

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, April 3, 2008
Mahoney State Park – Red Oak Room
Ashland, NE.

DRAFT

Commissioner Attending: Mary Anne Borgeson, Marsha Babcock, Rich Jansen, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Jeff Weak, Dave Neilsen, John Plucknett, Phil Mullin, Brad Stauffer, Brenda Gunn, Dr. Jack Huck, Marlin Petermann, Ken Svoboda, Bernie Heier, Ernie Abariotes, Tim Gilligan – alternate, Mark Stursma – alternate, David Potter –alternate.
Kathy McKillip – NIZC Director, Richard Baier – NDED Director.

Members Excused: Jim Grotrain, Chuck Sigerson, Paul Cook, Kyle Hutchings,

Visitors: Steve Miller, Ellen Fitzsimmons, Mike Sledschlag, Jack Stannard, George Mink, Mary Buck, Norma Nelson, Richard Franzen, Paul Lienke, Ronald Iske, Dick Boyd, Patrick Sullivan, Steve Eveans, Jarel Vinduska, Mr and Mrs. Randy Hansen, Connie Anderson, Kimberly Stuhr, Don Welkins, Virginia Miller, Ray A. Lthouse (sp?), Jim Sanders, James Ruhge, Russell Allington, Alan Gaston, Jodi Knight, Ed Kelley, John Yochum, Jessica Preister, Tom Delong, Paul Mullen, John Barron (sp?), Dennis Keil, John Knapp, Susan Dale, Jack Koke, Tim Vala, Paula Wright, W. Cecil Steward, James Krance, Mark Hamilton, Karl Kehm, Suzanne Kehm, Jon Pesce, Bill Ramsey, Steve Oltman, Suzi Nelson, Zhas Truelsen, Toger Schutte, Gary Nielsen, Sally McGuire, Matt Dowd, Dugne Dowd, Brenda Carlisle, Jane Nielsen, Hovis Riha, Mary Anne Hansen, Greg Rickers, Mark Wayne, Richard Hilske, Tom Wees, Ken Tex, Marian Maas, Stan Riggle, Dave Dingman, Jan McReynolds, Jim Koch, Ted Seldin, Bruce Fountain, Geoff Hamilton, Cindy Hamilton, Doug Bisson, Mary Schukert.

Chair Brenda Gunn welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:07PM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:10PM.

Approval of the Agenda

Chair Gunn asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. ***Motion made by Commissioner Heier and 2nd by Commissioner Gilligan, to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved 16- 0.***

Approval of Minutes

Chair Gunn asked for approval of the 03/06/08 NIZC minutes as distributed. ***Motion made by Commissioner Weak and 2nd by Commissioner Nielsen to approve the minutes as distributed. Abstentions; Huck, Svoboda, Abariotes, Heier. Motion approved with 12 to approve and 4 abstentions.***

Commissioner's RFP Phase -1 Proposal Report & Discussion

Doug Bisson, HDR Team project manager, presented an updated power point presentation that summarized the findings placed in the Phase I Draft Report. Questions from the Commission were asked be held until after the presentation and the public comment period.

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:40pm.

W. Cecil Steward, Lincoln, congratulations to the HDR Team and the Commission for creating a strong framework. Please consider discussion and input for the final phase regarding regional utility structure and viable energy plans, including an energy policy component, and the promotion of local production of food as an economic stimulus.

Virginia Miller, There is going to be a high traffic level for tourist because the corridor area is environmentally unique and this should be a consideration.

Jarel Vinduska, SAVE, distributed LJS article, dated 4.20.07. Length of corridor is not very long and should be conserved. Expressed concern over conceptual ideas and plans being given credibility for interchanges.

Kim Stuhr, Sarpy County, research states that from the surveys it is important to protect environmentally sensitive areas and an EIS should be considered regarding any potential development.

John Knapp, Sarpy County, Springfield; concerns over Phlug Road, is currently trying to get the area farm bureau to provide emails to NIZC for meeting updates and information.

