



## RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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### Rural Development Commission Meeting XIV January 21, 2009 Ferguson Center – Lincoln, Nebraska Meeting Minutes

#### Executive Committee:

John Jordison  
Gayle McClure  
Marilyn Mecham  
Larry Cooper  
Edgar Hicks

#### Other Commissioners:

Richard Baier  
Karl Elmshaeuser  
Ross Garwood  
Robert Gustafson  
Edgar Hicks  
Greg Ibach  
Charles Karpf  
Marge Lauer  
M.L. Martin  
Senator Arnie  
Stuthman  
Lance Morgan  
Bryce Neidig  
Tim Shafer

#### Staff:

Linda Fettig  
Executive Director  
  
Sandi Kaskie  
Assistant to the  
Director

Co-Chair Gayle McClure called the meeting to order with 13 Commissioners present. The meeting opened with self-introduction of guests (Joseph Young, DED; Ginger Langemeier, NDA; and Mrs. Shirley Neidig).

Gayle McClure 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 Bryce Neidig and seconded by Chuck Karpf. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call voice vote.

#### Legislative Committee Report

Chair Ross Garwood informed the Commission of the following legislative updates:

- **LB 231 – Change Rural Development Commission Membership Provisions**  
This bill seeks to clarify membership to the RDC. The bill indicates that the Governor's four appointees shall be a member of his office; the Director of DED or his or her designee; the Director of Agriculture or his or her designee; and the chief executive office of the Department of HHS and his or her designee.

Additionally, the legislative appointee will be a nonvoting, ex-officio member of the Commission.

Motion to send a letter to the Agriculture Committee advising of the Commission's support for this bill was made by Ross Garwood and seconded by M.L. Martin. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

- **LB153 – Adopt the Tourism Liability Act**  
This bill seeks to redefine the terms and change provisions relating to owner liability for recreation and tourism activities.

Motion to send a letter to the Judiciary Committee advising of the Commission's support for this bill was made by Ross Garwood and seconded by M.L. Martin. Motion carried with a majority roll call vote.

Additionally, Commissioner Marge Lauer will testify at the time of the hearing.

- **LB164 – Change Provisions Relating to Tax Incentive Programs**  
This bill seeks to simplify several tax incentive programs, extend the sunset from 2010 to 2015 on Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Partnerships Act and the Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act, and eliminate or change various termination dates for several economic development tax incentive programs in the Nebraska Advantage Program.

Motion to affirm the action was made by Ross Garwood and seconded by Chuck Karpf. Motion carried with a majority roll call vote.

- **LB181 – Provide Requirements for Agreements Between Railroads and Telecommunications Carriers**  
This bill seeks to provide requirements for wire-crossing agreements between railroad carriers and telecommunications carriers.

Motion to watch this bill and authorize the Executive Committee to take appropriate action by providing a letter or testimony as deemed necessary was made by Ross Garwood, and seconded by Karl Elmshaeuser. Motion carried with a majority roll call vote.

Motion to work with the Unicameral over the next year to educate them on the BECA and VAA grants made by Ross Garwood and seconded by Robert Gustafson. Motion carried with a majority roll call vote.

Exploring the possibility of requesting grant educational fees for the purpose of providing education and technical assistance to applicants and potential applicants was tabled until the next legislative year.

Discussion took place and it was decided that the Legislative Committee will meet with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor prior to February 21, 2009 to present them with the informational packets that include a copy of the annual report.

Gayle McClure presented the slate of officers that were nominated for the 2009-2011 term to the Commission for consideration.

Motion to cease and accept the slate of officers presented was made by Richard Baier and seconded by Karl Elmshaeuser. Motion carried with a unanimous voice roll call vote.

The following commissioners were chosen as the Executive Committee for the 2009-2011 term:

- Chair – M.L.. Martin
- Co-Chair – Dr. Tim Shafer
- At-large – Ross Garwood
- At-large – Chuck Karpf

**Essay Committee Report**– Linda Fettig informed the Commission that the essay book “Rural Nebraska Views” was printed and a copy was placed in each of the Senator and Commissioner informational packets. Discussion took place.

