

Minutes of a Meeting of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Technical Committee

Held on May 29, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Fort Union Room, State Capitol Building

Present: Robert Kuylen, OHF Advisory Board Chairman
Rhonda Kelsch, ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Jeb Williams, ND Game and Fish Department
Tom Claeys, ND Forest Service (Online)
Cole Garman, ND Department of Parks & Recreation

Others Present: Reice Haase (NDIC), Brenna Jessen (NDIC)

Chairman Robert Kuylen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Reice Haase presented the Outdoor Heritage Fund project management and financial report. There has been a total of 232 cumulative projects and 79 of those are currently active through the program. OHF currently has \$36,462,378.26 in funds committed, and \$4,887,500.96 available to commit to new projects.

Chairman Kuylen facilitated the review of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Round 24 applications.

24-1 (D): Spring Lake Park Enhancement, Williston Parks & Recreation District – **OHF funding request: \$300,000**, Total Project Costs: \$448,573.00. Project Summary: Rehabilitate Spring Lake Park in Williston with new restrooms and paved and handicapped accessible trails.

Comments/Questions:

- Most of the funding goes towards paving and restrooms.
- Is this considered a building that OHF wouldn't fund?

24-2 (A): ND Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative 4., North Dakota Forest Service – **OHF funding request: \$900,000**, Total Project Costs: \$1,200,000. Project Summary: Continue financial assistance programs for landowners to renovate their windbreaks.

Comments/Questions:

- This is their 4th time coming in with a request, so the program is clearly being utilized.
- Who needs these funds more? There are limited funds available his grant round.

24-3 (D) Dakota Lake Picnic Shelter, Dickey County – **OHF funding request: \$4,200**, Total Project Costs: \$6,100. Project Summary: Installation of picnic shelter near new boat ramp at the James River.

Comments/Questions:

- Eagle Scouts wants to put up a shelter.

24-4 (A): Tobacco Gardens Dredging Project, McKenzie County Park Board – **OHF funding request: \$926,622**, Total Project Costs: \$1,235,496. Project Summary: Dredging sediment and erosion at the South boat ramp at Tobacco Gardens Marina and placing riprap on embankment to prevent further erosion.

Comments/Questions:

- Is this a large dollar amount for a project that will likely end up seeing the issue again as it can fill back in?
- The Missouri River is a river, so it will eventually fill back in.
- There was appreciation for having a plan in place & their engineers (Brosz)
- Is it a 319 watershed?

24-5 (C): Belfield Dam Improvement, City of Belfield – **OHF funding request: \$145,125**, Total Project Costs: \$193,500. Project Summary: Bank repair and regrading with riprap replacement. Establish beach area with kayak ramp and 2 shelters.

Comments/Questions:

- This gives the kids access to the water to be able to fish.
- There is an issue with the cattails.
- They have an active sportsman club with large community involvement.
- The community has been raising money for this.
- There are some concerns with dredging.
- Is OHF covering maintenance that was not kept up on?

24-6 (A): Greenway Fishing Enhancement Project, City of Grand Forks – **OHF funding request: \$239,389.45**, Total Project Costs: \$478,778.90. Project Summary: Extending paved trail south from 47th Ave. S., clearing trees, adding benches, trash cans, and informational kiosk around the fishing site.

Comments/Questions:

- There was appreciation shown for the visuals that were provided.

24-7 (D): NDSF (West Park Playground), North Dakota State Fair Association – **OHF funding request: \$10,000**, Total Project Costs: \$231,900. Project Summary: Constructing a 50'x50' publicly accessible & all-inclusive playground at West Park, located on the ND State Fairgrounds.

Comments/Questions:

- Is this just for the State Fair?
- How much traffic would this playground get?

24-8 (D): Ramsey County Multi-Purpose Event Center, Ramsey County Fair Foundation – **OHF funding request: \$100,000**, Total Project Costs: \$600,000. Project Summary: Improve camping area, including electrical posts for campers, build an enhanced playground area, outdoor lighting, planting trees and grass, and creating a picnic area.

