

# RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

## November 2020

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### Executive Director Corner

It is hard to believe Thanksgiving is already here and Christmas is just around the corner. I'm sure many of you can't wait for 2020 to end and are hoping for a more normal 2021. COVID-19 continues to plague the country, but it appears there are at least two vaccines getting close to distribution. Experts are saying it may be late spring or early summer before anyone who is not high risk or a front-line worker and wants a shot can get one. Over the weekend the U.S. virus cases passed 11 million and just under 250,000 deaths.

The Grants Committee has begun their work reviewing and ranking the 2021 applications. As always, there are some very interesting projects and a lot of great things happening across the State. You can read a 200 word summary of all the new grants on our website under "2021 Application Summary Booklet". The first Grants Committee meeting was held November 5<sup>th</sup> and the next meeting will be December 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Trust Board met November 4<sup>th</sup> to correct a ballot vote that was taken at the June 11, 2020, meeting. The board also met November 5<sup>th</sup>, for the regular 4<sup>th</sup> quarter



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Pete Ricketts, Governor  
Board of Trustees

### District I

Jeff Kanger (Chair) - Lincoln

James Hellbusch - Columbus

John Orr - Blair

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### District II

Felix B. Davidson - Valley

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Mark Quandahl - Omaha

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### District III

board meeting. The next board meeting will be the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter board meeting, February 2, 2021.

Tom Riley became the Director of Nebraska's Department of Natural Resources on November 1<sup>st</sup> and so automatically became the newest board member of the Trust. Tom was the President of the Flatwater Group, a firm in Lincoln and Imperial specializing in water and environmental engineering.

Husker football fans finally got a win, the first win in 357 days. Let's hope the Huskers can continue that winning streak over the next several weeks as we face an Illinois team that we should be able to beat followed by a tough Iowa team that has been very inconsistent this season. The one statistic that is really bothering me, the Huskers have been outscored 59-6 in the second half of games this season. We are going to have to play four full quarters to beat teams like Iowa and Minnesota. I think the game has gotten into Martinez's head and we may have to finish the season with McCafferty. I think McCafferty can do it and I hope Martinez can see some playing time and get back to the way he played as a freshman. Husker volleyball is off till spring and who knows what basketball, baseball and softball will look like. I see the Big 10 media have picked Nebraska men's basketball to finish 13<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams, so it might be a tough season for the fans.

Stay safe, practice social distancing, avoid crowds and wash your hands often.

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

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Sherry Vinton - Whitman

Rodney Christen - Steinauer

Quentin Bowen - Humboldt

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#### Agency Directors

Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game and  
Parks Commission

Steve Wellman, Nebraska  
Department of Agriculture

Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of  
Environment & Energy

Tom Riley P.E., Director, Nebraska  
Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Gary Anthonie, Nebraska  
Department of Health and Human  
Services

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#### Trust Staff

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

Holly Adams  
Grants Administrator

Sheila Johnson  
Public Information Officer

Pam Deines  
Administrative Secretary



*Spreading Wood Chips on The Main Structure*

### **Middle Niobrara NRD LPCW Restoration Overview**

Through Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) funding, the Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District (MNNRD) along with a willing landowner in the Long Pine Creek Watershed (LPCW), and JEO Consulting Group, successfully implemented the SD14 Rehabilitation Project located on Sand Draw Creek, Brown County, NE. The SD14 Rehabilitation Project is a two-tiered engineered rock riffle structure system consisting of two rock riprap structures and bank stabilization. This project addressed channel head cutting, runoff issues, excess sediment and erosion, channelizing, downcutting, and loss of aquatic habitat.

JEO Consulting Group completed the overall project planning, pre-liminary and final design, and approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) through USACE's 404-permit. Buer Bulldozing Inc. Valentine, NE, began construction on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Buer Bulldozing experienced some weather-related setbacks off and on but were able to finish the project by the beginning of May 2020. MNNRD staff, MNNRD Board of Directors, Landowner, Buer Bulldozing Inc., and JEO Consulting Group held a final walk through on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. After rock clean up, equipment removal, seeding, and woody biomass utilization were addressed, the project was officially completed by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

