

## DRAFT

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission  
Board of Commission Meeting  
7:00PM, August 3, 2006  
E.T. Mahoney State Park -Ashland

**Commissioner Attending:** Mary Ann Borgeson, Dean Busing, Marsha Babcock, Ron Melbye, John Plucknett, Brenda Gunn, Jim Grotrian, Chuck Sigerson, Ken Svoboda, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Dave Nielsen, Marlin Petermann, Jeff Weak, Bob Workman, Tim Gilligan, Jeff Quist, Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

**Members Excused:** Inez Boyd, Tim Gay, Kyle Hutchings, and Phil Mullin.

**Department of Economic Development (NEDED) Staff:** Richard Baier, NEDED Director, Christian Hornbaker, and NEDED Tourism Director.

**Visitors:** Brad Stauffer, Jack Stannard, David Ochsner, Twyla Hansen, Jerry Maxwell, Sue Brauckmuller, Rodney Verhoeff, Katie Torry, Tim Stuart, Glenn Johnson, Sally McGuire, Kimberly Stuhr, David Potter, Dave Sands, Ian Hartfield, Virginia Miller, Carolyn Johnson, Steve Oltmans, W. Cecil Steward, Leslie Peterson,

Chairman Ken Svoboda welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:08PM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:08PM.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Petermann and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Melbye to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved by consent.*

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of 6/01/06 minutes as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Petermann and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Melbye to approve the minutes as distributed. Motioned approved by consent.*

### **Public Comment Period**

**Public Comment Period opened at 7:10 pm.**

Seeing that there was no one interested in speaking during the public comment period – Chairman Svoboda closed the session.

**The Public Comment Period closed – 7:15 pm.**

### **Executive Director Report**

Kathy McKillip reported that the NIZC website went live on June 1, 2006. Some Commissioners still need to submit a photo and bio as soon as possible. The webpage can be altered and changed to fit the needs of the Commission. Eventually all information and public notices will be listed at this site and the State Governments public meeting website – until the general public becomes more familiar with the commission and to be able to provide additional accessibility, information will continue to be listed on NEDED’s webpage. It would be a cost benefit to have all of NIZC’s public notices available on just the website –with mailings to only those who request information be shared that way – this would require the Commission to approve.

There has been regular attendance by NIZC Commissioners and McKillip at the Joslyn Castle Institute meetings regarding the “60-mile radius” grant study. NIZC be able to – co-host the evening reception and participate in presentations on Sep. 13<sup>th</sup>, - 15<sup>th</sup> 2006. At this time we have several Commissioners who have offered to participate in a panel about the Commission at the AIA Nebraska Conference at the Quest Center on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – from 2:15 – 3:45 – all are encouraged to attend.

NIZC has received official notice that Mayor Tim Gilligan of Gretna has been appointed as an alternate for Sarpy County Board of Commissioners – welcome Mayor Gilligan to the Commission.

The Governor’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summit on Economic Development will be held November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 from 9-12 (at this time) location is to be determined but should be within the corridor region.

NIZC has completed phase I of III pieces of marketing components for the Commission. This brochure will also promote our new website, [www.I-80ideas.com](http://www.I-80ideas.com) a site that has a web form that can be completed regarding ideas and suggestions about the region. This site should be available after Aug. 11, 2006.

LPRCA recently hosted their annual airboat tours of the Platte River – it was very interesting and if the Commission would like to host such a tour for NIZC it could arrange to be done on Sept 1, 2006. However, the Commission needs to determine if this would be of use.

More than 150 letters have been sent to key property owners connected to I-80, to introduce ourselves to the stakeholders and invite them to check out our website and participate in and introductory meeting in late August, 2006. It is the goal of the Commission to encourage public participation whenever possible and involve the property owners at all times.

At this time – Richard Baier, Director with NEDED updated the Commission on the upcoming legislative season, NIZC marketing ideas and thanked the Commissioners and community members for such a strong attendance and interest in the Commission.

