

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission  
Board Commission Meeting  
10:00 AM, November 4, 2005  
SAC Museum – Ethel S. Abbott Library

**Members Attending:** Mary Ann Borgeson, Inez Boyd, Dean Busing, Tim Gay, Marsha Babcock, Peter Kotsiopoulos, Dave Nielsen, Steve Oltmans, John Plucknett, Chuck Sigerson, Jim Strand, Ken Svoboda, Jeff Weak, Bob Workman, and Ron Melbye.

**Members Excused:** Kyle Hutchings, Dr. Jo Ann McDowell, Jeff Quist, and Brenda Sedlacek-Gunn.

**Department of Economic Development (DED) Staff:** Richard Baier, Stu Miller, and Kim Bastemeyer.

**Visitors:** Senator Jim Jensen, Senator Pam Brown, Mayor Coleen Seng, Mark Bowen, Jon Camp, Scott Berryman, Mark Wayne, Fred Uhe, Bob Twiss, Paul Zillig, Rodney Verhdeff, Rich Ruby, Tim Weander, Marvin Krout, Suzi Nelson, David Potter, Patte Newman, Mark Werthman, Bill Anderson, Jim Ruby, Tim Gilligans, Jonnie Finn, Norma Nelson, Nick Boyer, Tim Stuart, Jim Suttle, Bruce Bohrer, and Matt Carlson.

**Alternates:** Jim Grotrian (for Dr. Jo Ann McDowell).

Chairman Ken Svoboda welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM. Roll Call taken at 10:10 AM.

Svoboda asked the commissioners and DED staff to introduce themselves.

Kim Bastemeyer took the roll call.

#### Approval of Minutes

Svoboda asked if there are any changes that need to be made to the minutes from the October meeting. On page 3 of the minutes under Operating Guidelines #6, Class B airports were changed to Class D airports. No other changes were made. ***Motion by Plucknett, seconded by Workman to approve the minutes. Sigerson abstained. Motion approved.***

#### Approval of Operating Procedures

Stu Miller stated that the suggested changes to the operating procedures were made and reminded commissioners that a formal letter requesting and appointing an alternate be sent to the Director of the Department of Economic Development. ***Motion by Melbye, seconded by Boyd to approve the operating procedures. Motion approved unanimously.***

#### Department of Economic Development Update

Richard Baier, Director of the Department of Economic Development thanked the commissioners and guests for attending the meeting. He stated that the commission Executive Director position has been posted. The closing date for applications is Monday, November 07, 2005. Once all the applications have been received, Baier,

Svoboda, and Oltmans will screen the applicants and conduct the interviews. Where the executive director's office will be located will be decided after the position has been filled.

Stu Miller (DED) distributed an information report as a follow-up to questions and issues discussed during the October meeting.

#### Budget and Staffing

Svoboda restated that once the Executive Director has been chosen, the commission could then decide where the office should be located. Since the Director of the Department of Economic Development would be Executive Director's supervisor, Svoboda thought that the ideal location would be at the Department of Economic Development.

#### NIZC Priority Issues – Discussion

Svoboda explained that the DED is organizing a bus tour of the I-80 corridor for the January meeting. DED will put together the tour, agenda and speakers.

Borgeson and Busing stated that this is a wonderful idea to view areas and potential sights for development.

Plucknett asked if DED could provide them with the zoning maps prior to the bus tour.

Workman and Oltman both agree the commission needs to keep the local communities and zoning authorities involved with the commission's vision for the corridor.

Babcock suggested that the commission brainstorm their vision and goals for the corridor before going on a bus tour. Strand, Plucknett, Borgeson, Boyd, and Oltmans disagreed. They prefer to have the tour first to take note what is already in the planning process, to view the geography and existing facilities, to take an inventory of electric, water supply, sewage and roads, and to determine what they do not like and how it should or can be changed.

Gay suggested that representatives from the transportation and utility industries be invited to attend the bus tour.

Sigerson recommended that the commission select special advisors from OPPD/NPPD, Aquila, Highway Department, etc. to be non-voting members of the commission in order to provide technical advise and consulting on what the can or cannot be done within the corridor.

Plucknett stated that the commission should determine what the corridor is: 3-5 miles on the either side of the interstate, 10 miles?

Strand responded that the boundaries of the corridor could not be determined until after the commissioners have seen the geography of area. The boundaries should be based on the resources of the land. Some areas may be only one mile wide and others 10 miles.

Svoboda stated that the commission should talk with the local communities to determine the boundaries of the corridor.

Weak stated that vision casting is more important than determining how many miles wide corridor should be.

Babcock stated that she sees four priorities of the commission. 1. Create significant economic development impact. 2. Attract people to come live here and to stop the brain drain. 3. Respect and compliment the natural beauty of the corridor. 4. Must be able to replicate the commission's accomplishments in other areas of the state.

After several more minutes of discussion, the commission agreed that the priority issues for the next two meetings are the tour of the area and a vision planning meeting.

#### Public Comment Period

A gentleman suggested that instead of a bus tour, to have someone from the local NRD fly over the zone and film the area. Then the commissioners can invite experts from the utility companies and roads department to view the video with them and discuss what the possibilities are for development in the area.

Svoboda thanked the man for his good idea and stated that he would look into that as an option.

Another gentleman asked if there would be access for the public to take the bus tour. Svoboda replied that the public would be able join the commission on a bus tour, but the seating would be limited.

There was no further comment or response from the public.

***Motion to adjourn by Gay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Borgeson. Motion Approved.***

**Meeting adjourned at 11:24 AM**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Kim Bastemeyer,  
DED Staff**