



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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Rural Development Commission Emergency Meeting January 30, 2012 Teleconference

An emergency is characterized as an item requiring immediate resolution by the public body, and one which has arisen in circumstances impossible to anticipate at a time sufficient to have a regular meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Participating commissioners: Elmshaeuser, Neidig, Martin, Reimers-Hild, Karpf, Meysing and McClure.

Executive Director Fettig and Chair Martin advised a handout was received on January 23, 2012 from the Appropriations Committee regarding eliminating funds currently allocated to the Rural Development Commission. A hearing is scheduled to take place February 1, 2012.

Executive Director Fettig advised that the Nebraska Rural Development Commission is the only federally recognized rural development entity for the State. Discussion took place. Commissioners voiced their concern regarding the Commission as being the only impartial policy entity for rural Nebraska and the possibility of rural Nebraska losing its voice and representation of rural Nebraska in the absence of the Commission.

The commissioners concurred the Commission hasn't been "tooting" its own horn and the story of their work in rural Nebraska hasn't been told because of lack of funding. The Commission is demographically and geographically diverse.

Currently the Commission is working closely with the communities in the Sandhills project area to connect them with strategic planning services and program resources; coordinating the Governor's conference on Rural Development which will be April 18, 2012 in North Platte; planning and hosting an educational briefing for the senators on March 6, 2012; and scheduling and hosting a rural familiarization tour for urban senators planned for April, 2012.

The RDC questioned who would service the current grant recipients. Additionally, concern was expressed over who would oversee the remaining grants and insure that accountability was maintained over "public funds".

Discussion took place as to whether or not there was a need for the commission to testify at the upcoming hearing on February 1st. The participants concurred that the Commission should be represented and Chair Martin volunteered to testify on the Commission's behalf.

Executive Committee:

M.L. Martin
Steve Ausdemore
Chuck Karpf
Kevin Poppe

Commissioners:

Jeremiah Blake
Karl Elmshaeuser
Judi gaiashkibos
Senator Tom Hansen
Edgar Hicks
Greg Ibach
K. Kirk Jamison
Catherine Lang
Marge Lauer
Gayle McClure
Steven Meysing
Maxine Moul
Bryce Neidig
Connie Reimers-Hild
Michael Smith
Michael Teahon
Kerry Winterer

Staff:

Linda Fettig
Executive Director

Sandi Kaskie
Assistant to the Director