

MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust
3rd Quarter Policy Discussion Session
Monday, August 8, 2016
1:30 a.m.

Buffalo Barracks
Fort Robinson State Park
Crawford, Nebraska

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Board met at the Buffalo Barracks, Fort Robinson State Park, Crawford, 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 July 9, 2016.

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

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

Members present were: Ms. Sherry Vinton, Whitman; 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; Ms. Gerry Lauritzen, Omaha; Mr. Bob Krohn, Omaha; Mr. Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Mr. Kevin Peterson, Osceola.

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

Agenda Item #3: Public Information Update: Ms. Sheila Johnson, Public Information Officer, presented the public information goals and a Communication Plan for 2016-2017. The budget plan was reviewed and given with the direction as discussed at the July 2015 board meeting and has been approved by the Finance Committee in the November 2015 and July 2016.

A discussion was conducted on the short term goals which concentrate on education and making sure we are getting the word out to let people know about the Nebraska Environmental Trust. An awareness of the projects and long term goals were discussed. The Trust needs to ensure that our role as beneficiary of the lottery is communicated clearly to legislators and citizens of Nebraska. Continue with environmental restoration in Nebraska through the grant programs and maintain recognition of the grants that they provide for quality projects that are beneficial to the future of the State.

The Trust plans to continue with press releases as before with key events, appointments, grant information and related points of interest on the Ferguson House.

Agenda Item #4: Angela Dwyer, Grassland Wildlife Coordinator, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, gave in in-depth update on their programs in the Panhandle of Nebraska. The team in western Nebraska gave a talk focusing on grassland species. Erin Divine gave a talk on the Land Stewardship Program. Amber Shiltz talked about the banding stations.

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Agenda Item #5: Report of the Finance Committee and Recommendations. Mr. Dunn began by addressing the change in the timing of the Finance Committee budget discussion to the April Meeting to make a change to get more in line with the legislative process. Discussion began on the minutes of the July 21, 2016, Finance Committee meeting. Budget items have been flat over the past years but we are running into some items that are in need of some attention. In a discussion it was decided that Mr. Brohman would work with a prioritized list on the five items of concern in the budget. If the items have to be prioritized the order of the list is 1) Database, working with University of Nebraska/Raikes project, as per discussed at previous meeting, before a real situation arises with the existing database, 2) Promotional, continue with creating an awareness of the Trust and the benefits to restoring Nebraska, 3) Advertising, each of the two upcoming budgets utilize funds to communicate to Nebraska the benefits of the Trust's involvement in the projects and what makes this possible, 4) Ferguson House repairs and searching for possible alternatives to make those repairs and 5) A new vehicle.

Motion by Mr. Brandt, seconded by Mr. Macy to accept the minutes and the budget as received.

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

Agenda Item #6: Report and recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Committee for the Rules and Regulations and Bylaws of the Trust. Mr. Dunn and Mr. Brohman presented the report. A review of the changes to Title 137 and the By-Laws was conducted. In working with the Attorney General's office changes are needed in statutes and a public hearing will be needed. Put on November or February agenda and have a public hearing.

Motion to accept the report by Mr. Dunn, Second by Mr. Peterson.

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

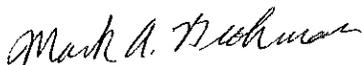
Motion to set public hearing with changes by Mr. Dunn Second by Mr. Peterson

Voting Aye: Mr. Krohn, Ms. Lauritzen, Mr. Christen, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Fassett, Mr. Macy, Mr. Brandt, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Dunn and Ms. Vinton. **Motion Carried.**

Agenda Item #7: Public Comments/Good of the Order. Josh Skavdahl, Sioux County Board of Commissions, commented about mining exclusions being part of conservation easements.

Agenda Item #8: Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director

MINUTES

Nebraska Environmental Trust
3rd Quarter Board Meeting
Tuesday,
August 9, 2015
8:30 a.m.

Buffalo Barracks
Fort Robinson State Park
Crawford, Nebraska

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Board met at the Buffalo Barracks, Fort Robinson State Park, Crawford, 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 Saturday, July 9, 2016.

Chairman Vinton called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

Members present were: Mr. Rick Brandt, Lincoln; Mr. Rod Christen, Steinauer; Mr. Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Mr. Paul Dunn, Omaha; Ms. Gloria Erickson, Holdrege; Mr. Jeff Fassett, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; Mr. Bob Krohn, Omaha; Ms. Gerry Lauritzen, Omaha; Mr. Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality; Mr. Kevin Peterson, Osceola; and Ms. Sherry Vinton, Whitman.

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

Staff present were: Mr. Mark Brohman, Executive Director; Ms. Marilyn Tabor, Grants Administrator; Ms. Allison La Duke, Grants Assistant; Ms. Sheila Johnson, Public Information Officer; and Ms. Pam Deines, Administrative Secretary.

Agenda Item #3: Minutes of the April 7, 2016 Board Meeting. Minutes of the April 7, 2016 board meeting were received.

