



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

3125 Portia Street | P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581 | P: 402.476.2729 • F: 402.476.6454 | www.lpsnrd.org

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 7, 2025

To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors

From: Will Inselman, Resources Coordinator *WI*

Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Thursday, March 6th, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry, and Wildlife subcommittee met in the NRD Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present were Seth Hawkins, Chair; Christine Lamberty, Suzanne Mealer, Mark Spangler, Don Jacobson, Anthony Schutz, and Melissa Baker. Other attendees were Mike Sousek, David Potter, Eric Zach, and Will Inselman. One item was on the agenda for consideration.

The only item on the agenda was the consideration and agreement with the Nebraska Environmental Trust to accept grant funds. LPSNRD staff applied for and was awarded a Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) grant titled Enhancing Tallgrass Prairie Health via Grazing Management. This project would provide funding to install three solar livestock wells to enable grazing management on 505 acres of restored tallgrass prairie and associated ecosystems. The wells will also be integrated into the LPSNRD's groundwater monitoring network to monitor water quality metrics and groundwater levels. The wells will be located on Bobcat Prairie Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Kapke Prairie, and Honvlez Prairie, which are owned and managed by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) in partnership with the City of Lincoln, and part of the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch project. The development of grazing infrastructure will allow the LPSNRD to manage these sites to achieve the following outcomes: provide outdoor recreation opportunities, enhance habitat for several Tier 1 species and other wildlife, promote plant diversity, enhance soil health, and improve air quality. The LPSNRD and City of Lincoln would each provide \$10,000 cash match for a total of \$20,000. NET would provide \$40,000 with a total project cost of \$60,000. It has been some time since the NRD has applied for an NET grant and we were thrilled to see this project awarded. Staff indicated that there is money in the budget for this and that this project. Staff gave kudos to Eric Zach who did a great job putting together a great application packet. Staff recommended accepting the NET grant award.

It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Baker, and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign the grant contract agreement with the Nebraska Environmental Trust for funds awarded to LPSNRD for our "Enhancing Tallgrass Prairie Health via Grazing Management" project, pending legal counsel review.

Motion Passed: 7-0

Staff also provided updates on the status of the Rails with Trail grant that will be resubmitted towards another funding opportunity. Staff also provided some educational information and updates on prescribed fire activities, trail projects, and LRIP/budget discussions.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file

February 11, 2025

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District

RE: 25-140 – Enhancing Tallgrass Prairie Health via Grazing Management

Grantee,

This is a Notice of Approval (NOA) of your grant application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET). The NET Board took action at their meeting on February 6, 2025. The NOA is \$40,000.

Please read the following instructions carefully as additional action is required by you and/or your organization. Required documents must be completed and submitted to move forward in the grant process. You have **sixty (60) calendar days** from the date of this NOA to complete and submit the required documents. Failure to complete the documents on time could result in the loss of the grant approval.

Grant Contract Period

The Grant Period is the time between the execution of the Grant Contract Agreement by the NET and the Project End Date stated in the contract. After all documents are submitted and approved, you will receive a follow up letter called a Release of Funds (ROF). No expenses for the project will be reimbursed prior to the ROF letter being issued. All eligible expenses and match must occur after the project start date.

Multi-Year Projects

If your project was a multi-year application, the NET Board approved funds for additional years. These additional funds are subject to the prior year's project performance and milestone completion.

Grant Contract Forms

To expedite the grant contract agreement, NET is using DocuSign to electronically process the contract. You will receive a separate email to review and sign the contract via DocuSign. Restrictions or conditions attached to your NOA are specified in the NET Grant Contract Agreement. Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns before signing and returning the contract via DocuSign.

Please complete and email the following forms to Holly.Adams@Nebraska.gov no later than **April 11, 2025**:

1. 2025 Grant Contract (emailed via DocuSign)
2. Grantee Information Form
3. Project Spending Form
4. Personal Property/Contractual Services Form (if applicable)

ACH Enrollment

Grant payments are processed via ACH through the State of Nebraska Accounting.