Richard charged the Commission to consider long-term designs at one time expense for recommendations to the legislature and potentially other projects within the region.

### **Agenda Item: NIZC Committee Reports**

### **Economic Development & Marketing Committee:**

The committee reported back to the Commission that focusing on incentive packages for development could be a key issues. The committee would also like to focus or consider key Target Industries for the region such as/but not limited to: transportation & logistics, value-added agriculture use, insurance, tourism, smart industry, & entrepreneurial incubators.

Another key element is to consider looking at and removing barriers at interchanges. The next meeting for this committee will be held Sept 7<sup>th</sup> @ Quarry Oaks, 6:00pm.

### **Tourism, Recreation and Environmental Committee:**

The key issues discussed were specific focus on the Platte River and to what extent the region is to be defined by. Key questions that the Committee struggles to address are; What is the carrying capacity to sustain development, public land use opportunities, and the latest land use plan for the area is 25 years old – the committee needs updated data. Identify the needs and availability of recreational opportunities and potential sites. Transferable land use development rights. Other suggestions made were ways to enhance conservation tax easement credit for incentives, join a feasibility study, consider a conservation overlay package to assist with economic development, create tools and incentive packages for best use of land. Designate Hwy 6 and a scenic by-ways project and promote and increase trail availability/ access while increasing more trails throughout the region.

The next meeting for this committee will be held Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, @ Quarry Oaks, 6:00pm.

### **Planning & Infrastructure Committee:**

Key issues for this committee was to follow up with the information that HDR presented to the group and to ask Olson Associates to attend the next meeting of the Committee. The information being gathered will serve as useful information to determine key areas lacking infrastructure development options. Water is another element that the committee is focusing on and would like participation from Lincoln on the committee to participate in the discussions.

The next meeting for this committee will be held Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> @ Quarry Oaks, 6:00pm.

### **Transportation & Logistics:**

Recent Impacts; gas cost, combining trips and current economics drive some of the committee's issues. Defining transportation broadly enough to encompass the next 50-100 years is an aggressive task. The committee reminded the Commission to keep perspectives open for the potential impact of the transportation with the region and also consider the impact of the Missouri River bridges and railroads within the area.

The next meeting for this committee will be held Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> @ Quarry Oaks, 6:00pm.

### **Agenda Item: NIZC Fall Meetings with City Councils of the 6 NIZC Counties**

No action taken – Kathy McKillip was asked by several Commissioners, if it would be appropriate for the Executive Director to attend meetings and make presentations for the Commission, for which she is permitted to do.

**Agenda Item: NIZC Legislative Packages**

Funding request has been made for the Commission until 2010. It is critical that the Commission is aware and prepared to present specifically to address the question – “What does the Commission want to propose?” Be realistic and fair about what the funding request is for. It is imperative that the Commission be prepared at the next meeting, Sept. 7, 2006 to set the Commission’s priorities for the next legislative session and establish those needs.

There also needs to be by in from the communities at some level, this structure could be designed and focused via county-to-county and not community-to-community.

By Fall/Winter 2006-07 the Commission will need to recruit a facilitator to blend the themes of the committee’s and develop long-term strategies.

No action taken.

**Agenda Item: Public Notice adoption of Government and NIZC Websites as the only vehicle for public notices.**

This would allow the Commission to reduce cost by announcing public meeting notices only through the avenue of the NIZC website and the State of Nebraska’s Government Public meeting website. The Commission has utilized the Omaha World Herald and the Lincoln Journal Star the past 12 months to announce Commission meetings, this is a costly procedure and in complying with Nebraska Open Meeting Laws, per the Commissions approval can use the website as adequate public notice. The Commission will also continue to mail notices to those requesting it on a need be basis.

*Motion by Commissioner Busing and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Plucknett to adopt a policy change allowing the NIZC public meeting notices to focus solely on the NIZC website and the State of Nebraska Government website for public meeting notices.*

*Motion approved.*

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

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy McKillip  
Executive Director - NIZC