



RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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

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

Rural Development Commission Meeting XVI April 4, 2008 1:00- 3:00 P.M. NE College of Technical Agriculture – Curtis, Nebraska Meeting Minutes

Executive

Committee:

John Jordison
Gayle McClure
Marilyn Mecham
Larry Cooper
Edgar Hicks

Other

Commissioners:

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

Staff:

Linda Fettig
Executive Director

Sandi Kaskie
Administrative
Assistant

Chair John Jordison called the meeting to order with 12 Commissioners present. The meeting opened with self-introduction of all Commissioners, staff Linda Fettig, and Sandi Kaskie, and guests (Senator, Tom Hansen – District 42, Mary Crawford, Congressman Adrian Smith's office, Lory Cappel, USDA, Dr. Weldon Sleight, NCTA, Pam Hanson, Lynne Wilson and Gary Horst, Frontier Technologies).

Larry Cooper introduced Dr. Weldon Sleight, Dean of NE College of Technical Agriculture. Dr. Sleight provided an educational presentation of the college and the exciting things that will be taking place in the near future.

John Jordison stated that a copy of the Open Meeting Law was located on the table in front of Sandi Kaskie for review by anyone attending.

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

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Ross Garwood, Chair, updated the commission on legislative bills of interest; LB 789, LB 895, LB 997, LB 1046, LB 846, LB 1088, and LB 609.

Senator Hansen was asked to present any updated information he may have on the bills of interest or initiatives. He presented information on Initiative 300 and the impact the passing of the Initiative will have on the state.

ESSAY COMMITTEE & RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

See attached report presented by John Jordison, Chair of the Essay Committee and Gayle McClure, Chair of the Renewable Energy Committee. Discussion took place.

TOURISM COMMITTEE

Marge Lauer, Chair, advised that she is researching information regarding rural tours that other organizations have done in the past. Additionally, she is gathering information regarding the expenses that will be incurred with offering these tours, as well as possible funding opportunities.

Discussion took place regarding the date and location of the next RDC meeting. The next meeting location is Calamus Outfitter's near Burwell.

Linda informed the Commission that the next BECA grant application cycle will be May 9, 2008 and the VAA grant application cycle will be October 3, 2008. She also explained how LB 609 will be incorporated into the current BECA regulations for the August 2008 cycle. Additionally, she is researching cost effective ways to present workshops to interested applicants.

Linda advised that Tara Barkmeier, the RDC Intern has resigned to accept employment in Gothenburg. John requested that Linda draft a letter on the Commission's behalf thanking Tara for her work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Senator Hansen thanked the commission for the work they are doing on behalf of Rural Nebraska.

The Rural Caucus of the National Legislature will be held in December in Omaha. NIFA is working with the Council of State Legislatures to frame important issues.

Business Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next RDC meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2008

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

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Meeting April 4, 2008**

COMMISSIONER	ATTENDANCE (X = Present)	MOTION #1 Consent Agenda
	X	Y-N-A
Richard Baier		
Scot Blehm		
Larry Cooper	X	Y
Karl Elmshaeuser	X	Y
Ross Garwood	X	Y
Mary Gerdes		
Robert Gustafson		
Edgar Hicks		
Dan Hoffman		
Greg Ibach		
John Jordison	X	Y
Charles Karpf	X	Y
Tim Kenny	X	Y
Marge Lauer	X	Y
M.L. Martin	X	Y
Gayle McClure	X	Y
Senator McDonald		
Marilyn Mecham		
Lance Morgan		
Bryce Neidig	X	Y
Christine Peterson		
Sandy Scofield	X	Y
Tim Shafer	X	Y

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



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RDC COMMITTEE UPDATES AS OF APRIL 4, 2008

Executive Committee:

John Jordison
Gayle McClure
Marilyn Mecham
Larry Cooper
Edgar Hicks

Other Commissioners:

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

Staff:

Linda Fettig
Executive Director

Sandi Kaskie
Administrative Assistant

Essay Committee – John Jordison, Chair

"The Rural Nebraska Essay committee (members include Commissioners Sandy Scofield, Christine Peterson, Marilyn Mecham, Dr. Tim Shafer, John Jordison and Director, Linda Fettig), has met several times this spring. The committee has set target deadlines, drawn up submission guidelines and permission agreements for contributors, discussed publication costs and methods of distribution (primarily electronic), and selected a list of ten topics, ranging from demographics and education to natural resources and government, all from the perspective of rural Nebraska. The edition will also feature Nebraska artwork. Committee members have volunteered to solicit essays from qualified contributors and are in the process of doing so. Our target deadline is this fall, with distribution in November."

Renewable Energy – Gayle McClure, Chair

To this point research has been the focus.

I have met with our Hastings Utility people, reviewed information provided by the U.S. Department of Energy and other materials pertinent to Wind Electric Systems.

Wind in Nebraska as a source to generate power through Wind Turbines is rated at good to excellent. Currently Nebraska has 3860 megawatts scheduled from Wind turbines second nationally to Illinois that has 5468 megawatts scheduled. California, Texas and Iowa are all leaders in using Wind Turbines for power generation.

Stand alone Turbines producing from 3 to 10 KW cost from \$3000 to \$15000.

Field Turbines producing 1.65 Megawatts cost about \$2,000,000 and have a life span of about 20 to 25 years.

Interestingly 30% of all new energy that came on line in 2007 was Wind Energy.

Wind Energy in Europe is catching on; 20% of Denmark's energy comes from Wind Turbines, 5% in Germany and England is scheduling 7000 units to be up and running by 2020; enough power to supply all of the houses in England.