- **Already Setup for ACH?** If you already have been set up for ACH with the State and want to verify the information is current contact State Accounting (402-471-0603).
- **Not Setup for ACH?** If your organization has not been set up for ACH with the State, please complete the STATE OF NEBRASKA, ACH ENROLLMENT FORM. The form is available at: <http://das.nebraska.gov/accounting/forms/forms.htm> under Accounting Forms - State of Nebraska Substitute Form W-9 and ACH Enrollment Form. Email the completed form and required documentation to Holly, at the email listed above.

Grant Reporting

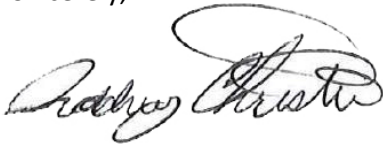
You will be able to complete your Contract Budget through the online portal. Instructions can be found in the attached Portal Guidance document. The final budget submitted in the portal must include a spending/disbursement plan. This spending timeline plan should match the project milestones included in your grant application.

The following paragraphs summarize important steps for reimbursement of expenditures for your grant:

- Your reporting schedule and conditions of disbursement are specified in your grant agreement. Agreements provide 30 days to file reports for the previous reporting period. Failure to file reports as detailed in your agreement may result in the forfeiture of your grant.
- Reimbursements and reports will be submitted through the grant portal. If you have any questions about what is required under the terms of the agreement, please contact staff.
- **Changes in your budget line items or project activities must be approved in writing before you make expenditures.** A separate guidance document is available concerning contract or budget amendment requests. If you question whether an expense is eligible or not, please contact NET staff before proceeding. The award may not be expended on items not identified in your grant application and contract budget summary, or items such as past debt or unforeseen organizational expenses.

Congratulations on your award.

Sincerely,



Rodney Christen
Board Chair



Karl L. Elmshaeuser
Executive Director

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST GRANT CONTRACT
Between the
Nebraska Environmental Trust
and
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
Regarding the implementation of a grant proposal
Enhancing Tallgrass Prairie Health via Grazing Management
NET Reference Number: 25-140

THIS GRANT AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) and **Lower Platte South Natural Resources District** (Sponsor) in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 85-15,168 et. seq. the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act;

WHEREAS, the Sponsor applied to the NET for grant funds to facilitate completion of **Enhancing Tallgrass Prairie Health via Grazing Management (25-140)** (the Project), pursuant to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act, and

WHEREAS, following evaluation of the application and any attachments, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board approved a grant of up to **\$40,000** the Sponsor, subject to available funds and appropriations.

WHEREAS, the Sponsor agrees to comply with all provisions of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 85-15,168 et. seq., Nebraska Administrative Code Title 137, Rules and Regulations Governing Activities of the Nebraska Environmental Trust (Title 137), pertinent provisions of the Adopted Policies of the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the terms of this Agreement, and

WHEREAS, Sponsor intends to use the funds as set out in this Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties do hereby agree to the terms and requirements of this Agreement as follows:

I. TERM OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement will begin on the date it is executed by NET and will remain in effect until all identified tasks are completed for this Project unless terminated under this Agreement, but will not remain in effect past **6/30/2026** (Project End Date). The Grant Period shall be the time between the execution of this Agreement by the NET and the Project End Date. No funds will be released until the start of the Grant Period, and all prerequisites of the NET Letter of Approval have been satisfied. All required activities and services, except for submission of final reports, administration, and audit, must be completed by or before the Project End Date. The provisions of this Agreement that survive the Project End Date include items that have a greater longevity (i.e. depreciation of personal property, easements, final report).

No assignment or transfer of this Agreement or any part hereof, rights hereunder, or interest herein by the Sponsor shall be valid unless and until it is approved by the NET and made subject to reasonable terms and conditions as the NET may impose.

II. AMOUNT OF GRANT AND BUDGET OUTLINE

The Sponsor will be awarded up to **\$40,000** (Project Costs) to accomplish the Project.

1. BUDGET OUTLINE AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE. The final budget outline and disbursement schedule, whether it was submitted with the application or revised at the request of the NET is made part of this Agreement. The Sponsor is required to stay within the submitted budget categories. Any changes to the limit of a budget category requires a contract amendment. NET will not reimburse Sponsor for any expenditures that occur prior to the Grant Period.

If the project was a multi-year application, the NET Board approved funds for additional years. Each year of funding is subject to the prior year's project performance and milestone completion. Rollover funds from one year to the next will be evaluated based on grant performance and are not guaranteed.

