



For Immediate Release

Recent Board Member Appointments To Nebraska Environmental Trust Board

The following members were appointed or re-appointed to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board recently by Governor Pete Ricketts.

Rod Christen of Steinauer was re-appointed for another term from 3/11/2021 - 3/10/2027. Mr. Christen was first appointed to the Board in March of 2009 by Governor Heineman and has now served on the Board for almost 12 years representing District 3. He was a recipient of the 2007 Leopold Conservation Award and the 2008 Nebraska Land Stewardship Award presented by the Partnership for All Bird Conservation as a result of wildlife friendly practices and land stewardship.

Also re-appointed to the Board was Mr. Jim Hellbusch of Columbus who was re-appointed for a second term to represent District 1. Mr. Hellbusch was first appointed to the Board in March 2015 by Governor Ricketts. His appointment runs from 3/11/2021 - 3/10/2027. Mr. Hellbusch owns Duo Lift, a company that manufactures wagon lifts to enhance farming operations. Today, Duo-Lift manufactures one of the largest lines of fertilizer trailers and running gears in the country and is known throughout the industry as a manufacturer of high quality equipment with special emphasis on safety.

Mr. Mark Quandahl of Omaha who replaced Mr. Bob Krohn in September of 2020 also received his re-appointment to the Board in December. He represents District 2 and will serve from 3/11/2021 - 3/10/27. He served as the State's Director of Banking and Finance for over five years. Mr. Quandahl is a former Nebraska State Senator (Chairman of Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee), former Nebraska State Board of Education member and a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association.

A new appointment to the Trust is Mr. Josh Anderson of Edgar. Mr Andersen will serve from 1/12/2021 - 3/10/2025. He replaces Sherry Vinton from District 3.

The Trust Board is comprised of 14 members representing the State of Nebraska and its citizens. Nine citizen representatives are appointed by the Governor to serve six year terms. Three representatives are chosen from each congressional district, serve without pay and represent a wide variety of natural resource interests. Five agency directors make up the remaining seats on the board to provide coordination with existing state resources. A staff of five handles the day-to-day activities of the organization.

The Nebraska Legislature created the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 1992. Using revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided more than \$328 million in grants to over 2,300 projects across the state. Anyone – citizens, organizations, communities, farmers and businesses – can apply for funding to protect habitat, improve water quality and establish recycling programs in Nebraska. 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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