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# RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

## January 2017

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### Executive Director Corner

2016 has come to an end and the Grants Committee has made their recommendations. You can find those recommendations in this newsletter. The full board will receive the recommendations at the first quarter board meeting on February 9, 2017.

The Legislature has gotten underway in the first session of the 105th Legislature. There were 667 bills introduced before the dust settled on the 10th day (the last day to introduce bills). This is a 90-day session. The bill impacting the Trust the most is LB 331 introduced by Speaker Scheer at the request of the Governor. LB 331 will transfer \$3.3M a year for the next three years to the Water Resources Cash Fund. This represents about 18% of the funds the Trust has available for grants, so it will have a significant impact on the Trust. Another bill we will monitor is LB 610 by Senator Kolowski. LB 610 establishes the Community Solar Energy Economic Development Act and encourages community solar projects to apply to the Trust for grant funds. There are no bonus points or requirements, so we will watch for amendments.

I have to take a minute and thank two Trust board members who are leaving us. Rick Brandt resigned from the Trust board in order to accept a position on the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and Gloria



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### Pete Ricketts, Governor Board of Trustees

#### District I

Vacant - TBA

James Hellbusch - Columbus

Kevin Peterson - Osceola

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#### District II

Gerry Lauritzen - Omaha

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Robert Krohn - Omaha

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#### District III

Sherry Vinton - Whitman

Rodney Christen - Steinauer

Gloria Erickson - Holdrege

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#### Agency Directors

Erickson has decided not to ask to be reappointed to the Trust board. It has been a joy working with both of these individuals. Even though I have only known Rick for a few years, I have really enjoyed working with him and I know he will be a great asset to the Commission. I have known Gloria for over 25 years and she has done so much for conservation over that time. She has been on the Trust board since 1999 and we are going to miss her.

The hardcore sports fans have turned their attention from high school and college football and volleyball to basketball and last NFL football events of the season, the playoffs and then the Super Bowl. There has been a lot of talk about the recent coaching changes with the Husker football program and the surprise recruitments and the ones that got away. The Spring Game is only a couple of months away; maybe we'll get a peek at the future Husker prospects.

Have a great 2017!

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

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### **2017 Grant Committee Recommendations for Funding Placed in Rank Order**

A copy of the 2017 Committee Recommendations for Funding Placed in Rank Order has been made available on the Trust website. To view this list, click on the link below:

[2017 Grant Committee Recommendations for Funding Placed in Rank Order](#)

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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

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### **Trust Staff**

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

Marilyn Tabor  
Grants Administrator

Sheila Johnson  
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](http://environmentaltrust.org)

### **Recycling Equipment Grants Still Available**

The Nebraska State Recycling Association (NSRA) still has grant funds available in the 2016-17 grant cycle for municipalities, other government entities, non-profits and recycling companies and haulers who wish to purchase recycling equipment. To apply, visit the NSRA Recycling Equipment Grants web page, [http://recyclenebraska.org/2016-17\\_recycling\\_equipment\\_grants](http://recyclenebraska.org/2016-17_recycling_equipment_grants) and contact Julie Diegel at 402-202-0755 or [jdiegel@recyclenebraska.org](mailto:jdiegel@recyclenebraska.org) for more information.

Grants can help fund up to \$15,000 for the purchase of recycling trailers, semi-trailers, carts, dumpsters, balers, lift-gates, forklifts, trucks, recycling bins and more. A cash match is required. Equipment may be new, used or in need of refurbishing. In some cases, the applicant's existing equipment can be refurbished with this grant. Applications are due by the 15th of each month for review. Grants are awarded until the funds are depleted.

**Also available this year:** Recycling review/consulting on existing or new recycle programs, ranging from a general to in-depth review, by phone or on-site. Reviews can be conducted independent of an equipment grant.

The Nebraska State Recycling Association received one of 118 grants totaling \$18.8 million in grant awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust in the 2016-17 grant cycle. The Trust has awarded more than \$250 million to over 1,900 natural resource projects in Nebraska since 1993, funded by proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery.

Since 1980, the Nebraska State Recycling Association, a non-profit membership-based organization, has provided

education, funding and technical assistance to maximize the environmental and economic benefits of resource recovery in Nebraska.



### **Trust Board Changes Coming Up!**

The Trust Board and staff will be saying farewell to two of our valuable members.

Gloria Erickson (see photo on the left), who has served the Trust Board since 1999 will not be requesting a reappointment. She is a long standing member on the board with 18 years of service with the Trust. Gloria has brought much knowledge, experience and expertise to the Board during her time with us and we are so grateful for her passion and enthusiasm.