[Position Vacant]  
Grants Assistant

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Environmental Trust

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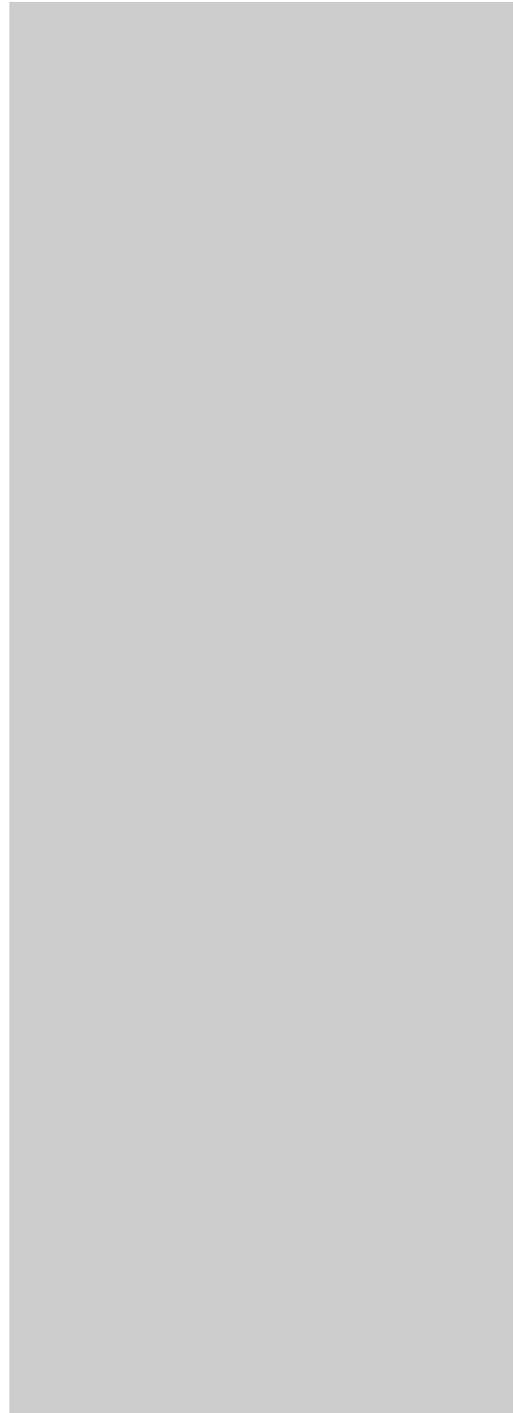
<https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov>

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the MNNRD held a public project viewing on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 where several landowners came and looked at the SD14 Rehabilitation Project. The MNNRD staff re-seeded native grass with a no-till drill and broadcasting/raking as well as cutting, hauling, chipping, and spreading wood chips along the banks, on top of the banks, and trail roads utilizing a manure spreader.

NET funds were used to hire a consulting firm, contractor, and provided the opportunity to do a large-scale project that is so vital to the LPCW, especially Sand Draw Creek. This project will help address major resource concerns on Sand Draw Creek that are causing issues throughout the entire LPCW. Along with NET funds, the MNNRD, through their Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), obtained funds through Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) 319 Water Quality Grant which were used during the planning phase. LPCW Restoration project has become a large-scale partnership with Brown County Commissioners, Ainsworth Irrigation District, NGPC, STF, USFWS, NRCS, and most importantly, the local landowners.

The MNNRD has created a great working relationship with NET who has been an outstanding organization to work with and making it possible to make a project like this so successful.

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*Photo taken by Susan Payne, Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska Public Relations Specialist of the project*

### **Girl Scouts' Camp Catron to begin Walnut Creek restoration project**

*Agencies invest in restoration to save wildlife, provide educational opportunities for girls*

Nebraska City, a biological and aquatic ecosystem at Camp Catron damaged by high rainfall and flooding will undergo repairs in November, funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund and the Nemaha Natural Resources District.

At Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska's Camp Catron, Walnut Creek serves as a demonstration site for aquatic and woodland environmental studies, in addition to a lifeline for several at-risk species that live

on the property. Until recently, the banks of the creek gradually sloped, allowing easy access for environmental programs. Now, the cliff-like banks of the creek have made access unsafe, keeping Girl Scouts from exploring the ecosystem.

Restoring the banks will guarantee essential habitat for at-risk species such as the pileated woodpecker, northern leopard frog, yellow-billed cuckoo and tufted titmouse; as well as many other invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, bats and mammals.

To restore and preserve the creek and adjacent woodlands, Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska received a \$45,000 grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund and secured a \$12,000 partnership with the Nemaha NRD.

In Girl Scouts, authentic challenges in nature teach girls to become more self-aware, cooperate, communicate and solve problems more effectively. At a time when girls are increasingly reliant on devices for their entertainment, the opportunity to try new outdoor activities in a supportive environment and build confidence in their abilities to meet challenges is more important than ever.

Providing adventure, outdoor exploration and diverse accommodations, Camp Catron is available for use by Girl Scouts and the public. Visit [www.GirlScoutsNebraska.org/camps](http://www.GirlScoutsNebraska.org/camps) for camp rental information.

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### **Upcoming Events**

- Grants Committee Meeting, Dec 16th, 9:30 am, Ferguson House

**2021 Calendar:**

- Tuesday, February 2, 2021 - 1st Quarter Board Meeting, NDEE
  - Thursday, April 8, 2021 - 2nd Quarter Board Meeting - Ferguson House Lincoln NE
  - Monday/Tuesday, August 2-3, 2021 - 3rd Quarter Board Meeting - TBD
  - Tuesday, September 7, 2021 - Grants Deadline
  - Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 4th Quarter Board Meeting - Ferguson House
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