**Telework Committee** – Chair Karl Elmshaeuser advised the commission that he had a conference with the Lieutenant Governor to discuss key broadband and telecommunication issues throughout the state. Karl pointed out that businesses want fiber lines and not wireless, as they do not want any delay in their service. He recommended that the commission find out what types of lines are located in the private and government sectors of the state. After this

information is obtained, the Telecommunications Committee and RDC may be able to make recommendations regarding these findings.

Motion was made by Karl Elmshaeuser to prepare a letter to the NITC encouraging them to prepare a map of the state depicting the location and types of wires placed in both the private and government sectors within a 1 year time frame and also encouraging telecommunication providers to present this information at the next Telecommunications Meeting in Kearney during the Governor's Conference on Rural Development in November. The motion was seconded by Robert Gustafson. Motion carried with a majority roll call voice vote. Discussion took place and it was also suggested that the commission consider coordinating with the League of Municipalities and the Nebraska Economic Developers Association.

Linda will work with the Lieutenant Governor to schedule the next telecommunications forum.

Linda advised the commission that the Omaha World Herald had been invited to the meeting to discuss their recent decision to discontinue providing service to some rural communities. The editor declined the invitation.

Chuck Karpf made a motion to present a letter to the Omaha World Herald expressing the Commission's concern regarding the discontinuation of service to rural communities contingent on the approval and guidance of the Director and legal counsel of DED. The motion was seconded by M.L. Martin. Motion carried with a majority roll call voice vote.

Linda will prepare a list of possible dates and locations for future meetings to be proposed to the Commission for consideration.

Edgar Hicks presented information on Natalie D. Hahn, Founder and President of the Malaika Foundation. Chuck Karpf, Edgar Hicks and Larry Cooper will work together to prepare a report to present at the next RDC meeting.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting – To be determined.

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<br>(X = Present) | MOTION<br>#1<br>Consent<br>Agenda | MOTION<br>#2<br>LB231 | MOTION<br>#3<br>LB153 | MOTION<br>#4<br>LB164 | MOTION<br>#5<br>LB 181 | MOTION #6<br>Work With<br>Unicameral | MOTION<br>#7<br>Slate<br>Election<br>of<br>Officers | MOTION<br>#8<br>Ltr. to<br>NITC | MOTION<br>#9<br>Ltr. to<br>OWH |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                  | X                           | Y-N-A                             | Y-N-A                 | Y-N-A                 | Y-N-A                 | Y-N-A                  | Y-N-A                                | Y-N-A   | Y-N-A                           | Y-N-A                          |
| Richard Baier    | X                           | Y                                 | A                     | A                     | A                     | A                      | A                                    | Y   | A                               | -                              |
| Larry Cooper     | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | Y                              |
| Karl Elmshaeuser | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | -                              |
| Ross Garwood     | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | -                              |
| Robert Gustafson | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | Y                              |
| Edgar Hicks      | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | Y                              |
| Greg Ibach       | A                           |                                   |                       |                       |                       |                        |                                      |   |                                 |                                |
| John Jordison    | A                           |                                   |                       |                       |                       |                        |                                      |   |                                 |                                |
| Charles Karpf    | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | Y                              |
| Marge Lauer      | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | Y                              |
| M.L. Martin      | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | Y                              |
| Gayle McClure    | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | Y                              |
| Sen. Stuthman    | X                           | -                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | Y                              |
| Marilyn Mecham   | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | -                              |
| Lance Morgan     | A                           |                                   |                       |                       |                       |                        |                                      |   |                                 |                                |
| Bryce Neidig     | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | Y                              |
| Tim Shafer       | X                           | Y                                 | Y                     | Y                     | Y                     | Y                      | Y                                    | Y   | Y                               | Y                              |

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