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RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

February 2021

Executive Director Corner

Just when we thought 2020 threw everything but the kitchen sink at us, 2021 gives us record low temperatures and snowfalls. Many locations across Nebraska reached -30 degrees or lower without the wind chill and more than 15 inches of snow. Many communities experienced planned electric outages, but fortunately most lasted less than an hour. Texas discovered their system was completely unprepared for record low temperatures and many areas lost power and without heat, frozen pipes resulted and many people have been without power and water for days. It does look like Nebraska will be in the 40's this week, so the melting snow may cause some water issues.

The Trust held their first quarter board meeting in one of the conference rooms at the Department of Environment and Energy new offices on February 2nd. The Recommendations for Funding Placed in Rank Order were approved and that list will have a hearing at the April 8, 2021, board meeting for final approval from the board. This list can be found on our webpage and we are accepting comments or you can attend the public hearing on April 8, 2021, at the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's conference room (245 Fallbrook Blvd., Lincoln). You can read a 200 word summary of all the 2021 grants on our website under "2021 Application Summary Booklet".

We just closed the job application period for our Federal Aid Administrator I position and will be interviewing candidates soon. The position has been



Pete Ricketts,
Governor
Board of Trustees
District I

Jeff Kanger (Chair)
- Lincoln

James Hellbusch -
Columbus

John Orr - Blair

District II

Felix B. Davidson -
Valley

Paul Dunn -
Omaha

Mark Quandahl -
Omaha

vacant for over two months and we can't wait to get it filled and be back to full staff. Having a staff of only five can be challenging when you have a vacancy, but the staff has rose to the occasion.

Husker volleyball fans have finally got to see some volleyball, not in person, but on television. The Huskers were ranked #4, but lost 3-1 to #5 Minnesota a few days ago, but came back and beat them 3-0 two days later. The Big 10 is loaded this season and considered to be the best volleyball conference in the country. Wisconsin continues to be ranked #1. The women's basketball team continues to be up and down. They have upset some ranked teams lately, but the men are mostly down, but continue to be competitive

Enjoy the warmer weather. Stay safe, practice social distancing, avoid crowds, wash your hands often, and get vaccinated when you get the opportunity.

*Mark A. Brohman,
Executive Director*

2021 Board Recommendations For Funding Placed In Rank Order

The Board of the Nebraska Environmental Trust received the Grant Committee's proposed funding of 114 projects for a total of \$19,864,901 in grant awards. Of these, 42 are new applications and 72 are carry-over projects. This is the 28th year of grants from the Trust, which has provided over 330 million dollars in lottery revenue to preserve and protect the air, water and land in Nebraska.

As part of the grant making process, the Trust is seeking public input on the proposed grants before announcing final awards on April 8, 2021. A list of all recommended grants and project information is available on the Trust website at: <https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov>.

Written public comments will be accepted until April 2, 2021, at the Nebraska Environmental Trust, P.O. Box 94913, Lincoln NE 68509-4913 or via email at: holly.adams@nebraska.gov

District III

Josh Andersen -
Edgar

Rodney Christen -
Steinauer

Quentin Bowen -
Humboldt

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 Anthone,
Nebraska
Department of

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 8, 2021. The meeting begins at 1:30 pm at the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, 245 Fallbrook Blvd., Lincoln NE 68509.

Click on the link below to view the list:

<https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov/docs/pdf/2021%20Board%20Recommendations%20For%20Funding%20Placed%20in%20Rank%20Order%20-2-2-21.pdf>



Pathway For Wildlife

As many backyard do-it-yourself warriors, farmers and ranchers alike look forward to spring, habitat planning comes to the forefront. Site preparations and seed planting will soon be taking place. Whether large or small scale, Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever of Nebraska along with Nebraska Environmental Trust can help achieve habitat goals.

Pathway For Wildlife (PFW) offers incentives to enhance wildlife habitat on cropland, working lands, and within local communities. Participants will apply specific wildlife and pollinator conservation practices to benefit pheasants, quail, grassland songbirds, monarch butterflies, native bees,

Health and Human
Services

Trust Staff

Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director

Holly Adams
Grants
Administrator

Sheila Johnson
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[Position Vacant]
Grants Assistant

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and other wildlife. Additionally, the program aims to reduce soil loss, encourage soil health and improve water quality.

PFW includes three program options: Pathway for Grasslands, Pathway for Precision Ag Conservation, and Pathway for Community Habitat. Each route offers a 1-3 year contract, 75-100% cost-share, requires no cropping history, and allows for annual payment options.

Pathway for Grasslands assists in rebuilding degraded grassland areas for better yield on cattle operations, or to establish native grasses and wildflowers for transition from cropland. Pathway for Precision Ag Conservation provides cover crops to benefit soil health, reduce weed competition, and provide awareness of an economic incentive to farming alternatives (limited to the Rainwater Basin). Pathway for Community Habitat plants native flowers in urban settings benefiting pollinators of all types. Great for city parks, libraries, churches and other frequently visited public areas. To date, almost 20,000 acres of habitat enhancement have been enrolled in PFW since 2019.

Cost-share incentives are available this year as habitat planning begins. Contact a Nebraska Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist to learn more about these and other cost-share programs with the Nebraska Environmental Trust by visiting www.NebraskaPF.com.

Josh Andersen Appointed To Nebraska Environmental Trust Board

Josh Andersen was recently appointed to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board replacing Ms. Sherry Vinton from District 3. Mr. Andersen from Edgar will serve from 1/12/2021 to 3/10/2025.

He currently operates a diversified family farm in Clay County, Nebraska. He is experienced in farming processes, regional conservation practices, business management and leadership, technical project and process development.

Mr. Andersen is a graduate of Sutton Public Schools, and holds a BSME from Kansas State University. After working in Oklahoma for ten years, he

returned to his family farm in the Rainwater Basin to raise his four children with his wife, Teryl. His fourth generation farm utilizes many conservation practices and has participated in several local, regional, and national conservation programs.

In a statement, he said, "I am truly honored to serve on the Nebraska Environmental Trust board. I was raised on a farm in Nebraska, and came from a family of serious conservationists who gave me a unique insight into how agriculture and conservation can be complimentary interests. Nebraska's heritage, way-of-life, and communities contribute to the values and success of our future generations. I believe that these factors should also be considered in any long-term public commitment, including conservation efforts. I am sincerely looking forward to working with fellow Nebraskans, public and private entities and members of the NET board and staff to achieve the Trust's mission."

Josh currently serves as the president of the Sheridan township board, Trustee of the Ong United Methodist church, board member of Clay County Farm Bureau, board member of Edgar rural fire district, and is the Scoutmaster of Sutton Troop 164 in Sutton, NE.

Mark Brohman, Executive Director for the Trust said, "We are looking forward to having Josh on our board with his experience in farming and conservation."



Josh Andersen

2021 Calendar:

- Thursday, April 8, 2021 - 2nd Quarter Board Meeting - Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, 245 Fallbrook Blvd, 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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