



RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1101 Halligan Drive, Building #10
North Platte, NE 69101
www.ruralnebraska.info

Phone (308) 535-8018
Fax (308) 535-8019

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
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
Assistant to the
Director

Rural Development Commission Meeting XVIII November 13, 2008 1:00. – 4:00 p.m. Nebraska Public Power District – Kearney, Nebraska Meeting Minutes

Chair John Jordison called the meeting to order with 13 Commissioners present. The meeting opened with self-introduction of guests (Joseph Young, DED, Gary Hamer, Deputy Director of DED, Jenne Rodriguez, DED, Lara Huskey, DED, and Corrinne Pedersen, NMPP).

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

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Director's Report was made by Karl Elmshaeuser and seconded by Ross Garwood. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call voice vote.

Linda introduced Gary Hamer, Deputy Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Gary, with the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation, apprised the commission of the Department of Economic Development's Benchmarks for 2008 which are being used as a starting point during the preparation of the department's strategic plan. Gary asked for suggestions from the commissioners and discussion took place.

Chair John Jordison presented a verbal report of what transpired during his trip to Montpelier, Vermont for the Partnership for Rural America conference. John reported that Vermont is very small and very rural and speaker after speaker spoke about the same issues that face Nebraska. It was evident that more collaboration is needed to address these issues.

Jenne Rodriguez of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development reported on the department's Business Retention and Expansion Program also using a PowerPoint presentation. Discussion took place.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Essay Committee – Linda Fettig informed the Commission that the first draft of the essay book should be ready to proof within the next week. A copy will be emailed to all the commissioners for their review and comments. Once the book is in final draft form, Linda will be able to determine the expenses that will be incurred with printing the book. Discussion took place.

Telework Committee – Chair Karl Elmshaeuser began his presentation by thanking John, Linda, and the Lt. Governor for assisting with the arrangement of the

Telecommunications Briefing that took place during the morning. Karl pointed out that broadband issues continue to be recognized across the state. Even though all households in Nebraska have access to the internet, speed, price and usability are issues to be addressed. Karl advised that the Lt. Governor is encouraging the commission to continue to be involved and facilitate additional meetings so that conversations continue between the proper entities and this issue continues to be addressed. Discussion took place.

Legislative Committee - Chair Ross Garwood informed the Commission of the following legislative updates:

- A draft of the Nebraska Advantage bill has been prepared;
- The bill requesting the sunset ending date of the BECA and VAA grant programs be lifted has been drafted;
- The bill addressing Recreation Liability Insurance has been drafted;
- Senator Fischer may be introducing a bill that encompasses small businesses in the NE Advantage program; and
- A draft of the Micro Enterprise bill requesting \$497,500 per year or \$995,000 bi-annually has been prepared.

Discussion took place about a senator to serve on the commission since Senator McDonald will be leaving office due to the term limit bill. John will contact Speaker Flood to discuss who Speaker Flood feels should serve on the commission. Speaker Flood actually appoints the Senator to the Commission.

Commissioner Chris Peterson advised the commission that the Department of Health and Human Services would like to do a presentation for the RDC that would outline the changes that will be taking place within the department. Additionally, she advised that the department would be implementing call centers to assist citizens with various questions. Chris pointed out that it is important that the citizens of Nebraska get the services they expect to receive. Communities throughout Nebraska will be competing to determine where the call centers will be located.

Linda advised that the Department of Labor intends to implement call centers in different communities throughout Nebraska as well.

Linda introduced Paul Collits and Gordon Forth from Australia who informed the commission of trends and key issues being addressed in rural Australia. Discussion took place.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2009 at the Ferguson House in Lincoln.

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

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Meeting November 13, 2008**

COMMISSIONER	ATTENDANCE (X = Present)	MOTION #1 Consent Agenda	MOTION #2	MOTION #3	MOTION #4	MOTION #5	MOTION #6	MOTION #7
	X	Y-N-A						
Richard Baier	A							
Scot Blehm	X	Y						
Larry Cooper	X	Y						
Karl Elmshaeuser	X	Y						
Ross Garwood	X	Y						
Robert Gustafson	A							
Edgar Hicks	X	Y						
Greg Ibach	A							
John Jordison	X	Y						
Charles Karpf	X	Y						
Marge Lauer	X	Y						
M.L. Martin	X	Y						
Gayle McClure	X	-						
Sen. McDonald	A							
Marilyn Mecham	A							
Lance Morgan	A							
Bryce Neidig	X	Y						
Christine Peterson	X	Y						
Tim Shafer	X	Y						

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