

Agenda Item 3. Minutes of the February 4, 2016 Board Meeting

Meeting minutes from the February 4, 2016 Board Meeting held at the Ferguson House,
Lincoln, NE

MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust
1st Quarter Board Meeting
Thursday, February 4, 2016
1:30 p.m.

Ferguson House
Lincoln, Nebraska

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Board met at the Ferguson House, Lincoln, Nebraska for the transaction of business. Advance public notice was given through release to news media and official public notice in the "Lincoln Journal Star" on Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m.

Mr. Brohman explained that the Chair was on the phone and the second Chair was in Washington, DC, according to Roberts Rules it was necessary to open the floor for a nomination for Acting Chairman for the meeting. Mr. Douglas nominated Mr. Jeff Fassett; Ms. Lauritzen nominated Mr. Paul Dunn. Mr. Douglas withdrew his nomination and seconded Ms. Lauritzen's nomination. All were in favor; Mr. Brohman passed the gavel to Mr. Dunn as Acting Chairman.

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

Members present were: Mr. Henry "Rick" Brandt, Roca; Mr. Rod Christen, Steinauer; Mr. Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game & Parks; Mr. Paul Dunn, Omaha; Ms. Gloria Erickson, Holdrege; Mr. Jeff Fassett, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; Mr. Jim Hellbusch, Columbus; Ms. Gerry Lauritzen, Omaha; Mr. Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (arrived at 1:42 p.m.) and Mr. Kevin Peterson, Osceola.

Members joining by phone: Mr. Bob Krohn, Omaha and Ms. Sherry Vinton, Whitman.

Members absent: Mr. Greg Ibach, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; Ms. Courtney Phillips, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health.

Staff present were: Mr. Mark Brohman, Executive Director; Ms. Allison LaDuke, Grants Assistant; Ms. Sheila Johnson, Public Information Officer and Ms. Lori Moore, Administrative Secretary.

Agenda Item #3: Minutes of the November 3, 2015 Board Meeting. Minutes of the November 3, 2015 board meeting were received.

Motion by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Ms. Lauritzen to accept the minutes as received.

Voting Aye: Mr. Brandt, Mr. Christen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Fassett, Mr. Hellbusch, Ms. Lauritzen and Mr. Peterson. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4: Financial Reports. Mr. Brohman presented the report.

Motion by Mr. Brandt seconded by Mr. Christen to accept the Financial Reports.

Voting Aye: Mr. Brandt, Mr. Christen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Fassett, Mr. Hellbusch, Ms. Lauritzen and Mr. Peterson. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5: Staff Report. a.) **2017 Proposed Calendar.** Mr. Brohman provided the proposed dates and reminded everyone that we would vote on the dates at the April meeting. b.) **Grant Administration Report.** Ms. Tabor presented the report. c.) **Ferguson House Report.** Mr. Brohman presented the report. Mr. Douglas inquired how often we examine how much we charge and make any adjustment. Mr. Brohman explained that it had been a year and a half since we had examined the rates and felt they were appropriate. Ms. Lauritzen inquired whether we were covering our expenses. Mr. Douglas expressed his concerns with hidden costs associated with the house. The board would like us to look at expenses and the bottom line and put together a report. This would include a break out of personnel, utilities, table cloth charges for a month with a comparison of a slower and busy month. Mr. Dunn would be in favor of bumping them up and adding public Wi-Fi here. d.) **Director's Report.** Mr. Brohman presented his report. He passed around a handout regarding a meeting he attended February 3 regarding the Ferguson House. He reported that the Carriage House design work is complete and it has bid once, but no bids were received; they felt it was due to a couple of reasons, the Historical Society recommended cedar shake shingles and they wanted to rebuild internal gutters and turn them to external gutters. Division of Administrative Services will be repackaging the bid and it will rebid on March 3rd. They apologized profusely for the delays. Mr. Jim Pinkerton who was a former employee of the Game & Parks Commission was assigned as the project manager for the project. Mr. Hellbusch related that he had replaced cedar shake shingles on his roof and he replaced them with a newly designed cedar shake tiles that have asphalt. Mr. Krohn related that he would forward Mr. Brohman some information about a shingle being used widely in Vail, CO. Mr. Brohman said he would inform building division of these new shingles. Mr. Brohman updated the group that we would have a painter come in and look at a few places that needed attention and that he would be in on Friday. Mr. Brohman traveled down to the Cornhusker Council, Camp Cornhusker a few weekends ago and they presented a plaque and patch to him that we provided funding for environmental aspects of the project. The plaque and patch were passed around to the board.

Agenda Item #6: Grant Modification Requests. There was a new grant modification packet that was distributed. A group that had a modification was in the audience and they wanted to make a presentation to the group. It was suggested that they present their modification first before that others were presented. Mr. Mike Hoelscher of Stirk Compressed Natural Gas along with Kirk and Sheldon Schroeder of Clean Energy were present to discuss their request for a grant modification. Their request would add Clean Energy as a partner to the project in which Stirk would continue to be the project sponsor and manager. The modification would be to add Clean Energy as a project partner to the North Platte station whom would coordinate development of the station that includes liquefied natural gas. They would look at conversion funding with City of North Platte converting existing vehicles with the city and any remaining funds then divert over to county or private fleets that may use the station. Discussion.