- a. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. The NET limits the amount of General Administrative Expense for a grant. Costs that are administrative in nature but are in direct support of a project activity should be charged to the project activity and not to General Administration. General Administration costs relate to administration of the grant and project file. General Administration Expenses shall mean those expenses related to overall administration, including (but not limited to) salaries, wages, employer's share of social security and Medicare taxes, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, and employer-provided health, dental, or vision insurance premiums of Sponsor staff or others engaged in grant management, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. General Administration Expenses shall not exceed 5% of Project Costs or \$10,000, whichever is less.

The following limits apply to reimbursements for General Administrative Expenses: wages, per employee, shall be limited to a 40-hour work week; the employer's share of social security taxes and Medicare taxes on wages shall be limited to 7.65% of gross wages; the employer's share of employer-provided health, dental, or vision insurance premiums, which shall not exceed the actual cost or up to \$5.00 per hour in total, whichever is less.

- b. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.
 - 1) Personnel Expenses: submit a copy of the paycheck stub or payroll record showing hourly rate and hours worked, date and location. Submit a copy of Federal Form 941 if requesting reimbursement of the employer's share of social security and Medicare taxes or other proof of taxes paid.
 - 2) Supply and Operating Expenses: submit a copy of the detailed invoice or receipt.

- 3) Travel Expense: submit a copy of the detailed, itemized receipt for food, hotel, and public transportation expenses. Submit a log for mileage for reimbursement of business miles with date, starting and ending location, miles traveled and purpose for the travel.
 - 4) Contractual Expenses: submit a copy of the detailed invoice and image of the cancelled check or proof of payment acceptable to NET.
 - 5) Personal Property Expenses: submit a copy of the detailed invoice (listing make, model, and serial number of item) and image of the cancelled check or proof of payment acceptable to NET.
 - 6) Matching Cash: submit a detailed list of expenses and calculations used for cash match.
 - 7) Telephone: submit a copy of the detailed bill; landline telephone, cell phone services, and internet are reimbursable only if the service contract is billed to the Sponsor.
2. MATCHING FUNDS. Matching funds, as identified in the application, shall be proportionally injected into the Project as NET funded activities are drawn down. Matching funds are cash match. The NET may waive this requirement for some or all of the Project upon a written request by the Sponsor.
 3. NON-REIMBURSABLE PERSONNEL EXPENSES. The following personnel expenses will not be reimbursed with grant funds: Actual wages in excess of a 40-hour work week; health, dental, and vision insurance costs over \$5.00 per hour, limited to a 40-hour work week.

Non-reimbursable personnel costs that cannot be used as match: life insurance costs; retirement account contributions; tuition or higher education paid as an employee benefit; a payout for unused sick or vacation leave; indirect costs as a percentage of gross wages; any bonuses.

If Sponsor uses indirect costs as a cash match to the grant, the NET will not reimburse costs for office rent, utilities, phone, internet, printing, etc.

4. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS. Not allowed.
5. FEDERAL RATE REIMBURSEMENT. Same-day meals and lodging expenses are not permitted for reimbursement. Travel must be at least two days (overnight) and the destination at least 60 miles from the workplace to be eligible for reimbursement. Reimbursement for meals and lodging for overnight travel will be reimbursed at the actual cost of said expenses except that this reimbursement shall be capped at the Federal rate per meal for food and per day for lodging. Alcohol reimbursement is prohibited.

Mileage may be reimbursed for both same-day and overnight travel at the current standard IRS mileage rate. Travel logs are required, which include the following information: starting point and destination, number of miles driven, and purpose of the trip.

Automobile rentals, airfares, and taxi/shuttle transportation will be reimbursed at the actual reasonable cost. A bank card receipt that displays only the total cost of the transportation expense is not sufficient documentation.

6. REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FORMS. To request payment of allowable expenses, the Sponsor must submit a request for payment in the manner and form prescribed by the NET. Paid invoices that are over 180 days old at the time of the reimbursement request will not be allowed. The Sponsor has 90 days from the Project End Date to submit a final reimbursement request with an invoice incurred before the Project End Date.
7. RETAINAGE. NET reserves the right to retain a portion of each requested reimbursement in an amount or percentage determined by NET.
8. UNAUTHORIZED EXPENSES. Sponsor will not be reimbursed for unauthorized expenditures, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Recognition expenses such as prizes, plaques, awards, certificates, or trophies.
 - (b) Late fees on invoices.
 - (c) Promotional items of clothing and/or accessory items (ex: hats, t-shirts, jackets, etc.) will be eligible for reimbursement, provided the purchase is proposed in the original grant application and the purpose is clearly defined for public environmental benefit. Reimbursement for the purchase of any clothing and/or accessory item is limited to \$500 per grantee per grant year.

