

Agenda Item 3. Minutes of the April 7, 2016 Board Meeting

Meeting minutes from the April 7, 2016 Board Meeting held at the Ferguson House, Lincoln NE

MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust
2nd Quarter Board Meeting
Thursday, April 7, 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 March 14, 2016.

Chairman Ibach called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

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. Greg Ibach, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; Ms. Gerry Lauritzen, Omaha; Mr. Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality; Mr. Kevin Peterson, Osceola and Ms. Courtney Phillips, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, arrived at 2:27 p.m.

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

Members absent: Mr. Jeff Fassett, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and Mr. Jim Hellbusch, Columbus.

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

Agenda Item #3: Minutes of the February 4, 2016 Board Meeting. Minutes of the February 4, 2016 board meeting were received.

Motion by Mr. Macy, seconded by Mr. Peterson to accept the minutes as received.

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

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

Motion by Mr. Brandt, seconded by Ms. Lauritzen to accept the Financial Reports.

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

Agenda Item 5: Staff Report.

Agenda Item #5a. Legislative Update. Mr. Brohman presented the report.

Agenda Item #5b. Grant Administration Report. Ms. Tabor presented the report. Mr. Ibach conveyed that he received a call from a board member before the meeting expressing concerns about moving some of the funds on project 12-185 between grant administration from restoration. He said that in the future if it's going from restoration to grant administration that it was a concern. Ms. Tabor stated that we do make sure that grant objectives are met, so it's usually a situation that other funds were used and they're just shifting funds to make sure we get the categories covered. Mr. Brohman pointed out that it was a little under four percent and if it were larger, we would have definitely brought it to the board for approval. Mr. Douglas commented that he agreed, if there was a large percentage shift going towards administration away from restoration then we might want to make some inquiry about if the restoration size is different or whether the restoration costs are different and if administrative costs, why they may have increased.

Agenda Item #5c. Ferguson House Report. Mr. Brohman presented the report.

Agenda Item #5d. Director's Comments. Mr. Brohman reported that he had received several inquiries in January and February regarding the high Powerball jackpot and reported that it was good news and it was a significant jump from previous distributions. That will provide 2.1 million more for next year's allocation of grant funding. The Carriage House bid has been let; "Stonebrook" received the bid. The back porch site survey was completed last weekend. There needs to be a small geo testing and it will be 30 days out till bid. He pointed out the touchup painting inside the Ferguson House has been completed. The Carriage House work could start any day and they thought it may take a week to complete. They will be using cedar shake shingles.

Agenda Item #7: Grant Modification Requests. Ms. Tabor presented the report. She articulated that almost every extension request is directly tied to delay in getting Corps of Engineers approval. An additional request was received and the replacement and additional pages were distributed.

Motion by Mr. Brandt, seconded by Ms. Erickson to approve the grant modification requests.

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

Mr. Ibach suspended the regular agenda at 2:04 p.m. to conduct the public hearing of the proposed funding for the 2016 General and Recognition Grants, notice having been published in the "Lincoln Journal Star" newspaper on March 14, 2016.

Ms. Lauritzen acted as the hearing officer. There wasn't anyone signed in to speak at the public hearing. Ms. Tabor presented the staff report on the proposed funding recommendations for the 2016 Grant Cycle.

The hearing was closed at 2:12 p.m.

The ballots were distributed to the board members.

Agenda Item #6: Award of 2016 General and Recognition Grants. The ballots were tallied.

Voting Aye: Mr. Brandt, Mr. Christen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Ibach, Ms. Lauritzen, Mr. Macy and Mr. Peterson. **Motion carried. Abstentions were recorded as follows:**

16-103 Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition, Soil Health/Water Conservation through Grazing Cover Crops. Abstaining: Mr. Christen and Ms. Erickson

15-142-2 Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition, Rangeland Monitoring Program Enhancement of Soil Health and Water Conservation. Abstaining: Mr. Christen.

15-149-2 Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Development of Grazing Infrastructure to Support the Rainwater Basin Working Lands Initiative. Abstaining: Ms. Erickson.

16-212 Fontenelle Forest Association, Raptor Woodland Refuge. Abstaining: Ms. Lauritzen

15-168-2 Fontenelle Forest Association, Oak Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Restoration. Abstaining: Ms. Lauritzen.

16-140 NE Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Natural Legacy Plan: Terrestrial and Aquatic Implementation for Biodiversity Conservation. Abstaining: Mr. Douglas.

16-225 NE Game and Parks Commission, Rainwater Basin Wetland Management. Abstaining: Mr. Douglas.

16-127 NE Game and Parks Commission, Pollinator and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration on the Cowboy Trail & State Park Areas. Abstaining: Mr. Douglas.

15-135-2 NE Game and Parks Commission, Conestoga Reservoir WMA Wetland and Water Quality Enhancement. Abstaining: Mr. Douglas.

15-211-2 NE Game and Parks Commission, The Assessment and Demonstrated Management of Cold Water Streams in North Central Nebraska. Abstaining: Mr. Douglas.

Agenda Item #8: Adopt the 2017 Calendar. Mr. Brohman presented the dates for the 2017 Calendar. Mr. Dunn had a conflict with February 9, 2017. Mr. Peterson explained that he may or may not have a conflict with February 2, 2017.

Motion by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Erickson to approve the calendar with February 9, 2017, April 6, 2017, August 7-8, 2017 and November 2, 2017 for the board meetings.

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

Agenda Item #9: Establish Bylaws and Regulations Review Committee. Mr. Brohman led the discussion and explained that the Chairman wished to establish an Ad-hoc Committee for the Rules and Regulations and Bylaws of the Trust. The following names were brought up to be members of the committee: Paul Dunn, Kevin Peterson and potentially Gloria Erickson. He said that we could establish an ad-hoc committee and have a couple of meetings before the August meeting to go over rules and regulations and bylaws to get things cleaned up, also to resubmit the regulations that were submitted before with a few minor changes that would be presented at the August meeting and have a public hearing at the November meeting. Ms. Vinton suggested that these meetings could be held over the phone and she suggested Paul as the Chair. Mr. Krohn offered to be a serve on the committee.

Motion by Mr. Macy, and seconded by Mr. Brandt that Mr. Dunn would chair and Mr. Peterson, Ms. Erickson and Mr. Krohn would serve as members of a bylaws and regulations review committee

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

Agenda Item #10: Report of the Finance Committee (Ferguson House Lease). Mr. Dunn presented the report. Motions made by the committee were to hire a consultant in conjunction with the 309 Task Force to look at the Ferguson House for long-term upkeep of the Ferguson House.

Mr. Douglas wanted to amend the motion on the floor. Mr. Ibach gave the understood motion to the board. The bid will be presented at the August meeting to hire a consultant, if there will be a cost to the consultant, if there is no cost, authorize staff to tell them to proceed.

Mr. Douglas made the motion to accept the amended language, seconded by Mr. Macy.

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

The second motion presented by the Finance Committee was to change the budget calendar to coincide with the State's budgeting process.

Since the motion was from a committee there was no need to have a motion.

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

Ms. Phillips arrived at 2:27 p.m. to the meeting and gave an introduction to the board.

Motion by Mr. Brandt, and seconded by Mr. Christen to receive the Finance Committee minutes.

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

Ms. Tabor presented to the board that all recommendations were accepted.

Agenda Item #11: Database Update. Mr. Dunn presented the report. Ms. Gregoire who developed our database and maintains it for us came up with an idea and brought it to us. The Raikes School at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln which is a very prestigious school on its own; has started bringing in another department, which is the Computer Programming Department. So it's still within the Raikes School, but they come at a much lower cost for doing these projects. Ms. Gregoire has been an advisor to one of the projects and she believes it's a good fit to have us go through them. We would have them do the computer programming for us. The some total of it will be under \$100,000. We will do it over a two-three year time span. Had a second meeting with her and a gentleman from the Raikes School and a representative from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission who works with the Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO). Because we're working with another State Agency we would not have to go through the bidding process. It would be 1/5 the cost, take 2-3 years, and because they're students, eight month periods of programming. Mr. Ibach commented that the Department of Agriculture used the UNL modeling and they were very happy with it. A true Raikes project costs \$50,000 per year, the rate we would receive is around \$20,000. Because we started discussions with them before they set their new rates, we will receive the 2015 rate not the 2016 rate. Mr. Brohman said that he would like the board to approve staff moving forward with one year of programming.

Motion by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Ms. Lauritzen to direct staff to follow through with discussed proposal with Marie and the Raikes School for up to three one year contracts, one with two, one year additions to establish a grants administration and grants management database application.

Voting Aye: Mr. Brandt, Mr. Christen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Ibach, Ms. Lauritzen, Mr. Macy, Mr. Peterson and Ms. Phillips. **Motion carried,**

Agenda Item #12: Public Comment and Good of the Order. Mr. Neil Watson wanted to congratulate the Trust staff and board on another successful grant cycle. He wanted to make sure that we were all aware of last week's largest beneficiary transfer ever, 14.4 million dollars, something they're very proud of and they have been doing radio interviews all week and Mark gave a great quote for their press release. He wanted to thank the Trust for its partnership. Mr. Brohman discussed the August 8-9 board meeting. He is interested in getting the number of people who will be attending, if it will be just you, or spouse/significant other and or children attending. We have made reservations and need to firm those reservations up in the next ten days to be able to release any rooms that are not needed.

We will come in on Sunday, August 7 and will have an event early evening on that date. On Monday, August 8, the informal meeting, field trips and possible horseback riding, jeep rides, a

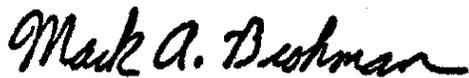
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cookout, track the sheep, trout fishing, watching the bison and the playhouse production. On Tuesday, August 9, the formal meeting will be held in the morning with additional field trips in the afternoon. We have an additional night reserved for August 10th for anyone wishing to stay an additional night. Mr. Ibach may be in Canada; Mr. Brandt will have his mules and will be staying at the Ponderosa Wildlife Management Area. So Mr. Brohman will be in contact with board members in the next few days or you can contact him with the information.

Agenda Item #13: Date and Location of Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held on Monday and Tuesday, August 8-9, 2016, at Fort Robinson State Park in Crawford, NE.

Agenda Item #14: Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Brohman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director