NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Title 137 - NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST BOARD

Chapter 8 - RANKING ELIGIBLE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING

001 After the evaluation of applications for eligibility, all eligible projects shall be ranked according to the Project Ranking System established and adopted by the Board for the competition to which the application was submitted.

002 ~~Preliminary~~ The ranking shall be performed by the Grants Committee of the Board appointed ~~by the Chairpersons~~ provided for in the by-laws of the Nebraska Environmental Trust. In deciding the assignment of points for each eligible project, the Committee shall do so in a manner ~~which~~ that provides a fair comparison of projects regardless of cost or project funding category. More expensive projects shall not receive additional points just because they are larger in scale nor shall projects in a particular funding category receive additional points except as provided for pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statutes. The importance of the funding categories is to be considered equal. Points shall be assigned with consideration of the anticipated effects of the project relative to its costs. The Committee may request assistance from the Executive Director to the extent necessary to evaluate each proposal.

~~003 The Grants Committee may request additional information from any applicant in written form. All additional supplements shall be in writing and signed by the applicant.~~ [already covered by 137-4-001.03]

003 The Nebraska Environmental Trust Board may assign bonus points to any of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Districts as a means of implementing the geographic distribution intent to Title 137, Chapter 7.003.05. The bonus points must be assigned at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the due date to which the application is submitted.

004 The Grants Committee shall complete ~~report the results~~ ~~of~~ their rank order list with recommendation for funding at least three (3) weeks prior to the first quarter meeting established by the approved annual calendar. ~~ing process to the Chairperson by the date established therefore on the calendar approved annually by the Board.~~ The rank order list ~~report~~ shall indicate the results of the ranking process with the highest scoring project at the top of the list along with the number of points scored and the amount of funding recommended to be approved. Lower ranked projects shall follow in sequential order showing the same information for each. Then finally, the projects receiving a statement of intent for second and third year funding shall be shown with no ranking indicated by listed in application number order.

005 This rank order list of the Grants Committee becomes a report of the Committee and shall be entitled, "Grants Committee Recommendations for Funding placed in Rank Order" and shall be distributed by mail or e-mail to all board members at least two (2) weeks prior to, placed on the Nebraska Environmental Trust's website and placed on the agenda of the first quarter board meeting as a committee report to be received by the board. ~~Upon receipt of the Grants Committee report, the Chairperson shall call a meeting of the Board to adopt or revise and adopt the Committee report and schedule a public hearing on the proposed funding list.~~

006 The Committee's report shall not be revised until after it has been received by the board and a public hearing is held.

007 At the second quarter meeting established and approved by the annual calendar, ~~After the~~ a public hearing ~~is~~ shall be conducted on the proposed funding list, ~~the Board may take action on actual funding~~. Following the public hearing, ~~If~~ if the Board decides that any proposed project does not have sufficient merit to justify funding from the Trust, the Board may choose not to fund the project notwithstanding its consistency with eligibility criteria or ~~its final~~ the ranking given by the Grants Committee. The Board may entertain individual motions to change the rank order list or the funding recommendation that has been proposed by the Grants Committee and each motion shall be noted on individually until all motions have been considered. A simple majority of votes cast is needed for passage. Following the consideration of any motions to change the "Grants Committee's Recommendations for Funding placed in Rank Order", a ballot including any changes that were approved shall be distributed to the Board. Board members may then vote "For", "Against" or "Abstain" on each grant. ~~The proposed list may be revised after the public hearing only with the approval of eight member.~~ The tally of the votes shall be announced prior to the conclusion of the meeting.

~~007~~ 008 Notwithstanding ratings determined in this Chapter, no allocation of funds shall be made for remediation in a manner inconsistent with §81-15,176(2)(b).