III. WORK DESCRIPTION AND SCHEDULE

This Project shall complete objectives and work items as described in the Project application, which by this reference are made part of this Agreement.

IV. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. REIMBURSEMENT ONLY. NET operates using a reimbursement process only. Prospective payments, advances, or early payments are prohibited. Bills which would become due and owing after the term of this Agreement or payment for memberships, services, or contracts which extend beyond the term of this Agreement are prohibited. Any funds remaining at the Project End Date will be returned or retained by NET. Funds shall be disbursed to the grantee no more than once per month in accordance with the grant agreement as per Title 137.
2. STATUTES AND REGULATIONS. The Sponsor will comply with all local, state, and federal statutes, rules, regulations, ordinances, and orders applicable to Sponsor. Sponsor shall acquire, obtain, or receive all state and Federal licenses and/or permits required by law prior to initiation of the Project. Violation of this condition will be considered a breach of this Agreement and be subject to penalties or termination as set forth in this Agreement.
3. FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION. If Sponsor provides false or misleading information, or withholds material facts during the application, administration, or reporting process in any way,

it will be considered a breach of this Agreement, and be subject to penalties or termination as set forth in this Agreement.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. Sponsor represents that all legal requirements have been or can be met prior to allocation or disbursement of funds pursuant to Title 137.
5. NO OBLIGATION OF NET. Sponsor acknowledges that NET is not obligated to make additional grants beyond this Project, and that the award of this grant does not bind the NET, its Board, or Grants Committee to award similar grants to the Sponsor in the future.
6. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. The Sponsor is and will perform this Agreement as an independent contractor, and as such will have and maintain exclusive control over all of its employees, agents, and operations. Neither the Sponsor nor any person employed by the Sponsor shall act, propose to act or be deemed the NET's agent, representative or employee.
 - a. The Sponsor assumes full and exclusive responsibility for the payment of all premiums, contributions, payroll taxes, and other taxes now or hereafter required by any law or regulation.
 - b. The Sponsor and any contractor or subcontractor will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and orders, including but not limited to, those relating to social security, unemployment compensation, OSHA, affirmative action, equal employment opportunity, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - c. The Sponsor and any contractor or subcontractor of the Sponsor is required to use the EVerify Program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324a to determine the work eligibility status of newly hired employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska.
 - d. The Sponsor, by executing this Agreement, certifies and assures that the Sponsor and any contractor or subcontractor operates a drug-free workplace as addressed in the State of Nebraska Drug-Free Workplace Policy of February 9, 2017.
 - e. The Sponsor and any contractor or subcontractor will comply with the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act.
7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST. The Sponsor certifies that it will not employ or utilize any individual or entity known by the Sponsor to have a conflict of interest. The Sponsor certifies that there does not now exist any relationship between the Sponsor and any person or entity which gives the appearance of a conflict of interest. Any new, undiscovered, or undisclosed conflicts of interest arising during the duration of this Agreement may be considered a breach of this Agreement and be subject to penalties or termination as set forth in this Agreement.
8. RELATED PARTIES. Transactions between the Sponsor and related parties must be disclosed to the NET if grant funds will be used for reimbursement of the transaction or the transaction will be counted towards the Sponsor's match. NET may deny reimbursement or reject as match if Sponsor:
 - a. Fails to receive NET approval prior to incurring expense, or

