

## Memorandum

To: Board of Directors

From: Rich Tesar, NARD Representative

Date: November 4, 2020

Re: Nebraska Association of Resources District ("NARD") Donation

The NARD has lost considerable revenue this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic with the cancelled fall conference and all associated events that supported the NARD foundation. The NARD is asking District's to make a "voluntary" contribution to the General Operating fund or the NARD Foundation to support the activities the NARD performs or supports on an annual basis.

***Under Neb. Rev. Stat. 2-3235(1), each district shall have the power and authority to cooperate with . . . and . . . to furnish financial or other aid to any cooperator . . . for carrying out of projects for benefit of the district. . ."***

As outlined in the referenced statute, the District has the authority to make such a donation since the NARD has a long history of carrying out activities and projects for the benefit of the district.

The fall conference usually provides the NARD with about \$30,000 net profit which is applied to general operations. The fall conference and associated events also generate about \$25-28K for the Foundation, which was also lost due to the pandemic. When the NARD sent out the fall conference cancellation notice, they included the below information and asked the District boards to consider a voluntary donation "in lieu" of expenses the Districts would have accrued had they attended and participated in the fall conference as usual.

Financial commitments the NARD has as of 9/30/20.

To General Operating (in-lieu-of conference): NRD - Lower Loup NRD - \$3,000 and Twin Platte NRD \$2,928.75.

To the Foundation:

- NRD -- Lower Loup NRD – \$2,000; Upper Loup NRD – \$200; Central Platte NRD – \$1,000;
- Partner Organizations - JEO Consulting Group – \$500; and Zulkoski Weber – \$250.
- Individuals - Dean Edson – \$500; Dustin Wilcox – \$100 and Annette Sudbeck - \$200; Scott Berndt (UNWNRD Board and NARD Board) - \$300; Jeanne Dryburgh - \$100

Below is information from the NARD website on the Foundation. Annual contribution amounts to the programs listed below will vary year-to-year. The winning teams at the Nebraska Envirothon get the following: First - \$1,000; Second - \$500; and Third - \$250. The money goes toward their Envirothon Program at their school. Normally we give out around \$20K total annually.

<https://www.nrdnet.org/about/nard-foundation>.

### **Example of Programs Supported by the Foundation**

Raising Nebraska Exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair (About 8 years ago - \$2K from the foundation, \$23K from districts). The 25,000 sq. ft. exhibit provides hands-on experiences for all ages to learn more about agriculture and natural resources in Nebraska. Twenty-two districts each contributed \$1,000 to help fund a \$25,000 contribution to the exhibit.

#### Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute - \$1,000

A week-long conference held each July for juniors and seniors in high school to learn more about agriculture and natural resources issues.

Ag Day on the Hill – Normally \$3,000 for the DC Trip but it was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid-19, plus \$1,000 contribution to the Nebraska FFA Ag Day.

NARD Foundation sponsored five Nebraska college students to attend National Ag Day in Washington D.C. to learn about agriculture and natural resources issues.

#### Agriculture Issues Academy and Awards at the Annual State FFA Convention - \$3,450

NARD Foundation sponsored three awards and sponsored the Annual State FFA Convention held in Lincoln in early April. The awards were Outdoor-Recreation Proficiency, Natural Resources Chapter Award, and the Environmental and Natural Resources Management Career Development Event (CDE).

#### Nebraska Envirothon - \$1,500 (See breakout listed above for the winning teams)

An agriculture, wildlife and science competition for school grades 9 - 12.

#### Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture- \$1,000

Spreads a positive agriculture message to teachers, students and parents about the importance of agriculture and learning about our natural resources. Promotes agriculture in the classroom and agriculture literacy.

#### Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) - \$1,000

The camp is open to sixth through eighth grade students who learn about natural resources.

#### Nebraska LEAD (Leadership, Education, Action and Development) Program - \$1,000

This is a two-year fellowship that provides young adults with skills and experiences needed to become leaders and advocates for agriculture.

#### NET - Nebraska Trees and Roots program - \$7,500

A one-hour history documentary on Nebraska's tree planting program.

#### Great Parks Pursuit - \$3,000

A promotion of NGPC and NRD Recreation facilities

As the District's NARD Representative, I recommend the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the District is authorized to contribute \$5,000 in financial aid to the NARD Foundation, which has demonstrated a long history as a cooperator carrying out projects for the benefit of the District.