



## RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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### **Executive**

#### **Committee:**

John Jordison  
Gayle McClure  
Marilyn Mecham  
Larry Cooper  
Edgar Hicks

### **Other**

#### **Commissioners:**

Richard Baier  
Scot Blehm  
Karl Elmshaeuser  
Ross Garwood  
Robert Gustafson  
Edgar Hicks  
Dan Hoffman  
Greg Ibach  
Charles Karpf  
Marge Lauer  
M.L. Martin  
Senator Vickie  
McDonald  
Lance Morgan  
Bryce Neidig  
Christine Peterson  
Tim Shafer

### **Staff:**

Linda Fettig  
Executive Director

Sandi Kaskie  
Administrative  
Assistant

### **Rural Development Commission Meeting XVII August 19, 2008 9:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Calamus Outfitters – Burwell, Nebraska Meeting Minutes**

Chair John Jordison called the meeting to order with 16 Commissioners present. The meeting opened with self-introduction of all Commissioners, staff (Linda Fettig and Sandi Kaskie), and guests (Joseph Young, DED; Reggie Robinson, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development; and Bruce and Sue Ann Switzer, Calamus Outfitters).

John Jordison stated that a copy of the Open Meeting Law was located on the table in the back of the room for review.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Director's Report was made by Gayle McClure and seconded by Richard Baier. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call voice vote.

Linda introduced Bruce, Sue Ann, and Adam Switzer owners and operators of Calamus Outfitters. Bruce and Sue Ann described how and why they started their business, the challenges they have faced over the years, as well as what they hope to accomplish in the future.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Essay Committee** – John Jordison, Chair, informed the Commission that the essays are being received and the committee is moving forward as planned. Bruce Switzer was asked to write an essay about why urban areas are important to rural Nebraska. Chuck Karpf agreed to speak to someone from urban Nebraska about writing an article as to why rural Nebraska is important to urban Nebraska. Christine Peterson advised that she has spoken to the individuals at the Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA) and they have agreed to assist with the artwork for the book. The essay topics will be sent to the directors at MONA and they will choose art pieces that will complement the specific essays. Discussion took place.

**Legislative Committee** - Chair Ross Garwood informed the Commission of legislative issues discussed during the Legislative Committee conference call on July 23, 2008. The Governor has requested that each department within the state work at a 97% budget again this year, which includes the RDC. Ross also informed the Commission that statutorily the BECA and VAA grant programs continue through 2010, expiring January 1, 2011. Additionally, he pointed out that technology remains to be a big issue for rural area and the Legislative Committee will be watching for any upcoming legislation.

Acting on recommendations from the Legislative Committee, the Commission undertook discussion of the following topics with actions as noted:

Value-Added Grant Program

Motion to support the allocation of \$850,000 per year for the next two years to the Value-Added Agriculture grant program with the exception of the January 1, 2011 termination date was made by Ross Garwood and seconded by Chuck Karpf. Discussion took place. The motion carried with a roll call voice vote.

Building Entrepreneurial Community Grant Program

Motion to support the allocation of \$250,000 per year for the next two years to the Building Entrepreneurial Community Act grant program with the exception of the January 1, 2011 termination date was made by Ross Garwood and seconded by Gayle McClure. Discussion took place. The motion carried with a roll call voice vote.

Rural Development Commission budget

Motion to support the line item allocation (within DED's budget) of \$150,000 per year over the next two years to the RDC was made by Ross Garwood and seconded by Marge Lauer. Discussion took place. Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Micro-Enterprise

Motion to support DED's Micro Enterprise budget line item currently at \$497,500 per year or \$995,000 bi-annually was made by Ross Garwood and seconded by Chuck Karpf.

John Jordison, Chair, stepped down and requested that co-chair, Gayle McClure take over the meeting, as John is a member of the Micro Enterprise Board and did not want to take part in the discussion.

Co-Chair Gayle McClure took over the meeting.

Discussion took place.

The motion was tabled until review of the annual Micro Enterprise Report could be reviewed by the Commissioners.

John Jordison resumed his position as Chair.

Governor's Tax Cut Initiative

Ross Garwood made a motion to watch and support the Governor's Tax Cut Initiative and the motion was seconded by M.L. Martin.

Discussion took place.

Ross Garwood withdrew his motion and it was decided that the Commission needs more information about the Governor's Tax Cut Initiative. Once additional information is received, the Legislative Committee will review and discuss it and possibly present it to the Commission at the next meeting.

#### Private Recreation Liability Legislation

Motion to support/endorse the concept of private recreation liability legislation with a negligence provision and a cap provision was made by Ross Garwood and seconded by Chuck Karpf. Discussion took place. The motion passed with a roll call voice vote.

#### **2009 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

- Look at Governmental Infrastructure Technology for 2009.
  - When considering technology issues, the Commission must look 5-10 years into the future.
- Advocate for rural causes/solutions.
- Business transition.
- Infrastructure – corporate and private.
- Clearinghouse for information about grants available to rural communities, farmers, ranchers, and entrepreneurs.

Linda presented information about the Governor's Conference on Rural Development that is being held Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> in Kearney. The next RDC meeting is going to be held on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> which will allow the commissioners to attend the conference on Friday.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Reggie Robinson voiced his opinion regarding the RDC and HUD working together to form a partnership.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by Sandi Kaskie, reviewed by Linda Fettig, and are presented on behalf of the executive committee.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Meeting August 19, 2008**

| COMMISSIONER       | ATTENDANCE<br>(X = Present) | MOTION #1<br>Consent<br>Agenda | MOTION<br>#2<br>VAA<br>Allocation | MOTION<br>#3<br>BECA<br>Allocation | MOTION<br>#4<br>RDC line<br>allocation<br>DED budget | MOTION<br>#5<br>DED<br>Micro-<br>enterprise<br>budget<br>line item | MOTION<br>#6<br>Gov. Tax<br>Cut Initiate | MOTION<br>#7<br>Private<br>Recreation<br>Liability<br>Concept |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
|                    | X                           | Y-N-A                          |                                   |                                    |  | Motion<br>Tabled   | Motion<br>Withdrawn                      |   |
| Richard Baier      | X                           | Y                              | A                                 | A                                  | A  |  |  | A   |
| Scot Blehm         |                             |                                |                                   |                                    |  |  |  |   |
| Larry Cooper       | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| Karl Elmshaeuser   | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| Ross Garwood       | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| Robert Gustafson   |                             |                                |                                   |                                    |  |  |  |   |
| Edgar Hicks        | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| Dan Hoffman        | X                           | -                              | -                                 | -                                  | -  |  |  | A   |
| Greg Ibach         |                             |                                |                                   |                                    |  |  |  |   |
| John Jordison      | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| Charles Karpf      | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| Marge Lauer        | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| M.L. Martin        | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| Gayle McClure      | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| Sen. McDonald      | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| Marilyn Mecham     | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| Lance Morgan       |                             |                                |                                   |                                    |  |  |  |   |
| Bryce Neidig       | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | Y   |
| Christine Peterson | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | Y  |  |  | N   |
| Tim Shafer         | X                           | Y                              | Y                                 | Y                                  | N  |  |  | Y   |

**\*NOTE\*: No vote received is indicated by a dash (-).**