- b. Does not include a bid from the related party as part of the grant application.
 - c. Non-disclosed funding partner in application and/or duplication of grant.
9. RECOGNITION. Sponsor agrees to recognize funding from the NET on all published materials and news releases related to its NET funded project or activities. The NET may also require that personal property partially or wholly funded with grant dollars be identified by a decal or other means provided by the NET acknowledging the source of funding. Sponsor agrees to NET's disclosure of the Sponsor's name, project name and description.
10. PUBLICATION. All parties shall have publication and reproduction rights for all reports and materials which are produced as a result of this Agreement.
11. INSURANCE. The Sponsor must provide NET proof of coverage under an insurance policy which covers the NET's investment in personal property with a purchase value greater than \$5,000 or any real property.
12. SITE INSPECTIONS. NET staff or its designee may schedule visits during the Grant Period and, if applicable, throughout the estimated useful life of personal property, real property, easements or improvements purchased with grant funds. Sponsor will comply with requests for information and grant access for inspection of all grant funded activities to NET or its designee.
13. NET GRANT FUNDS. NET grant funds cannot be used to offset costs when bidding for services for any other grant funded activities. NET grant funds cannot be used as matching funds for another NET grant, or another grant funded in part by NET.
14. CLAWBACK. If the NET determines, at any time prior to or following expiration of this Agreement, that the Sponsor has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, it may terminate this Agreement and take action to recover NET contributions to the Project in addition to other penalties as set forth in this Agreement.
15. OPERATIONS. All operation, replacement, and maintenance of the Project components shall be carried out and applied in such a manner so as to accomplish the purposes of the Project as set forth in the Sponsor's application and associated materials, including any amendments thereto which have been approved by the NET, for the useful life of the Project.
16. ENGINEERING. The Sponsor will provide for and maintain competent and adequate architectural and engineering supervision and inspection at any construction site as appropriate to ensure that the completed work conforms substantially in accordance with the proposed plans and specifications, according to accepted standards and practices.
17. APPLICABILITY TO SUBGRANTEE AND CONTRACTORS. All provisions of this Agreement including but not limited to Section IV (6), will be made binding on any subgrantee or contractor of the Sponsor. The Sponsor will, nonetheless, remain fully obligated under the provisions of this Agreement. Any such subgrantee or contractor of the Sponsor must be authorized to transact business in the State of Nebraska. All subgrantees and contractors are expected to comply with all Nebraska Secretary of State and Department of Revenue registration requirements, including any registration requirements pertaining to types of business entities (e.g. sole proprietorship, partnership, foreign/domestic limited liability company, association, or foreign/domestic corporation). Construction contractors are expected to meet all applicable requirements of the Nebraska Contractor Registration Act and provide a current, valid certificate of registration to

the Sponsor for its records. Upon request of the NET, the Sponsor must submit copies of written agreements executed between the Sponsor and any subgrantees or contractors relating to the Project.

18. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. If the Project results in any copyrightable material or inventions, the NET and/or the State of Nebraska reserves the right to a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use and/or authorize others to use the work, data collected, or materials for governmental purposes.
19. ANTI-LOBBYING. To the best of the Sponsor's knowledge and belief, no funds have been paid or will be paid, nor will any gifts be presented by or on behalf of the Sponsor to any person or business for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence an officer, Board member or employee of the NET, any Nebraska State agency, a State Senator, or other employee of the State of Nebraska in connection with the awarding of any NET grant or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any NET contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
20. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this contract or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity will not affect other provisions of this contract.
21. HOLD HARMLESS. The Sponsor agrees to hold the State of Nebraska, the NET and its Board, officers, agents, and employees harmless from any and all claims, demands, damages, leases, costs, expenses, liability, and actions based upon or arising out of any activities or services performed by the Sponsor or by its officials, officers, employees, agents, subgrantees, or associates.
22. SURVIVAL. The following terms of this Agreement shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement: Section IV paragraphs 2-3, 9-12, 14-15, 18, 20-23, Section V paragraphs 1, 2c, and all of Section VI except paragraph 1c.
23. GOVERNING LAW, VENUE, AND MODIFICATIONS. Nebraska law shall govern the interpretation and enforcement of this Agreement. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement contains the entire agreement between them, supersedes any prior agreements and conversations, and may not be modified except by written agreement signed by all parties. The parties agree that the Nebraska District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska is the proper venue for the resolution of any disputes regarding this Agreement.
24. DEBARMENT. The Sponsor certifies by signing this Agreement that neither the Sponsor nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any federal or state department or agency from participating in transactions. The Sponsor shall include the above requirements in any and all subcontracts into which it enters. The Sponsor shall immediately notify the NET if, during the term of this Agreement, the Sponsor becomes debarred.
25. HISTORIC PRESERVATION. The Sponsor shall undertake at its own expense any action that may be required to determine the presence of cultural resources and to undertake any subsequent measures which may be required to ensure the preservation of such resources which may be discovered. The Sponsor agrees to comply with the provisions of Section 106 of the National

Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, where historic structures are determined to exist on any site where NET funds are expended.

26. THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES. The Sponsor shall undertake at its own expense any action that may be required to ensure compliance with the Nongame and Endangered Species Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 37-801 et. seq.

V. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS OF THE SPONSOR

1. FINANCIAL REPORTS, ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RECORDS AND REQUEST FOR DISBURSEMENT. The Sponsor shall submit properly documented statements of costs for which grant funds are sought, pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, for approved grant activities in a manner and form prescribed by the NET. Proper documentation shall be considered to be copies of invoices containing the name and address of the vendor and an itemized list of services or goods with costs and the date of service or delivery. These statements and reports shall be signed by the Project representative of the Sponsor.

The NET will reimburse the Sponsor for these costs following receipt of the statements and reports specified in this section, subject to conditions contained in this section, and elsewhere in this Agreement.

The NET or its agents will have full access to and the right to examine, audit, excerpt, and/or transcribe any of the Sponsor's records pertaining to all matters covered by this Agreement. The Sponsor shall transfer records pertinent to this grant and work undertaken as part of the Project to the NET or its agents upon request.

Financial records, supporting documents and all other records pertinent to this grant shall be retained for a period of three years following notification from the NET Board that the grant has been officially closed, except the records shall be retained beyond the three-year period if audit findings have not been resolved.

2. PROJECT PROGRESS AND ACTIVITY REPORTS. The Sponsor agrees to provide periodic reports in a manner and form prescribed by the NET including a narrative description of all Project activities, participants, outcomes, variances, and deviations from the Project application according to the below schedule. Sponsor must include a statement on the continued payment of property taxes or payments in lieu of property taxes on any NET project.
 - a. Quarterly Reports. The Sponsor agrees to file such statements and reports according to the following schedule:

PROJECT PERIOD	REPORT DUE DATE
From Inception through September 30, 2025	OCTOBER 31, 2025
October 1 - December 31, 2025	JANUARY 31, 2026
January 1 - March 31, 2026	APRIL 30, 2026
April 1 - June 30, 2026	JULY 30, 2026
FINAL REPORT - From Inception through June 30, 2026	JULY 30, 2026

- b. Annual Reports. Sponsor shall submit an annual report to NET on July 30 of each year in a form and manner prescribed by NET.
- c. Final Report. A final report is due 30 days after the completion or termination of the Agreement. This report must include a summary of the activities, partners, and results of the Project from inception to completion and include all matching contributions. This final report must also include quantifying results and statistics about the Project's success.

All financial reports, requests for reimbursement, progress and activity reports are deemed filed or submitted when properly uploaded to the NET Grant Portal.

VI. PERSONAL PROPERTY, CONTRACTUAL SERVICES, AND REAL ESTATE PROVISIONS

- 1. PERSONAL PROPERTY. The Sponsor will report to the NET all personal property purchased with full or partial funding in a manner and form prescribed by the NET. The Sponsor will identify by year, make, model, and serial number if available, such personal property as purchased with NET funding in the Sponsor's inventory of the personal property. Personal property and other personal property purchased with grant funding shall be used only for the purposes of the Project during the grant project.
 - a. Bids. For any purchase of personal property valued at \$5,000 or more, or purchases of services valued at \$20,000 or more, the Sponsor is required to obtain at least 3 (three) bids for personal property or services, for which more than one vendor is available. Specifications shall be drawn such that it will be possible for three or more manufacturers, vendors, or suppliers to submit competitive bids.

The Sponsor must accept the lowest reasonable bid when products are substantially equivalent. If Sponsor provides adequate justification, as determined by the NET, why the lowest bid is unacceptable, the NET may approve the selection of a higher bid.

The Sponsor will provide the names of bidders to the NET at the time a request for reimbursement is submitted. Such bids shall be held in the Sponsor's files for three (3) years.

- b. Insurance. The Sponsor agrees to purchase and maintain property insurance at its own expense to insure all personal property valued at \$5,000 or more which is purchased in whole or in part with funds received from the NET. This insurance shall include "all risk" insurance for physical loss or damage including, without duplication of coverage, theft, vandalism, and malicious mischief. Such insurance shall be maintained on all such personal property in an amount equal to the replacement value of the personal property during the grant project. The Sponsor shall name the NET beneficiary of the policy and shall assure that proof of coverage shall be kept current. Evidence of current coverage will be provided annually to the NET office by the Sponsor. Upon request for reimbursement the Sponsor will provide the NET with the policy of insurance for personal property purchased, in whole or in part, with funds received from the NET.
- c. Personal Property Usage. Personal property will be used only for Project purposes throughout the grant project. Sponsor will make effective and efficient use of the personal property.
 - a. If personal property is used for a purpose that is not approved, or the Sponsor fails to make effective and efficient use of the personal property throughout the grant project, the NET may:
 - i. Require the Sponsor to repay all or a portion of the grant used to reimburse for the purchase of the personal property as determined by the NET,
 - ii. Decline reimbursement for other, unrelated approved expenses in an amount up to the grant funds used for personal property purchase, or
 - iii. Require the Sponsor to surrender the personal property to the NET.
 1. Sponsor must store surrendered personal property safely until the NET can arrange for the personal property to be redistributed.
 2. Sponsor must complete all paperwork required for transfer of surrendered personal property.
 - b. Personal property Maintenance. The Sponsor is responsible for all necessary and reasonable maintenance of personal property and may be held liable by the NET for any loss, damage, neglect, or unreasonable deterioration of the personal property throughout the grant project.

- c. Personal property Liens. The NET will maintain first lien status on all redistributed personal property and personal property purchased, in whole or in part, with grant funds, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director. Length of lien on redistributed personal property and personal property purchased with grant funds shall correspond to the useful life of the personal property.
 - d. Ownership Interest. The NET maintains an ownership interest in all personal property during its useful life. The Sponsor shall notify the NET when a piece of personal property reaches the end of its useful life. The Sponsor will gain unrestricted ownership after the useful life period expires unless Sponsor was required to surrender the personal property.
 - e. Personal Property Disposition. The Sponsor shall not sell, transfer, lease, exchange, or encumber personal property purchased with grant funds throughout its useful life without first notifying and receiving written approval from the NET. Funds realized from the sale of personal property will revert to the NET in an amount congruent with the percentage of funding provided by the NET for purchase of the personal property.
2. REAL ESTATE. Real estate includes, but is not limited to, land acquisitions, easements, or improvements. Sponsor shall abide by the NET Land Acquisition/Easement Policy. Sponsor shall provide continued access to the properties affected by this Agreement for periodic reviews and visits, annual accounting reports on NET funded real estate, and proof of annual tax payments. The NET must also be notified in writing of any plans to sell, lease, transfer, exchange, mortgage, or encumber the property. The Sponsor will be required to obtain written NET approval for any such transaction and negotiate the terms of the transaction with the NET (which may include partial or whole repayment of the grant). If Sponsor receives a grant from NET for the purchase of real property and subsequently sells or otherwise transfers an ownership interest in such real property, Sponsor shall repay to NET the amount of the grant used to purchase the real property.

VII. TERMINATION OR AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT PRIOR TO PROJECT END DATE

The Sponsor understands and agrees that failure to comply with any of the terms of this Agreement may result in the revocation or cancellation of NET approval and funding and/or a demand for repayment of any funds previously paid to the Sponsor by the NET.

The NET may terminate the Project, in whole or in part, at any time before the expiration date of this Agreement whenever the NET determines that the Sponsor has failed to comply with the conditions herein. The Executive Director of the NET will promptly notify the Sponsor in writing of the determination and the reasons for the termination, together with the effective date as stated in Title 137.

By mutual agreement, the Project may be terminated, modified or amended. When both parties agree to terminate the Agreement, in whole or in part, the parties will agree upon the termination conditions, including the effective date, and in the case of a partial termination, the portion to be terminated. The Sponsor shall not incur new obligations for the terminated portion after the effective date and shall cancel as many outstanding obligations as possible.

[Separate Signature Page follows]

SPONSOR (Lower Platte South Natural Resources District)

I attest that I am authorized to sign this Agreement on behalf of the Sponsor and that all representations in the application, attachments, and exhibits submitted by Sponsor in connection with this grant are true and correct.