Motion by Mr. Brandt, seconded by Mr. Peterson to approve the minutes as received.

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

Agenda Item #4: Financial Reports. Mr. Brohman presented the report. Ms. Tabor presented the Grant Disbursement Report. Mr. Brohman presented the remaining reports.

Motion by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Christen to approve the Financial Report.

Voting Aye: Mr. Peterson; Mr. Dunn; Mr. Krohn; Ms. Lauritzen; Mr. Christen; Ms. Erickson; Mr. Douglas; Mr. Fassett; Mr. Macy; Mr. Brandt and Ms. Vinton. **Motion carried.**

Agenda Item #5: Staff Report. Ms. Tabor presented the Grant Administration Report. Ms. Tabor commented on modifications approved by staff. She said that Northeast Nebraska RC&D project has had to shift some funds reflected by actual expenditures and the grant objectives are being met. The Rainwater Basin project has also shifted from Contract Labor to Supplies Category. The Nebraska Invasive Species made a shift in funding from Operating/Outreach and Travel to Personnel. Learning from the 2012 Niobrara Fire has made modifications and shifted funds to reflect actual expenditures and grant objectives are being met. The Nature Conservancy had a modification of TREX supply expenses which came in lower than expected and training expenses were higher. Continuous No-till and Soil Health Education transferred from Travel to Administration and Personnel. Enhancing Habitat Management in the Nebraska Panhandle shifted funds to cover higher expenditures in Lodging for Banders and Workshop Materials.

Extensions were approved for Recycling Equipment Grant; Glacier Creek North Conservation Area Initiative; Conestoga Reservoir SRA Aquatic Habitat Rehabilitation Project; Parker Ranch Conservation Easement; County Line Waterfowl Production Area Roundout; Horse Creek Wetland Restoration Project; Nebraska Well Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Project; Niobrara Wildlife Management Area Acquisition; Bowman Lake Restoration; Habitat Share Partnership; Introduction of CNG Transit Vehicles – Omaha; Recycling Warehouse; Eastern Republican and Little Blue Riparian Improvement Project; Wildfire Equipment; Memphis Lake SRA Wetland Restoration; and Plum Creek Park Lake Restoration.

Mr. Brohman presented the Ferguson House report. Events have been going well and hope to add more docents to help in the activities. Mr. Brohman presented the Director's comments; Rick Brandt is donating copper rain gutters that will be used on the back side of the Carriage House. The Historical Society has taken over the final selection. Lori Moore's memorial donations are going to be used toward a bronze statute to be placed in the cove going up the stairway of the main stairs.

Agenda Item #6: Report and Recommendations of the Executive Committee with Salary Recommendation for the Executive Director.

Motion by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Macy to go into Executive Session.

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

The board entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters specifically the review of the Executive Director, Mark Brohman. The board entered into executive session. Staff and public were asked to leave the meeting room.

Motion by Mr. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Krohn to come out of Executive Session

Voting Aye: Mr. Krohn; Ms. Lauritzen; Mr. Christen; Ms. Erickson; Mr. Douglas; Mr. Fassett; Mr. Macy; Mr. Brandt; Mr. Peterson; Mr. Dunn; and Ms. Vinton. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Mr. Fassett, seconded by Ms. Lauritzen to go forward with the salary adjustment for Executive Director, Mark Brohman.

Motion by Mr. Dunn to accept the amendment to the prior motion to include following statement, seconded by Jim Douglas.

“The Board would like to see a state of the Agency Report at the November meeting highlighting a few recent accomplishments and strategic direction for the near to mid-term future, projections and needs.”

Voting Aye: Ms. Lauritzen; Mr. Christen, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Douglas; Mr. Fassett; Mr. Macy; Mr. Peterson, Mr. Dunn, and Ms. Vinton. **Motion Carried.**

Mr. Brandt was out of the room and Mr. Krohn was mistakenly not called for a vote.

Agenda Item #7: Grant Modification Requests. Ms. Tabor presented the report. She explained that all were six month, one year and one eighteen month extensions and explained. Ms. Erickson brought up a modification on 16-212 Fontenelle Forest.

Motion by Mr. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Christen to accept grant extensions.

Voting Aye: Mr. Christen, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Douglas; Mr. Fassett; Mr. Macy; Mr. Peterson, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Lauritzen; and Ms. Vinton. **Motion Carried.**

Ms. Lauritzen is in favor but abstaining from vote because of connection to one project and Mr. Krohn was mistakenly not called for a vote.

A short break was taken.

Meeting called back to order.

Agenda Item 8: 2017 Application Cycle. Mr. Brohman presented the request for the board to give staff authority to seek technical reviews as appropriate for the 2016 grant applications from those persons who have participated in the technical review process in past years and from persons showing interest to participate this year.

Motion by Mr. Krohn and seconded by Ms. Erickson to approve authority for technical reviews.

