

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board Commission Meeting
7:00 PM, October 6, 2005
Mahoney State Park – Goldenrod Room

Members Attending: Mary Ann Borgeson, Inez Boyd, Dean Busing, Tim Gay, Marsha Babcock, Kyle Hutchings, Peter Kotsiopoulos, Dave Nielsen, Steve Oltmans, John Plucknett, Jim Strand, Ken Svoboda, Jeff Weak, Bob Workman, Jeff Quist, Ron Melbye, Brenda Sedlacek-Gunn.

Members Excused: Chuck Sigerson, Dr. Jo Ann McDowell.

Department of Economic Development (DED) Staff: Richard Baier, Stu Miller, Kathy McKillip

Visitors: Tim Gilinger, Matt Carlson, Bruce Bohrer, Peter Festersen, Scott Berryman, Glenn Johnson, Mark Bowen, Scott Dolton, Jon Camp.

Alternates: Warren Weaver (for Chuck Sigerson), Jim Grotrian (for Dr. Jo Ann McDowell).

DED Director Richard Baier called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Roll Call taken at 7:10 PM.

DED staff distributed packets to all attending that included the following information: NIZC Agenda, NIZC Commissioner List, NIZC Members Map, Potential Operating Procedures for NIZC, LB 546, LB 546A, Copies of the NIZC Public Meeting Notice for Omaha Work Herald and Lincoln Journal Star, DED/NIZC Executive Director job posting, Nebraska State Road Map.

Additional information distributed by Senator Browns office: NIZC Area Points of Contact, List of Studies and Projects related to NIZC, LPRCA Projects List,

Welcoming statement from Senator Brown:

Senator Brown welcomed and thanked Commissioners for attending. Senator Brown continued with the visualization and conception of the I-80 corridor into actuality. The Commission needs to welcome the challenges ahead and be prepared to have a vision not just the I-80 corridor, but for the State of Nebraska. The I-80 corridor was a concept first developed out of a discussion at a Diplomats event. This discussion led to the realization that it would be necessary to have coordination at the local level to consider future development and collaborative efforts with all communities along the I-80 corridor. The hope is to bring a broader perspective and vision, particularly in the areas of zoning, multi-use opportunities and diversifying the use of higher education. Examples used to envision these ideas were Raleigh-Durham, Dallas-Ft. Worth. Emphasis was placed on the reality that there has never been diversity, as represented by this Commission, invited to the table to create a model – vision of the I-80 corridor. Other states and communities will be looking to us to see how we build upon this vision and it is the goal of the Commissioners to tackle this challenge.

Election of representation from Class 1 & 2 cities, and villages as required by LB 546. Nominated were Brenda Sedlacek-Gunn from La Vista, and Mayor Ron Melbye from Waverly. ***Motion by Weak, seconded by Workman to approve the nominees representing the Class 1 & 2 communities. Motion approved unanimously.***

Election of NIZC Officers: DED Director Richard Baier entertained nominations from the floor for the position of NIZC Chair. Bob Workman nominated Ken Svoboda, Warren Weaver (alternate) nominated Steve Oltmans. As Acting Chair, Baier suggested comments and input from nominees Svoboda and Oltmans. Baier then proceeded with secret ballot voting, counted by Senator Brown, Baier. Results indicated Svoboda as Chair. ***Motion by Strand to approve the voting results for the position of Chair; electing Ken Svoboda as Chair for the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission, 2nd by Weak. Motion approved. Abstentions, Grotrain. Motion by Weak to elect Oltmans as Vice-Chair, 2nd Workman. Motion approved. Abstentions from Oltmans, Grotrain.***

(At this time Svoboda proceeded as Chair)

NIZC Operating Procedures:

Richard Baier presented a report for the Commissioners about the role of DED. DED has been assigned by LB 546 to create the framework for this commission, and then will move on to a supporting role. The Governor requested DED to move LB 546 forward, then change roles and move issues over to the Commission. There was discussion about the issue of allowing alternates to be appointed or even represented on the Commission. Richard reported that some areas have already appointed alternates for their Commissioners – at this time there is no provision for alternates or to vote by proxy. Commissioner Oltmans made comment that it is important to allow for alternates. Commissioner Workman expressed that only the appointed Commissioner should be the one allowed to vote, while Commissioner Busing expressed that the Commissioner appointed should be committed to attending the meetings. Comments were also made that, should alternates be permitted, a formal letter requesting and appointing the alternate be sent to Richard Baier. ***Motion was then made, to allow for alternates but to not allow alternates to vote. Boyd, 2nd Gay. Motion approved. Weaver/Grotrain –not voting.***

LB 546A – LB546A provided for a staff position to be created. The job description for the NIZC Executive Director was distributed and will be advertised before the next Commission meeting. The staff selection will be made by The Commission Chair and Vice-Chair, along with Richard Baier. Pre-screening will be completed by DED. Funding for the Commission is appropriated to DED as a line item. Senator Brown and the Commission can choose to raise additional money through any options.

Position of Secretary/Treasure: *Motion Oltmans, 2nd Workman to have DED staff fill the role of Secretary/Treasure. Motion approved*

Operating Guidelines:

Stu Miller (DED) distributed draft-operating guidelines for discussion. A topic discussed was the frequency of Commission meetings. It was decided by consensus that the Commission meet on the first Thursday of each month for January, February, and March. The November NIZC meeting will be held on Friday, November 4th, in conjunction with the Governors 2nd Annual Summit on the Omaha-Lincoln Corridor. The meeting will be held at SAC Museum from 8:00-10:00 AM. It was decided not to have a NIZC meeting in December.

At this time the Commission discussed topics of interest or guest speakers to be invited to NIZC meetings. Commissioners were asked to toss out ideas to be developed for a work plan. Those ideas mentioned, but not limited to, were:

1. Demographics of the Corridor and definition of the Corridor
2. Transportation, water, infrastructure currently in place for the Corridor.
3. Review of the Kansas K-7 study – and invite K-7 team to Jan/06 or Feb/06 NIZC meeting.
4. Master map of the corridor, with current zoning and land use – county by county – GPS study.
5. Department of Roads – their current projects and input.
6. Map of the restricted air space and/or information regarding Class B airports.
7. DED website and an I-80 Commission link as a way for the Commissioners to check in with each other or DED.
8. 214 Mill Road issue or similar road issues that are out there and need to dealt with or reviewed.

The question that came up repeatedly was “ What is the corridors range?”

At this time, the Public Comment period was opened. There was no comment or response.

Motion to adjourn by Gay, 2nd Strand. Motion Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kathy McKillip,
DED Staff & NIZC Administrative Officer**