By: _____

Printed Name: Eric Zach

Title: _____

Date: _____

NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

By: _____

NET Executive Director

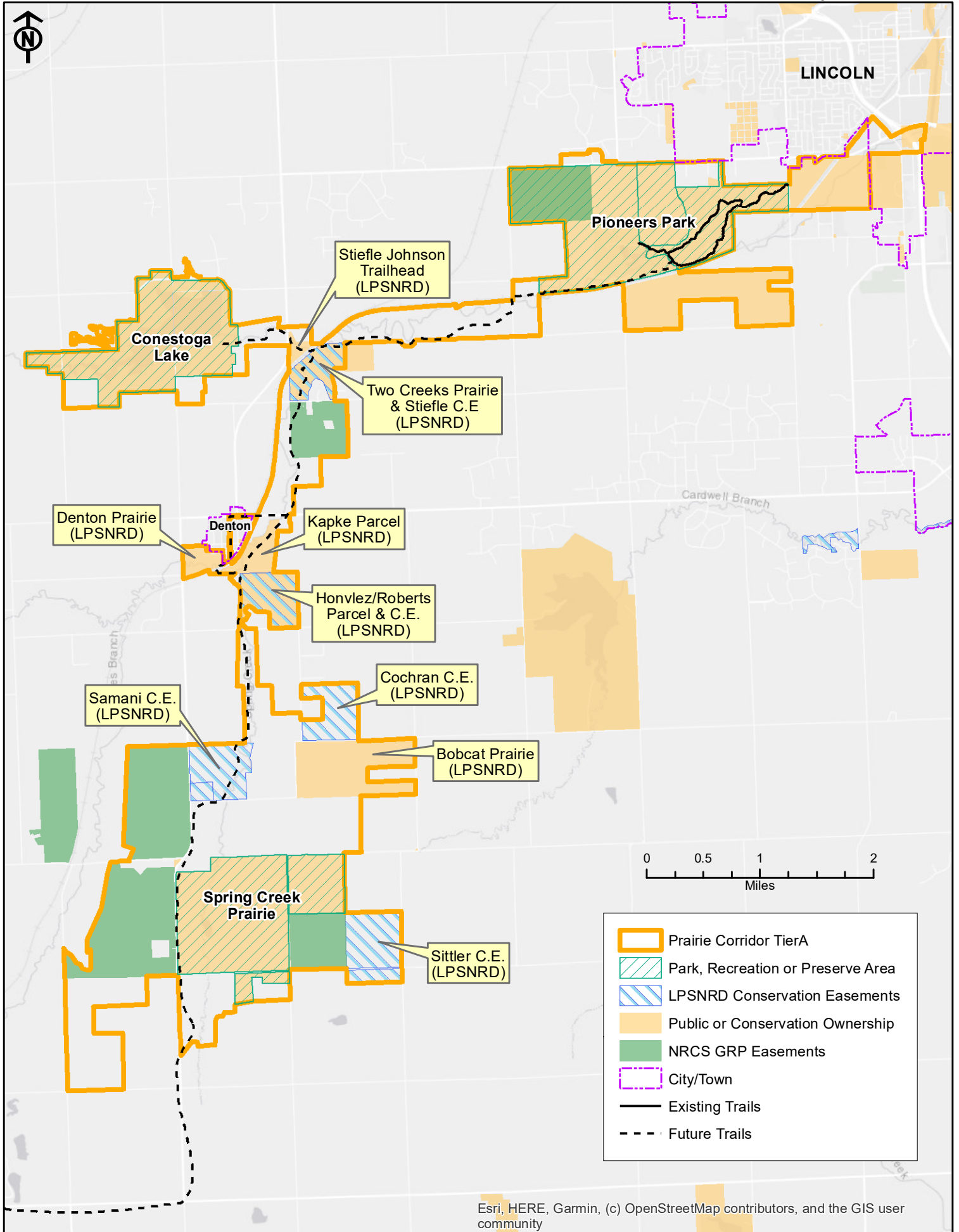
Date: _____

By: _____

NET Board Chair

Date: _____

Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch, Lancaster County





Haines Branch Prairie Corridor - Property Locations