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

Mr. Brohman reviewed the Geographic Distribution of Awards from the Trust from 1994 to present. District 6 is lagging in funding so 20 bonus points are recommended for this District again. The question was asked if there was an increase in the requests in this area. Ms. Vinton commented, should we take into consideration is there an area that needs this help more. Districts are broken down by the old Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Districts which were determined by landscape. It was noted, we have statutory responsibility to distribute our funds evenly.

Motion by Ms. Erickson, seconded by Mr. Krohn to award 20 bonus points to District 6 for the 2016 grant cycle.

Voting Aye: Mr. Dunn; Mr. Krohn; Ms. Lauritzen, Ms Erickson; Mr. Douglas; Mr. Fassett; Mr. Macy; Mr. Brandt; Mr. Peterson and Ms. Vinton. **Abstaining:** Mr. Christen.
Motion Carried.

Agenda Item #9: Report of Grant-Funded Equipment. Ms. Tabor was asked to begin the discussion on the equipment. All grants awarded for the purchase of personal property (equipment/building) require the grantee to hold and maintain the equipment for its useful life, based on State of Nebraska Department of Revenue depreciation schedules. Insurance must be maintained for all equipment valued at \$1,000.00 or more for the useful life of the equipment.

The attachments show status of equipment as of July 25th and all equipment is still on the inventory. Any equipment that has passed its “useful life” (or End Date) has dropped of the report already. Government entities are typically self-insured so we do not require proof of insurance on these items. A verification of the status of equipment/buildings that the Trust contributed \$25,000 or more at the time of purchase is conducted on an annual basis. Mr. Douglas asked how we determine the status of these items. Ms. Tabor answered the question that if they have not sent out proof of insurance, we request it.

Ms. Vinton asked if we have had any instances when we have run into any problems. Several pieces that have been sold, we have had to get money back on them. Policy is that if it is sold over so much we get 75%. We have had to track down the seller, had the items sold to another company, or items were salvaged. The new database will aid in keeping track off items such as these to ease the searching process. We had talked with Accountability and Disclosure and they recommended we come up with a revised policy to recover funds. Ms. Lauritzen asked if a lot of time was spent on tracking this and Ms. Tabor informed them we are keeping up on this. The Nebraska State Recycling has a large number of the grants so they have the information that we use.

Motion by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Ms. Erickson to approve the report on equipment.

Voting Aye: Ms. Lauritzen; Mr. Christen; Ms. Erickson; Mr. Fassett; Mr. Peterson; Mr. Dunn and Ms. Vinton. **Voting Nay:** Mr. Krohn; Mr. Douglas; Mr. Macy and Mr. Brandt.
Motion Carried.

Mr. Douglas suggested that staff stream line process. Continued discussing options on tracking. Allow staff to look into this further, inventory, tracking, depreciation schedule, etc.

Motion by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Ms. Lauritzen

Voting Aye: Mr. Krohn; Mr. Douglas; Mr. Fassett; Mr. Macy; Mr. Brandt; Mr. Peterson; Mr. Dunn; Ms. Erickson; Ms. Lauritzen; Mr. Christen and Ms. Vinton. **Motion Carried.**

Agenda Item #10: Report on Grant-Funded Real Estate. A discussion of taxes and easements on the properties was conducted. Reviewing policy on the different properties were discussed and clarified.

Motion by Jim Macy, seconded by Mr. Peterson to approve the report.

Voting Aye: Mr. Douglas; Mr. Macy; Mr. Brandt; Mr. Peterson; Mr. Dunn; Ms. Erickson; Ms Lauritzen; Mr.Christen; Mr. Krohn and Ms. Vinton.
Mr. Fassett was absent during the vote.

Agenda Item #11: Follow –Up Discussion from previous day was not necessary.

Agenda Item #12: Election of Officers. Chairman Vinton requested nominations for election of Chair of the board.

Motion by Mr. Brandt, seconded by Ms. Erickson to nominate Ms. Lauritzen as Chairman.

Voting Aye: Mr. Fassett; Mr. Macy; Mr. Brandt; Mr. Peterson; Mr. Dunn; Ms. Erickson; Mr. Christen; Mr. Krohn; Mr. Douglas and Ms. Vinton. **Abstaining;** Ms. Lauritzen.

Motion carried.

Chairman Vinton called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Motion by Mr. Brandt; seconded by Mr. Christen to nominate Mr. Macy as Vice Chair.

Voting Aye: Mr. Fassett; Mr. Brandt; Mr. Peterson; Mr. Dunn; Ms. Erickson; Ms. Lauritzen; Mr. Christen; Mr. Krohn; Mr. Douglas and Ms. Vinton. **Abstaining;** Mr. Macy.

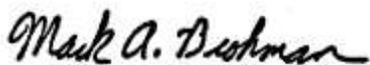
Motion carried.

Agenda Item #13: Public Comment and Good of the Order. Ms. Erickson thanked staff and all involved in the preparation of the meeting. Mr. Brohman thanked the board for inviting the staff and the staff at Fort Robinson for the accommodations.

Agenda Item #14: Date and Location of the Next Meeting: November 3, 2016, 1:30 p.m., Ferguson House, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Agenda Item #15: Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director