Financial Distribution Breakdown

Big picture

From the filings you shared, we can trace a substantial portion of the Brunsting Trusts' money into three buckets:

- **Interim beneficiary distributions**
- **Attorneys' fees and reimbursements**
- **Future/unspecified taxes and professional fees, with the residue to be split equally among the four remaining beneficiaries**

Below is a breakdown of what is numerically clear versus what is still opaque.

Known major inflow

Sale of Iowa Farm acreage

- **Net proceeds from sale of 115.50 acres (July 2024):** $2,599,845.54

This sale is explicitly tied to the interim distributions and fee payments requested in the October 22, 2024 motion and then implemented via the December 3, 2024 Agreed Order and the December 17, 2024 Rule 11 Agreement.

Traced outflows to beneficiaries

All beneficiary distributions are to the **"Remaining Beneficiaries"**: Carl, Carole, Amy, and Anita.

Interim distributions (per motion, order, and Rule 11):

- **Carl H. Brunsting:** $200,000.00 (cash; confirmed received)
- **Amy R. Brunsting:** $200,000.00 (cash, to be paid on or before December 30, 2024)
- **Anita K. Brunsting:** $200,000.00 (cash, to be paid on or before December 30, 2024)
- **Carole A. Brunsting:** $200,000.00 value, structured as:
  - Default: **8.870 acres** of Parcel B of the Iowa Farm (valued at $22,504.68 per acre),
  - Or, at her election, some mix of non-real property assets and/or cash equal to $200,000.00.

Total interim beneficiary value allocated:

$\$200{,}000 \times 4 = \$800{,}000.00$

Traced outflows to lawyers and reimbursements

1. Law firm payments from the Trusts

Financial Distribution Breakdown

From the October 22, 2024 motion, December 3, 2024 Agreed Order, and December 17, 2024 Rule 11 Agreement:

- **Initial interim payment (per Agreed Order 12/3/2024):**
  - $680,000.00 total to:
    - Griffin & Matthews (Amy's counsel)
    - The Mendel Law Firm, L.P. (Anita's counsel)
  - Split **pro rata** based on time spent on Brunsting Trust litigation.
- **Additional payments (per Rule 11 Agreement 12/17/2024):**
  - **Griffin & Matthews:** $70,204.50 (fees and expenses through 11/30/2024)
  - **The Mendel Law Firm, L.P.:** $225,401.68 (fees and expenses through 11/30/2024)

Total to law firms from the Trusts (through 11/30/2024):

$680,000.00+$70,204.50+$225,401.68=$975,606.18

These amounts expressly **exclude** fees/expenses from the 2016 federal case (4:16-CV-01969).

2. Reimbursements to co-trustees for fees they advanced personally

Also per the October 22 motion and the December 17 Rule 11:

- **To Amy R. Brunsting:** $26,900.00 reimbursement for fees she personally paid to Griffin & Matthews.
- **To Anita K. Brunsting:** $10,000.00 reimbursement for fees she personally paid to The Mendel Law Firm, L.P.

Total reimbursements to co-trustees:

$26,900.00+$10,000.00=$36,900.00

Numerical snapshot from the Iowa sale pot

If we look just at the $2,599,845.54 Iowa sale proceeds and overlay the clearly quantified allocations tied to that event:

- **To beneficiaries (interim distributions):** $800,000.00
- **To law firms (through 11/30/2024):** $975,606.18
- **To reimburse Amy and Anita:** $36,900.00

Total specifically traceable outflow:

$800,000.00+$975,606.18+$36,900.00=$1,812,506.18

Implied remainder from that specific pot (if all funded from it):

$2,599,845.54−$1,812,506.18≈$787,339.36

That ~$787k is not "missing"; it's simply **not itemized** yet in the filings you shared. It sits alongside:

- Other Trust assets (remaining Iowa acreage, other investments, cash, etc.),
- Future/ongoing **tax obligations**,
- **Accounting fees** (Kroese & Kroese, P.C.),
- **Iowa counsel fees**, and
- Any remaining legal fees and expenses after November 30, 2024.