Louis Riehe (spelling and name unclear on sign in sheet), Sarpy County, there is a real need for more roads in Sarpy County, it is the smallest county and is land locked. If the southern area of Sarpy County is not developed, it will become a huge tax burden to the area taxpayers in order to maintain and keep infrastructures in place and updated.

Connie Anderson, Sarpy County, personally believes that Phlug Road may not be disproportionately designed to benefit Sarpy County residents or area tax payers.

Jim Krance, Omaha, all ideas should be considered if there is to be viability. There needs to be an advocate for a large body of water for recreational purposes, this would assist in building the tax base. Recreational opportunities can provide huge economic benefits while being environmentally attractive. Plans and suggestions should consider controversial issues, because they can develop into big ideas.

Richard Hilske, Omaha, landowner within corridor area (20 acres-Sarpy County) in support of development and growth, as he plans to develop a winery on the 20 acres and welcomes increased tourism opportunities, thanked the Commission for having the vision to move forward and create a regional plan.

Patrick Sullivan, Papillion, Representing landowners within the corridor and Sarpy County that collectively own more than 2000 acres around exit 426 area. The Area needs planned water service; needs to bring the area into a higher population census so that we will be able to be recognized nationally and compete with other metropolitan areas. When considering the final phase, look at the areas and the Commission must consider the tax

base, population trends, tourism, and economic development. Possibly there is a way to conduct a scientific poll versus the web survey, because the web survey responses can be swayed by volunteer participation and skewed or biased results.

Mark Hamilton, Omaha, completed a research paper for college class that analyzed the economics and how funding costs for development within the corridor can be expensive for the tax base when it comes to new roads. Consider paving county roads, focus on exit 426 for tourism only, because the infrastructure is currently in place.

Paul Lienhe, City of Ashland, when the Commission first began there was a perception of fear that area communities would lose local control, but very pleased with the Phase I report and recommendations and look forward to the final phase. Ashland looks forward to working with the Commission in the next phase.

At this time, seeing that there were no more additional public comments, Chair Gunn asked for a motion to close the public comment period. ***Motion made by Commissioner Jansen, and 2nd by Commission Babcock to close the public comment period Motion approved by consent.***

Public Comment period closed at 8:25pm

Executive Director Report

If there are additional correspondences that I need to be aware of and add to the list please let me know. Hard copies in the mail have been eliminated to only those specifically requesting them.

Remember, if you are a guest, please sign in and provide contact information so that the Commission can keep you updated and informed.

A detailed report was presented and read by McKillip regarding the community input process for the past 18 months, establishing multiple opportunities for community members, to participate in. The Commission continues to seek new ways to provide community information and encourage participation. A copy of the report presented is available upon request.

Commission, Phase I – Discussion

General discussion began regarding the report and input. Comments expressed support the framework that has been developed. Along with support to local jurisdictions, commission needs to consider the work that has already been done by those local jurisdictions. The First Guiding Principles and language in the Phase I report should utilize and assist Commissioners in moving forward to the final recommendations.

Concern over conceptual versus real interchanges resulted in a motion. ***Motion made by Commissioner Petermann, and 2nd by Commissioner Babcock, “to take the language on page 108 in the report, and place similar language on page 141, while taking proposed interchanges out of the report order and separating them as mentioned by Commissioner Stursma.” Motion moved with friendly amendment by Commissioner Heier and 2nd by Commissioner Weak, to “leave the interchanges in the existing order, and change the language to reflect the prior motion.” Motioned approved, the***

**voting of 12 in favor with Commissioners Borgeson, Babcock, Petermann, and Gunn voting against.
Motion made by Commissioner Svoboda and 2nd by Commissioner Plucknett to approval the Phase I Study – Regional Comprehensive Plan. Motion approved 16-0.**

At this time, seeing that there was no other Commission business. *Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Jansen 2nd by Commissioner Svoboda. Motion approved by consent.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:12PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC