

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission  
Board of Commission Conference Call/Meeting  
February 17, 2010, 10:30pm, call in number-888-820-1398 – Code: 3850274#  
Nebraska Department of Economic Development – Directors Conference Room  
Lincoln, NE.

*Draft.*

**Commissioners calling in:** Tim Gilligan (alternate for Pat Thomas) Tom DeLong, Marsha Babcock, David Potter (alternate for Marsha Babcock), Pete Kotsiopoulos, Dr. Jack Huck, John Plucknett, Pete Festersen, Jon Camp, Jeff Weak, Ernie Abariotes, Brad Stauffer, Brenda Gunn, Mark Stursma.  
Kathy McKillip – NIZC Director, Richard Baier, Director, NDED.

**Members Excused:** Mary Ann Borgeson, Rich Jansen, Larry Hudkins.

**Visitors:** Kevin Anderson, Steve Miller, Donna Lyman, Peggy Brown.

NIZC Chair, John Plucknett, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 10:35AM.

#### **Approval of the Agenda**

Commissioner Plucknett asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Gilligan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Stauffer, to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved by consent.*

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Plucknett asked for approval of the minutes from Dec, 2009. *Motion made by Commissioner Babcock and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Abariotes to approve the December, 2009 minutes, as distributed. Motion approved by consent.*  
*Motion made by Commissioner Babcock and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Abariotes to place January 7, 2010 meeting notes on file, as distributed. Motion approved by consent.*

#### **Public Comment Period**

**There was no schedule Public Comment Period at this meeting.**

## **Executive Director Report**

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

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

Ms. McKillip updated the group on the 2010 Senator Luncheon. General comments included that there were more than 29 Senators plus Legislative Aides in attendance. The Senator's were complimentary of the work that the Commission has completed and how much has been accomplished in during the NIZC timeline. The Senator's were followed up with "Thanks You's" for attending and provided any additional NIZC information /publication materials that were requested. Commissioner Potter stated that "the luncheon was well received, there was great discussion from the Senator's in attendance, turn out was wonderful and comments were very positive".

The Commission is on track to sunset Dec. 31, 2010.

## **Commission Discussion**

Discussion began regarding the recent sharing of informational meetings with the Omaha and Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, regarding the marketing potential for the corridor and general updates about the Commission. Commissioner Plucknett reported that at the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Chamber Directors were informed about the potential of an I-80 Corridor Association. In addition, discussion occurred about future collaborations and support from the two Chambers in the planning process. A follow up meeting was held on February 11<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the success of the NIZC Senator Luncheon event, and public support of an I-80 Corridor Association. At this time, the Commission has received information from Ms. McKillip regarding 6 different regional entities, focusing on the "hows" and "whys" of their existence. In addition, discussion began about the importance of a regional infrastructure a system which is also a concern that the Commission should keep in mind, as this process moves forward. Richard Baier, NDED, commented that, "there seems to be 3 key areas of focus that the Commission can/should consider; (1) Concern over the funding of a new organization, (2) the implementation of the planning and zoning component ( how does this move forward), and (3) how to promote new business development sites; (specific sites being considered the I-80 Corridor region). Commissioner Stauffer at this time commented that "it is very important to make sure other local Chamber of Commerce are included in the Association development process." Commissioner Kotsiopoulos stated that " it is critical that everyone is being informed about the potential Association development as we (NIZC) move forward, and that we (NIZC) wants everyone involved. Commissioner Gilligan express that "counties should

have full support and some how and equal partnership in this process/association.” Commissioner Babcock added that, “there is confidence that NIZC will keep discussions open with the counties and the communities as we (NIZC) has done all along, and keep the goals of the Commission in the fore front.”

At this time, Commissioner Plucknett stated that the March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 NIZC monthly meeting should be dedicated to “brain storming” about what NIZC Commissioner’s would like to see develop as a potential I-80 Corridor Association.

The following was requested by Commissioners to discuss at the March meeting; topics to include; planning and zoning, marketing approaches, balance of public and private partnerships, economic development component, regional infrastructure issues should be addressed and the ability for an association/or the process to be replicated statewide.

### **Closing Comments**

At this time, seeing that there was no other Commission business. ***Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Gilligan 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Stauffer. Motion approved by consent.***

**Meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy McKillip  
Executive Director - NIZC