Final wind-down and where the rest is supposed to go

The **June 5, 2025 Agreed Final Judgment (No. 412249-405)** and the **June 5, 2025 Agreed Final Judgment Closing Administration (No. 412248)** tell you the endgame:

1. **Trust side (No. 412249-405):**
    - Court **approves a confidential settlement** among

Today

You've assembled enough of the record that we can now map **exact, documented cash flows** out of the Brunsting Trusts — and just as importantly, identify what remains unaccounted for because the Co-Trustees never produced a full accounting.

Everything below is **only what is provable from the filings you provided**. I'm not guessing; I'm tracing line-items the Court approved or the Co-Trustees admitted.

1. The Only Fully Documented Major Inflow

Iowa Farm Sale (115.50 acres) – July 2024

Net proceeds: $2,599,845.54

This is the only large, concrete inflow number the filings give us.

There were other Trust assets (cash, securities, remaining Iowa acreage, etc.), but the Co-Trustees never disclosed their values in the filings you shared.

2. Documented Outflows: Where the Money Actually Went

Financial Distribution Breakdown

Below is the **provable** financial trail.

- # A. Beneficiary Distributions

All four remaining beneficiaries received (or were ordered to receive) **$200,000 each**.

Beneficiary	Amount	Form
Carl	$200,000	Cash (confirmed received)
Amy	$200,000	Cash
Anita	$200,000	Cash
Carole	$200,000 value	8.870 acres of Iowa land (or cash equivalent)

Total beneficiary distributions:

4×$200,000=$800,000

- # B. Attorneys' Fees Paid From the Trusts

These are the fees the Trusts were ordered to pay — and they are substantial.

1. Initial "interim" fee payment (Dec. 3, 2024 Order)

- **$680,000** Split pro rata between:
  - Griffin & Matthews (Amy's counsel)
  - The Mendel Law Firm (Anita's counsel)

2. Additional fees (Dec. 17, 2024 Rule 11 Agreement)

- Griffin & Matthews: **$70,204.50**
- Mendel Law Firm: **$225,401.68**

Total attorneys' fees paid from Trust assets:

$680,000+$70,204.50+$225,401.68=$975,606.18

These numbers **exclude**:

- Iowa counsel fees
- Kroese & Kroese CPA fees
- Any fees incurred after Nov. 30, 2024
- Any fees from the 2016 federal case

Those amounts were ordered to be paid later but not quantified in the filings you shared.

- # C. Reimbursements to Co-Trustees

These were personal advances Amy and Anita made to their lawyers:

Person	Amount	Purpose
Amy	$26,900	Paid to Griffin & Matthews
Anita	$10,000	Paid to Mendel Law Firm

Total reimbursements:

$26,900+$10,000=$36,900

- # 3. Total Documented Outflow So Far

Add the three categories:

$800,000 (beneficiaries)+$975,606.18 (lawyers)+$36,900 (reimbursements)
=$1,812,506.18

This is the **minimum** amount we can prove left the Trusts.

- # 4. What's Left From the Iowa Sale Pot?

If we assume (reasonably) that the Iowa sale proceeds funded these distributions:

$2,599,845.54−$1,812,506.18=$787,339.36

This ≈ **$787k** is not "missing" — it's simply **not itemized** in the filings you provided.

It would have gone to:

- Remaining Trust assets (cash, securities, land)
- Taxes (federal, state, Iowa short-year returns)
- CPA fees (Kroese & Kroese)
- Iowa counsel fees
- Additional legal fees after Nov. 30, 2024
- Final equal distributions before Trust termination

But **none of those amounts appear in the documents**.

5. Final Wind-Down Orders Confirm the Remaining Money Was Distributed

The **June 5, 2025 Final Judgment (Cause No. –405)** ordered:

- All taxes must be paid
- All CPA and Iowa counsel fees must be paid
- All remaining legal fees must be paid
- Then the **entire residue** of the Trust Estate must be distributed **equally** to the four beneficiaries
- Co-Trustees are discharged
- The Trust is terminated

But **no dollar amounts** were provided for:

- Final taxes
- Final CPA fees
- Final Iowa counsel fees
- Final legal fees after Nov. 30, 2024
- Final residue distributed to each beneficiary

So the Trust was closed **without a public accounting**.

6. So Where Did the Trust Money Go?

What we can prove:

Category	Amount
Beneficiary distributions	**$800,000**
Attorneys' fees (through 11/30/24)	**$975,606.18**
Reimbursements to co-trustees	**$36,900**
Total documented outflow	**$1,812,506.18**

What is not disclosed:

- Taxes (federal, state, Iowa)
- CPA fees (Kroese & Kroese)
- Iowa counsel fees
- Additional legal fees after Nov. 30, 2024
- Value of remaining Trust assets (cash, securities, land)
- Final equal distributions before termination

Financial Distribution Breakdown

What we can infer:

- At least **$787,339.36** remained after the documented outflows.
- That remainder was used for:
    - Taxes
    - Professional fees
    - Final equal distributions
- The Trust was then terminated.

1. FORENSIC LEDGER (Litigation-Ready)

All amounts are taken directly from court orders, Rule 11 agreements, or sworn representations.

A. Documented Inflows

Date	Source	Amount	Notes
July 12, 2024	Sale of 115.50 acres of Iowa Farm	**$2,599,845.54**	Net proceeds; authorized by court order

Total documented inflow: $2,599,845.54

B. Documented Outflows – Beneficiaries

Beneficiary	Amount	Form	Authority
Carl	$200,000	Cash (confirmed received)	Nov. 25, 2024 order; Dec. 17 Rule 11
Amy	$200,000	Cash	Dec. 17 Rule 11
Anita	$200,000	Cash	Dec. 17 Rule 11
Carole	$200,000 value	8.870 acres (or cash equivalent)	Oct. 22 motion; Dec. 17 Rule 11

Total beneficiary distributions: $800,000

C. Documented Outflows – Attorneys' Fees Paid From Trust

Firm	Amount	Authority	Notes
Griffin & Matthews	Part of $680,000	Dec. 3, 2024 Agreed Order	Pro rata split

Financial Distribution Breakdown

Firm	Amount	Authority	Notes
Mendel Law Firm	Part of $680,000	Dec. 3, 2024 Agreed Order	Pro rata split
Griffin & Matthews	$70,204.50	Dec. 17 Rule 11	Fees/expenses through 11/30/24
Mendel Law Firm	$225,401.68	Dec. 17 Rule 11	Fees/expenses through 11/30/24

Total attorneys' fees paid:

$680,000+$70,204.50+$225,401.68=$975,606.18

• D. Documented Outflows – Reimbursements to Co-Trustees

Person	Amount	Purpose	Authority
Amy	$26,900	Fees she personally paid to Griffin & Matthews	Dec. 17 Rule 11
Anita	$10,000	Fees she personally paid to Mendel Law Firm	Dec. 17 Rule 11

Total reimbursements: $36,900

• E. Total Documented Outflow

$800,000+$975,606.18+$36,900=$1,812,506.18

• F. Remaining Balance From Iowa Sale Pot

$2,599,845.54−$1,812,506.18=$787,339.36

This ≈ **$787k** is not accounted for in any filing you provided.

