Unlimited	Eastern Rainwater Basins Environmental and Habitat Improvement	\$ 97,050
20-112	City of Lincoln	Eastern Saline Wetlands Project - 2020	\$ 900,000
20-119	Nebraska Land Trust	Pines and Buttes/Kreman Ranch Protection Project	\$117,510
		Total:	\$ 1,851,891

With the revision that was approved by the Board, the Trust will now be funding 73 new projects and 45 carry-over projects for a total of \$20,000,000 in grant awards for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. This is the 26th year of grants from the Trust, which has provided over 320 million dollars in lottery proceeds to preserve and protect the air, water and land in all 93 counties in Nebraska. The Trust has done an extensive amount of natural resource work in Nebraska since 1993.

As part of the grant making process, the Trust is seeking public input on the proposed grants before voting on the final awards at their April 2, 2020 board meeting. A revised list of all recommended grants and project information is available on the Trust website at: <https://environmentaltrust.org>

Written public comments will be accepted until April 1, 2020 at the Nebraska Environmental Trust, P.O. Box 94913, Lincoln NE 68509-4913 or via email at: marilyn.tabor@nebraska.gov. Please include your name, address and organizations (if applicable) and be sure to reference the project name and number in your correspondence. Comments can also be presented in person during a public hearing on April 2, 2020. The meeting begins at 1:30 pm at the Ferguson House, 700 South 16th Street, Lincoln NE.

The Nebraska Legislature created the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 1992. Using the revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided grants to over 2,337 projects across the state. Anyone can apply –conservation organizations, communities, businesses and individuals that want to protect Nebraska’s natural habitat, improve water quality and quantity or find ways to manage our waste. The Nebraska Environmental Trust works to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources for future generations.

For more information, you may contact Ms Sheila Johnson at 402-471-1714.

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