

RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

May 2017

Executive Director Corner

The 105th Legislature is coming to an end on Tuesday, May 23rd. They are ending four days early on the 90 day session. The budget was a main focus this session and after the Governor line item vetoed over \$56M, the Legislature failed to override any of the vetoes. The first 30 days of the session were filled with floor debates over rules changes and a couple of bills. Towards the end of the session it appeared the body was growing weary and decided to end the session early. One of the appropriations bills, LB 331, passed with the provision to transfer \$3.3M a year for the next three years from the Trust to the Water Resources Cash Fund. The Natural Resources District, who operates the fund, must apply for the dollars through the regular grant process.

This week (May 18th) the Natural Resources Committee held confirmation hearings on two Trust board positions. Both candidates were approved by the Committee and will now be up for approval by the entire Legislature on the last day of the session (Tuesday, May



Pete Ricketts, Governor

Board of Trustees

District I

Vacant - TBA

James Hellbusch - Columbus

Kevin Peterson - Osceola

District II

Gerry Lauritzen - Omaha

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Robert Krohn - Omaha

23rd). Long time board member, Paul Dunn, was reappointed to a new six-year term and new member, Quinten Bowen, was appointed. Mr. Bowen lives near Humboldt where he farms and raises hogs. We will feature Mr. Bowen in an upcoming newsletter.

As I write this, the Huskers baseball season was looking very promising with a chance of winning the Big 10 title, but they will need a little help from Minnesota after the Huskers dropped a key game to Penn State. It would be fun to see the boys in red at this year's College World Series in Omaha.

Calving season is finishing up for most folks, even though there are ranchers pushing back calving season a little more each year. Planting is underway and it will be irrigation season before you know it. College and high school graduations have begun and my own daughter will be graduating from Lincoln Southeast High School next week and headed off to college in the fall.

Travel safe and here's to a great growing season and improved commodity prices.

Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director

District III

Sherry Vinton - Whitman

Rodney Christen - Steinauer

Quinten Bowen - Humboldt

Agency Directors

Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game
and Parks Commission

Greg Ibach, Nebraska
Department of Agriculture

Jim Macy, Nebraska
Department of Environmental
Quality

Jeff Fassett, P.E., Nebraska
Department of Natural
Resources

Dr. Tom Williams, Nebraska
Department of Health and
Human Services

Trust Staff

Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director

Marilyn Tabor

Grants Administrator

Sheila Johnson



Auburn Public Schools Green House and Outreach Center Opens (Pictured above)

An open house and ribbon cutting was held on April 24 for the Auburn Public Schools Green House and Outreach Center that was well attended by community members, school officials and representatives of entities working on the effort. Present were Kevin Reiman, APS superintendant who was crucial in making the project possible by writing and submitting the grant to the Trust.

Kevin said, "We want it to be a community facility as well as a school one". Reiman said work towards the facility started four years ago when the district received a ReVision grant towards restructuring its vocational curriculum. That included starting an agricultural program, he said. After APS hired Ashton Bohling as agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, she informed school officials a facility was needed to grow plants.

Public Information Officer

Pam Deines

Administrative Secretary

Allison La Duke

Grants Assistant

The Nebraska
Environmental Trust

700 S 16th Street

PO Box 94913

Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

web site:

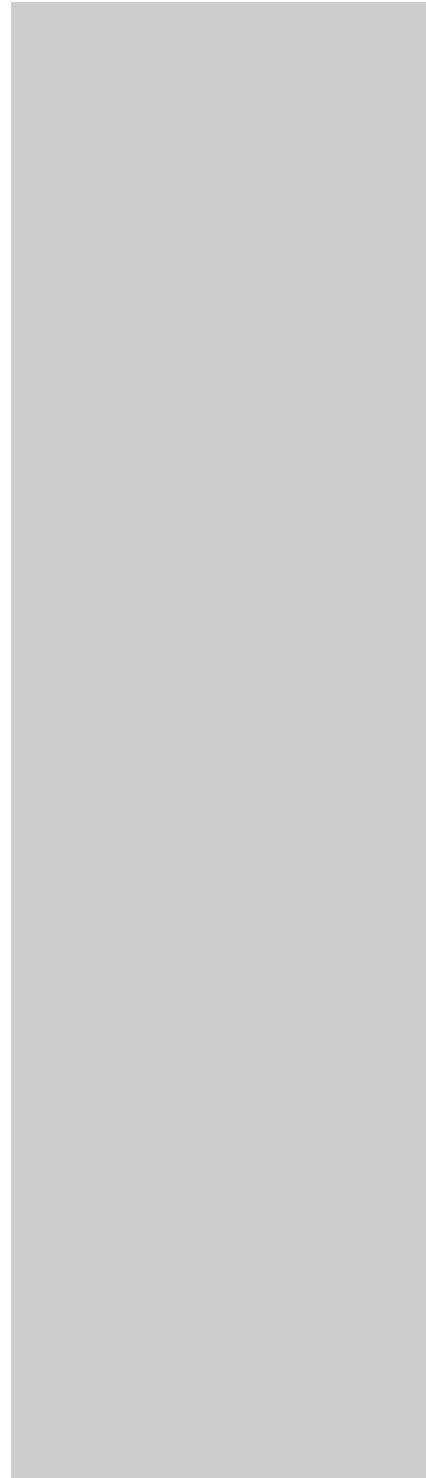
environmentaltrust.org

The Greenhouse and Outreach Center was almost entirely funded by grant money, the superintendent continued. That included a \$220,021 grant from The Nebraska Environmental Trust and a \$25,000 grant from the Nemaha Natural Resources District.

Reiman noted the primary goal for APS Agriculture/ Natural Resources Program is to provide an instructionally sound, rigorous curriculum available to all regular education and special needs students. That includes those who are bound for college, community college, technical schools, industry certificated programs and the workforce as well as our community at large. All students interested in agriculture/natural resources will have opportunities to complete multiple agriculture/natural resources pathways culminating in capstone courses in three sectors. Those are natural resources, environmental service systems and agribusiness.

The Trust was represented by Mark Brohman, the Executive Director who welcomed the community coming together in building the facility as well as Rod Christen, one of the Trust's board members. Ashton Bohling, representing the Auburn FFA said the center provides students with a space to experiment as well as teaching them about various varieties of plants.

Pictured below is the interior of the greenhouse.





Feature Project for the Month

Two RC&D Projects Receive Nebraska Environmental Trust Awards

Recently the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) announced that Laurel Regional Recycling will be receiving a grant of \$126,606 to institute a new Hub & Spoke recycling effort. This is in partnership with the communities of Verdigre, Creighton, Plainview, Niobrara, Bloomfield, Winnetoon, Orchard, Brunswick, and the Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council. The project is estimated to keep 1301 tons of material out of the landfill over a one-year period which will be a cost savings to the participating communities.

Laurel Regional Recycling will serve as the processing “hub” with Verdigre, Creighton and Plainview becoming the “mini-hubs”. The other five communities will be the

“spokes”. Funds will be used to fabricate forty galvanized rolling carts and purchase a used tractor and semi-trailer. Empty carts will be delivered to the “mini-hubs” for the collection of recyclables and then, as scheduled, Laurel Regional Recycling will pick up the full carts and drop off empty ones. Two educational events will be held in each town to inform citizens of what to do, why to do it, and how they’re benefiting not only the environment, but their communities in this recycling process.

The RC&D Council was awarded a third-year grant in the amount of \$22,410 for the collection and proper recycling of Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste. Dates and locations for those recycling events will be announced soon. These types of recycling projects have been very popular with communities and are often requested by citizens.

Clean Community System Electronic Recycling Day

On April 19th Clean Community System (CCS) collected 48,600 pounds (that’s right) of electronics. They collected 31,100 pounds of CRT TVs which included 16 large projection TVs, 14 wood console TVs, and LCD TVs. They also collected 28 Gaylords full of misc. general electronics including CRT Monitors, laptops, laser printers, desktop printers, microwaves, dehumidifiers, fans, vacuums, cell phones, home stereo systems, hair dryers, cables & wiring, and much more. They had individuals from not only Grand Island but Hastings, Aurora, Central City, St. Paul, Wolbach, Phillips, Archer, Chapman, Wood River,

Marquette, Ravenna, Trumbull, Dannebrog, Cairo, Greeley, Shelton, Minden, Palmer, Doniphan, and two from Kearney. "I believe next to Omaha, this has to be one of the largest recycling days in Nebraska – maybe larger than Omaha", says Denise McGovern-Gallagher, the Executive Director of Clean Community Systems.



- 3rd Quarter Board Meeting - Monday/Tuesday,

August 7-8, 2017, Omaha NE

- Nebraska State Fair, - August 25-September 4, 2017
 - Grants deadline, Tuesday, September 5, 2017
-