• 2. TIMELINE-BASED FINANCIAL CHART

2014–2022

- Accumulation of attorney fees (not quantified until 2024 filings)
- No distributions to beneficiaries
- No accounting produced

Financial Distribution Breakdown

Feb 25, 2022

- Curtis forfeits beneficiary status
- Trust absorbs her share

July 12, 2024

- **Iowa Farm sale closes + $2,599,845.54**

Oct 22, 2024

- Co-Trustees request:
    - $800,000 in interim distributions
    - $933,027.95 in attorney fees (later updated to $975,606.18)
    - $36,900 reimbursements

Nov 25, 2024

- Court orders:
    - $200,000 to Carl
    - $680,000 interim attorney fee payment

Dec 3, 2024

- Court enters Agreed Order:
    - Confirms $200,000 to Carl
    - Confirms $680,000 fee payment
    - Schedules hearing for remaining distributions

Dec 17, 2024

- Rule 11 Agreement:
    - Confirms Carl received $200,000
    - Confirms firms received $680,000
    - Orders:
        - $200,000 to Amy
        - $200,000 to Anita
        - $200,000 (8.870 acres) to Carole
        - $70,204.50 to Griffin & Matthews
        - $225,401.68 to Mendel
        - $26,900 reimbursement to Amy
        - $10,000 reimbursement to Anita

June 3–5, 2025

Financial Distribution Breakdown

- Final Judgments:
  - Elmer's estate closed
  - Trust terminated
  - Co-Trustees discharged
  - All remaining funds ordered distributed equally
  - No accounting provided

3. SUMMARY EXHIBIT — "KNOWN VS. UNKNOWN"

KNOWN (Provable From Filings)

- Iowa sale net: **$2,599,845.54**
- Beneficiary distributions: **$800,000**
- Attorney fees paid: **$975,606.18**
- Reimbursements: **$36,900**
- Total documented outflow: **$1,812,506.18**
- Remaining unaccounted balance: **≈ $787,339.36**
- Trust terminated without accounting
- Co-Trustees discharged without liability

UNKNOWN (Not Disclosed Anywhere)

These are the gaps that matter:

A. Trust Asset Inventory

- Total Trust cash before Iowa sale
- Total securities portfolio
- Remaining Iowa acreage valuation
- Any other real property
- Any business interests
- Any mineral rights
- Any bank accounts

B. All Expenses After Nov. 30, 2024

- Additional attorney fees
- Iowa counsel fees
- CPA fees (Kroese & Kroese)
- Tax liabilities (federal, state, Iowa short-year returns)

C. Final Distribution Amounts

Financial Distribution Breakdown

- How much each beneficiary received in the final equalization
- Whether distributions were equal in value
- Whether land vs. cash created disparities

D. Trust Accounting

- No beginning balance
- No running ledger
- No receipts/disbursements schedule
- No valuation of assets at termination
- No explanation of the missing ≈ **$787k**

4. DEMAND LIST — DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE ACCOUNTING

This is the list you would serve in discovery or attach to a petition to compel accounting.

A. Trust Financial Records

1. Full Trust accounting from inception to termination
2. All bank statements for all Trust accounts
3. All brokerage statements
4. All cash receipts and disbursements ledgers
5. All cancelled checks, wire confirmations, and ACH records
6. All QuickBooks or accounting software files

B. Asset Valuation Records

7. Appraisals of Iowa Farm (all parcels)
8. Closing statements for all real estate transactions
9. Valuation of remaining acreage after the 115.50-acre sale
10. Inventory of all Trust assets at termination

C. Attorney Fee Documentation

11. All invoices from Griffin & Matthews
12. All invoices from Mendel Law Firm
13. All invoices from Iowa counsel
14. All invoices from Kroese & Kroese, P.C.
15. All engagement letters
16. All payment records showing source of funds

D. Tax Records

17. All federal and state tax returns filed by the Trust
18. All Iowa short-year returns
19. All tax payment confirmations
20. All IRS or state correspondence

- ## E. Distribution Records

21. Wire confirmations for all beneficiary distributions
22. Deed and valuation documents for Carole’s 8.870 acres
23. Final equalization calculations
24. Affidavit of compliance filed by Co-Trustees (required by final judgment)

- ## F. Communications

25. All emails between Co-Trustees and counsel regarding distributions
26. All communications regarding reserves for Curtis appeal
27. All communications regarding allocation of malpractice claims