Comments/Questions:

- Expanding bathrooms is out of the wheelhouse of OHF.
- Camping and electrical hook-ups are good.
- Planting grass and trees were mentioned, but It was not included in the budget provided.

24-9 (D): UWP Educational Prairie Trail, Audubon Great Plains – **OHF funding request: \$149,292**, Total Project Costs: \$262,072. Project Summary: High diversity plug plantings and interseeding at Urban Plains Park, an extension of the current trail system, and interpretive signage.

Comments/Questions:

- Who will be doing the maintenance?

24-10 (A): Bakken Development and Working Lands Program III, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust – **OHF funding request: \$3,125,000**, Total Project Costs: \$5,462,400. Project Summary: Improvements to grazing operations, increased public access, and reclamation on public lands in Western ND.

Comments/Questions:

- No comments or questions were made.

24-11 (C) Enhancing State Parks Through Strategic Trees and Shrub Plantings, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department – **OHF funding request: \$1,410,335**, Total Project Costs: \$1,762,900. Project Summary: Execution of a strategic tree and shrub planting program which will cover every North Dakota State Park.

Comments/Questions:

- Delighted to see this project.
- It will be difficult to get tree stock in the next 4-5 years.
- They will need larger, potted trees.

24-12 (B): Badlands Restoration Project, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust – **OHF funding request: \$77,000**, Total Project Costs: \$615,470. Project Summary: Treat 1,000 acres of rangeland infested with Rocky Mountain Juniper throughout grazing lands in the ND Badlands.

Comments/Questions:

- They are impressed with the matching aspect.
- They have a targeted approach.
- It compliments the Joint Chiefs projects.
- They really need to reintroduce prescribed fire after.
- They show a powerful encroachment map.

24-13 (C): North Dakota Prescribed Fire Program for Ranchland Enhancement, North Dakota Wildlife Federation – **OHF funding request: \$200,000**, Total Project Costs: \$275,000. Project Summary: Conduct prescribed burns to manage fuel loadings, improve rangeland forage, and demonstrate the positive impacts of prescribed fire on the landscape.

Comments/Questions:

- It is a spot on and daring project.
- They should incorporate an education aspect.
- Places would benefit from prescribed fire.
- They like that firefighters will be involved.

24-14 (D): Dunseith Park Handicapped Accessibility Project, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa – **OHF funding request: \$102,740**, Total Project Costs: \$140,240. Project Summary: Upgrades to the basketball courts, new restroom/maintenance facility, replacing volleyball nets and poles, and installing new handicapped accessible bleachers at the park located in the hub of the city, adjacent to the public school.

Comments/Questions:

- Handicap accessibility is important, but this is a stretch.
- Historically, these types of projects are not approved by OHF.

24-15 (D): PreK Park Enhancement – Sunset Park, Sunset Park District 1 – **OHF funding request: \$10,000**, Total Project Costs: \$80,687. Project Summary: Provide a child's train set and play system with borders and wood fiber included for children under 5 years of age at Sunset Park.

Comments/Questions:

- The Governor wants more funds in directive D.

24-16 (A): Painted Woods Lake Flood Protection & Recreation Project, McLean County Water Resource District – **OHF funding request: \$1,000,000**, Total Project Costs: \$3,718,650. Project Summary: Restore water quality and soil conditions, improve in-stream and riparian habitat for fish and wildlife, and enhance recreational access to public lands and waters within the Painted Woods Lake Wildlife Development Area (WDA).

Comments/Questions:

- Game and Fish has worked closely with this, and the Department has no issues with the project.
- They initially wanted 75% from the Water district and 25% from OHF with no private match but redid the application.

Mr. Reice Haase shared the draft agenda for the June 4th, 2024 OHF Advisory Board meeting.

Mr. Reice Haase shared the draft project tour schedule for June 3rd, 2024.

Being no further business, Chairman Kuylen adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.



Robert Kuylen, Chairman