



Memorandum

July 1, 2018

To: The Legislature

From: Sara Crook, Chair of the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission

Subject: Report per the requirements of NRS Section 81-8,310, Subsection (4)

The Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission (NSC) is pleased to report on the status of the Sesquicentennial Grants Program as required.

At its sunset on June 30, 2018, the NSC had awarded 13 grants pursuant to the above-referenced statute. The Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission received a total of \$124,034.99 from the sales of Sesquicentennial license plates. FY 17-18 sales proceeds totaled \$55,540.49 to which \$989.13 in interest was added for a total of \$56,529.62. Note that \$510.72 of this amount was transferred to the Highway Trust Fund for the difference between the cost of producing the plates and the plate fee pursuant to Section 60-3,225(2) of the Nebraska State Statutes, leaving a balance of \$56,018.90

On June 6, 2016, the Commission approved its grants program. A total of 24 grant requests were received June-November of 2016. Of these a total of 13 grants were awarded to applicants for a total of \$33,959. At its November 14, 2016 meeting the Commission tabled consideration of requests since most available revenue from license plate sales at that time had been awarded. It also informed the public that it would decline to receive further applications. At its June 16, 2017 meeting the Commission noted it had met the statutory obligation to disburse at least 5% of the revenues generated from sesquicentennial license plates through its grants program. Recognizing the state's economic reality and resulting decrease in general fund support at that time, the Commission made the difficult decision to discontinue its grant program.

Of the total 13 grants projects awarded, 12 were completed and authorized expenses reimbursed for a total of \$31,032. The additional revenue received from license plate proceeds was used to help support the Commission's ongoing statewide initiatives for the benefit of all Nebraskans.

Please contact me at scrook@peru.edu or Lynne Ireland at lynne.ireland@nebraska.gov should additional information be desired.