



Rural Development Commission Meeting XII  
January 11, 2006, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Building Room 1023, Lincoln  
Meeting Minutes

Robert Stowell called the meeting to order. Motion to approve the Agenda; the October 5, 2005, RDC Minutes; and the Directors Report was made by Richard Baier and seconded by Mary Gerdes. (The Directors Report is the Newsletter prepared by Linda.) Motion carried with a unanimous roll call voice vote.

Robert Stowell opened the meeting with self-introductions of all commissioners and guests present. Linda distributed notebook updates of which included such items as reimbursement forms, member information and term limits. Also distributed were new name pins and RDC tote bags.

Robert reminded the Commissioners that there are vacancies on the board and the guidelines state that those vacancies need to be filled to meet statutory recommendations. With the resignation of John Schmall, there are currently 27 members of the Commission. Marilyn Mecham motioned to ratify current officers; seconded by Matt Williams. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call voice vote.

As required by the Nebraska RDC Operating Procedures and Guideline, there was discussion about Bob appointing a nominating committee. Christine Peterson, Gayle McClure, Mary Gerdes and Chuck Hassebrook were appointed. There was further discussion as to the methodology as to reaching geographically to new members and the criteria that needs to be met in order to become a member. The western portion of the state would benefit by more representation. Richard Baier suggested sending a notice to the Governor's office announcing that the Commission would like to obtain additional commissioners. Linda and Whitney will prepare a News Release announcing that the Commission is accepting applications for new members.

Linda Fettig reported that there are times when administrative issues are brought to her attention. Many of these issues require action before they can be discussed at the next Commission meeting. She does attempt to contact the commissioners to involve them in the decision-making process before taking any action, however, at times she is

unable to speak with all of them. There was discussion on how these types of situations should be handled in the future.

Discussion took place regarding the \$11,700 grant application to the USDA-RD and associated work plan. The Commission agreed that they do need to stay in the work plan zone and maybe a conference call needs to be scheduled each month to discuss issues that arise before the next scheduled Commission meeting. There was discussion as to a way to facilitate Linda working on the Commissions behalf. Linda was commended for her turn around time working with the monies received from the grant. Motion was made by Gayle McClure to ratify the \$11,700 grant application to the USDA-RD; seconded by Sandy Scofield. Motion carried.

The PRA conference and the Denver event were discussed. The PRA conference in Washington D.C. is scheduled for March 26 thru March 29, 2006. The conference is scheduled for all day, each day. If any of the Commissioners are interested in attending, all of their expenses will be paid for through the Commission. Anyone that is interested is to contact Linda for additional information and registration. Nebraska was well represented in 2005. Linda felt that the conference was a great learning experience.

The Denver event is to take place April 1, 2006. Bob and Mary may be interested in attending the event. There was discussion about getting more cooperation from the colleges since the event is along the lines of a job fair. If anyone is interested in attending, they are to contact Linda.

Linda advised the Commission that there is also an event that will be coming up in Chicago on September 23, 2006. Marilyn advised that she may be interested and she was going to go through her church to obtain additional information regarding this event.

Discussion took place regarding the Business Plan Competition. It appears at this time, that 15 intend to enter. Nebraska would like to get more funding as long as these interested businesses would stay in business.

The BECA and VAA grant application deadline is Friday, January 27, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. As of this meeting date, no grant applications have been received. The total amount of the grants is \$250,000. Discussion took place as to the grant review timeline. Guidelines will be drafted for the judges to follow to determine which applicants are successful.

A sign up sheet was passed around to allow Commissioners to sign up for committee he or she would like to serve on. The committees are as follows: Finance and Ease of Access, Marketing and Public Relations, Legislative, Grant Review and Monitoring and Community Development. These committees will provide a report to the Commission at each meeting and will be scheduled into the agenda.

Marketing and Public Relations Committee Report: The RDC tote bags and pins that were passed out at the beginning of the meeting are intended as advertising. A logo has been created and a copy was passed around for viewing. The website is in its final stages of completion. **The Connection** special edition newsletter is complete and was distributed to each commissioner and visitor.

Legislative Committee: Discussion took place as to how grateful the RDC is for the support of the Senators in 2005, as well as the funding received. The commission is still building relationships and would like that to continue.

Future committee meeting sites were discussed. Since the next Commission meeting date (April 5, 2006) is scheduled so close to the Denver event, it was decided to reschedule the meeting to April 18, 2006. The meeting will still be held in Gothenburg. The June 7, 2006 meeting will be held in North Platte and the October 11, 2006 meeting will be held in Hastings.

The floor was opened to public comment. No discussion took place.

Other business: Sandy Scofield handed out a University of Nebraska/Rural Initiative and NBDC brochure titled **BizFIND**.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by Sandi Kaskie, reviewed by Linda Fettig, and are presented on behalf of Senator Stuhr, Commission Secretary.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**Meeting: January 11, 2006**

COMMISSIONER	PRESENT	MOTION #1	MOTION #2	MOTION #3	MOTION #4
	ABSENT	Y-N-A	Y-N-A	Y-N-A	Y-N-A
Richard Baier	P	Y	Y	A	Y
Marcia Baumann	A				
Scot Blehm	P	Y	Y	A	Y
Ross Garwood	A				
Mary Gerdes	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chuck Hassebrook	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Edgar Hicks	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dan Hoffman	P	Y	Y	A	Y
Greg Ibach	A				
John Jordison	A				
Tim Kenny	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
M.L. Martin	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gayle McClure	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Marilyn Mecham	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jane Morgan	A				
Lance Morgan	A				
Bryce Neidig	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Christine Peterson	P	Y	Y	A	Left
Heidi Phillips	A				
Jamie Renshaw	A				
Tim Shafer	A				
Sandy Scofield	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bob Stowell	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator Elaine Stuhr	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gary Warren	A				
Matt Williams	P	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kyla Wize	A				