Motion by Mr. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Brandt to co-locate and to convert use of excess funds to convert other vehicles not just city vehicles.

Voting Aye: Mr. Brandt, Mr. Christen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Fassett, Mr. Hellbusch, Ms. Lauritzen and Mr. Macy. **Abstaining:** Mr. Peterson.
Motion carried.

It was suggested by Mr. Krohn that we ask the City of North Platte to provide a letter that they were unable to use the funds and that the city was fine allowing other entities in the county or private fleets to utilize the funds for vehicle conversion.

Ms. Tabor presented the seven grant time extensions for approval.

Mr. Peterson felt he had a possible conflict and requested his vote be switched to abstain if the board was ok with that on the previous vote.

Motion by Mr. Christen and seconded by Ms. Lauritzen to approve the time extension modifications, numbers A, B, C, D, E, F and I.

Voting Aye: Mr. Brandt, Mr. Christen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Fassett, Mr. Hellbusch, Ms. Lauritzen, Mr. Macy and Mr. Peterson. Motion carried.

Mr. Dunn informed the board that there were two additional modifications, the first one labeled G and H. Ms. Tabor presented the modifications.

Motion by Mr. Brandt and seconded by Ms. Lauritzen to approve G1 Forest Service.

Voting Aye: Mr. Brandt, Mr. Christen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Fassett, Mr. Hellbusch, Ms. Lauritzen, Mr. Macy and Mr. Peterson. Motion carried.

Ms. Tabor presented H, 12-116 for the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

Motion by Mr. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Macy to approve the grant modification.

Voting Aye: Mr. Christen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Fassett, Mr. Hellbusch, Ms. Lauritzen, Mr. Macy and Mr. Peterson. **Voting Nay:** Mr. Brandt.
Motion carried.

Agenda Item #7: Report of Legislative Committee and Recommendations. Mr. Krohn presented the report. There were two bills concerning to the Trust. The committee discussed LR380CA that wants to decrease the Trusts percentage of funding and give funds to education. The committee took the opinion to testify in opposition of the legislative resolution. The second piece of legislation was LB711. Mr. Brohman gave an overview of the hearing he attended on LR380CA. He also passed around meeting notes from a meeting NACO and Senator Carlson held on January 13, 2016, regarding LB711. The hearing will be held on February 18th. Mr. Douglas pointed out the committee had recommended we come in neutral

on the bill and directed Mr. Brohman to make known the issues associated with it. He believes the issue of not having any language coordinating with the invasive species council is something important and recommended that if Mr. Brohman has license to talk to NACO to have some of these changes made through amendments, he would suggest that would need to be one of them. He noted that the minutes from the January 13th meeting were erroneous and that the Commission was not willing to support LB711. Mr. Brohman added that he would gather the talking points and send them out to the board before going over to talk with NACO.

Motion by Mr. Peterson and seconded by Ms. Lauritzen to accept the recommendation by the committee.

Voting Aye: Mr. Brandt, Mr. Christen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Fassett, Mr. Hellbusch, Ms. Lauritzen, Mr. Macy and Mr. Peterson. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 8: Report of Grants Committee and Recommendations. Ms. Lauritzen reported the committee examined 127 applications looked at 40 applications that carried forward from previous years. Serving on the committee were Jim Hellbusch, Bob Krohn, Rod Christen, Greg Ibach, Jim Macy and Ms. Lauritzen. The committee met five times; there were 246 TAC reviews. When adopted their recommendations will provide for distribution of \$18,799,900 this year to 108 projects. This includes the 49 carry over grants for \$7,816,010. and 69 new grants totaling over \$10m this year.

Since the recommendation had come from a committee no motion was necessary to accept the Rank Order List.

Motion by Ms. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Brandt to receive the report of the grants committee.

Voting Aye: Mr. Brandt, Mr. Christen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Fassett, Mr. Hellbusch, Ms. Lauritzen, Mr. Macy and Mr. Peterson. Recommendation carried.

Agenda Item 9: Report of Finance Committee and Recommendations. Mr. Fassett gave the committee report. The committee covered two issues at this morning's meeting, there were no action items. Mr. Brohman already covered the repair issues earlier in the meeting. The committee reviewed the Ferguson House lease and the Addendum. From this discussion Mr. Douglas recommended that we might want to conduct with the State or on our own as our board might want to consider getting a broad overall assessment of the status of the structure. The guidance was for Mr. Brohman to take a look at and consult with DAS to see whether that would be something they would look at or whether that would come back to the board at a future meeting. The next item discussed was the Endowment Fund Transfer at this point the fund has approximately \$1.4 million the target number is at 1 million. Discussion.

Agenda Item #10: Public Comment and Good of the Order. Mr. Bill Whitney of Prairie Plains Resource Institute was asked to speak regarding the Sherman Ranch property. Mr. Macy invited the board and staff to attend the NDEQ Carbon Mitigation Strategy meetings that will be held throughout the state and he will forward more information regarding the meetings.

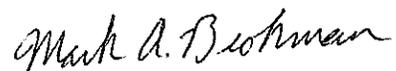
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Mr. Dunn commented and thanked Ms. Johnson on her work on the Annual Report he thought it looked uniquely different this year.

Agenda Item #11: Date and Location of Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the Ferguson House.

Agenda Item #12: Adjourn. Mr. Dunn adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director