

NRHS Heritage Grants Committee – Committee Report, August 24, 2022

Awaiting advise on available funds for 2023 awards: (2022 = \$100,000)

Committee met on August 8, 2022 via Zoom and performed an After Action Review (AAR) of the 2022 program. Several areas of improvement in the program were noted.

1. All agreed that it is important to get funds to the awardees as soon as possible preferably in March or April so projects that are weather sensitive or summer volunteer sensitive have ample time.

Committee reviewed opportunities to improve flow of funds to awardees including:

- Consolidation of legal acceptance documents into the application (Combine application, agreement and terms and conditions into one document) Pending approval by NRHS General Counsel and President.
- Having the applications available by end of October
- Moving the deadline for applications to January 31 vs. February 28
- Discuss electronic funds transfer with NRHS Treasurer vs. paper check payment
- Review application and prepare draft list of awardees by March 31
- Provide proposed list of finalists to NRHS President in April for approval vs. waiting until spring BOD meeting.

NRHS Grants Policy dated 2010: Committee is updating policy

Committee is discussing raising the maximum award amount from the current \$5000 to \$10,000. Issues to consider:

- Larger dollar amount = fewer awards
- Dollar amount of awards directly related to the funds available
- It would be helpful to know sooner the amount of funds available for the upcoming grant year.

Reviewed issues with Awardees not complying with Terms and Conditions:

- Committee discussed a complaint received regarding one organization that is several years overdue on completing their project. Matter was referred to NRHS Inspector General (and Heritage Grants Committee member – Walter Zullig). Walter prepared and sent a letter to the organization.
- Chairperson Webb has developed a tracking spread sheet for each of the last several years. This helps in better tracking of the reporting of the awardees.
- Chairperson Webb sent reminder letters to those that have missed reporting deadlines. This resulted in increased compliance. Follow up communication for those that are still overdue or close to due dates scheduled.

Publicity:

- Heritage Grant awardees close out reports are forwarded to NRHS News Editor Val Hoski. Val is using the reports and accompanying photos in the NRHS News.

This provides publicity for the NRHS, NRHS Heritage Grants Program and awardees.

- Reports are also being forwarded to Skip Waters who is publicizing the projects via NRHS Social Media outlets.

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Thank you. Charlie Webb, Chair, NRHS Heritage Grants Committee

Committee Members:

1. Walter Zullig
2. Richard Davidson
3. Doug Scott
4. Carl Jensen
5. Ed Bernstsen
6. Larry Dyer
7. George Hickok
8. Robert Brewster
9. Patrick Molloy
10. Special Assistant to the Chair, Patti Webb