We also had to bid farewell to Rick Brandt this week who has served the Trust board since 2013. Rick has been appointed to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to serve in his new capacity. Rick Brandt is pictured below, doing what he loves most, riding his mule, Trax, tracking sheep at Fort Robinson in Northwest Nebraska and riding the Yellowstone country with his wife Sharon. We will certainly miss his charm, wit and vocal talent.

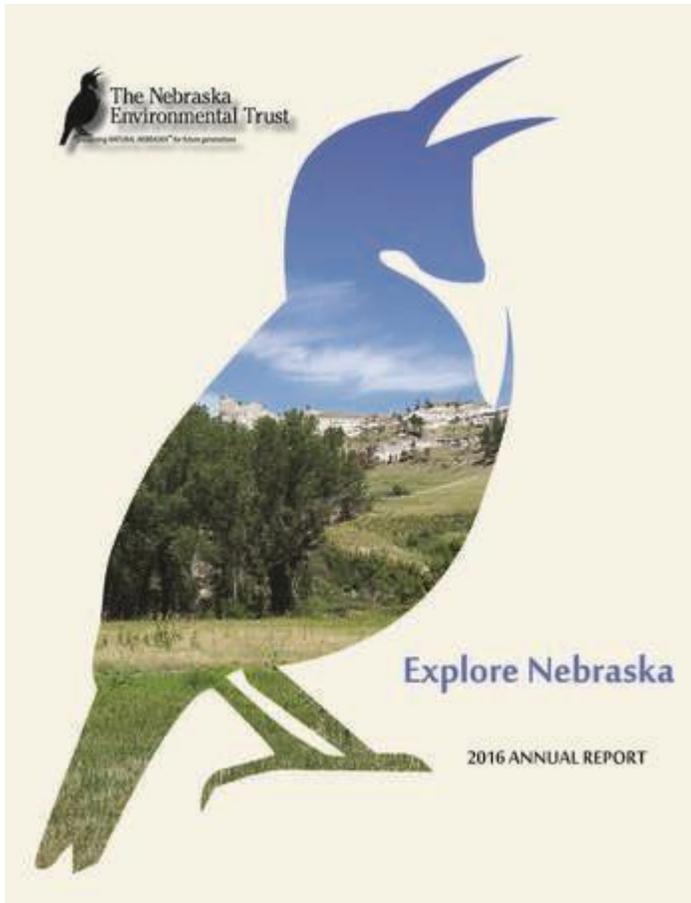
Their dedication and time with us is truly appreciated and we will miss them both. We wish them well but will be in touch with them from time to time.

The NET Board has 14 members, five agency directors and nine citizens, three from each of Nebraska's three Congressional Districts. They are appointed by the Governor to serve six year terms and there are no term limits. Appointments are confirmed by the Legislature.



### **2016 Nebraska Environmental Trust Annual Report**

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Annual Report is currently being distributed to all Trust contacts. An electronic copy of the report is available on the website. You may click on the following link to view the [Annual Report](#). If you would like a copy of the report, please email: [sheila.johnson@nebraska.gov](mailto:sheila.johnson@nebraska.gov)



### **Rainwater Basin Joint Venture - 22nd Annual Informational Seminar**

You are invited to attend the 22nd Annual Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Informational Seminar being held on Thursday, February 2, 2017. This annual one-day seminar is an opportunity for landowners, agricultural producers, natural resource professionals, and other interested individuals to learn about conservation issues, research, and habitat programs in the Rainwater Basin region.

Attached is a flyer detailing the schedule and topics that will be presented, including morning plenaries by Mark Brohman, Executive Director of the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and Kristal Stoner, NGPC's Wildlife

Diversity Program Manager. Break-out sessions will cover a variety of topics, including landowner experiences with conservation practices, Wetland Reserve Easements, variable irrigation, water/irrigation policy changes and current research being conducted in the Rainwater Basin region, such as the effects of contaminants on amphibians, groundwater recharge, and marsh birds.

The seminar will be held at the Hotel Grand Conference Center (formerly known as the Midtown Holiday Inn) 2503 S. Locust Street, Grand Island.

For more information, you may click on the link below:

[RWBJV Informational Seminar](#)

### Upcoming Events

- February 2, 2017 - Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Informational Seminar, Grand Island NE.
  - February 9, 2017 (Thursday) - 1st Quarter Board Meeting, Ferguson House, Lincoln NE.
  - March 16-19, 2017 - The 47th Annual Audubon Crane Festival, Kearney NE.
  - April 22, 2017 (Saturday) - Earth Day Omaha, Elmwood Park, Omaha NE.
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