COMMUNITY COUNCIL
March 18, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
Lincoln--Executive Building, 521 South 14th Street, Suite 103
Scottsbluff—Panhandle Education Center, 4502 Avenue I, High Plains Room
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Chris Anderson, City of Central City
Rod Armstrong, AIM Institute
Roger Hahn, Nebraska Information Network
Darla Heggem, Twin Cities Economic Development
John Jordison, Great Plains Communications
Tim O'Brien, Department of Economic Development
Jerry Vap, Nebraska Public Service Commission

ROLL CALL, NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA, NOTICE OF NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT POSTING

In the absence of the Chair, Anne Byers conducted the meeting. There were seven members present at the time of roll call. A quorum existed to conduct official business. The meeting notice and agenda were posted on the Public Meeting and NITC websites on March 3, 2011.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2009 AND JULY 19, 2010 MINUTES

Mr. Anderson arrived to the meeting.

Mr. Vap moved to approve the March 23, 2009 and July 19, 2010 minutes as presented. Mr. O'Brien seconded. Roll call vote: Anderson-Yes, Armstrong-Yes, Hahn-Yes, Heggem-Yes, Jordison-Yes, O'Brien-Yes, and Vap-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Ms. Modrell arrived to the meeting.

BROADBAND MAP UPDATE
Gene Hand and Don Gray, Nebraska Public Service Commission

Mr. Hand and Mr. Gray provided updates on the Nebraska map (broadbandmap.nebraska.gov) and the federal map (broadbandmap.gov). Below is historical information about the project.

Fall of 2008:
- Congress enacts the Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA).
- Intent is to provide funding to eligible entities in each state for mapping broadband and to support planning activities.
- Funding was not appropriated with enactment of the BDIA.

February 2009:
- Congress enacts the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA - the Stimulus Bill) and appropriates $350 million to fund the BDIA for five years.
- $7.4 billion was appropriated to fund grants/loans for broadband infrastructure projects funded through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) (Dept. of Commerce) and Rural Utilities Service (RUS) (Dept. of Agriculture).

- The State designees were notified by the NTIA that the original grant program of five years was to be reduced to a two year grant with the possibility of three additional years of funding at a later date.

January 2010:
- NTIA awarded NPSC a grant of $2.1 million for years 1 and 2 with $1.6 million allocated for the mapping project and $0.5 million allocated for the planning project.

May 2010:
- NTIA notified Grantees that they were now prepared to entertain supplemental application requests for years 3 - 5 of the original grant period authorized by Congress.
- The NPSC and the Planning Team had 30 days to prepare the supplemental grant proposal.

September 2010:
- NPSC was notified by the NTIA that Nebraska had been awarded a supplemental grant of approximately $3.5 million for years 3-5 with $1.5 million allocated for continuation of the mapping effort and $2.0 million allocated for the planning effort.
- Revised budget for the supplemental grant was submitted on February 21, 2011.
- NPSC is awaiting final approval of the award by the NTIA.

The project's biggest challenge is getting data from ISPs in a regular consistent format per the federal requirements. The NTIA is using census block data whereas providers may use street addresses or some other means of gathering data. The national and the Nebraska maps utilize layers of data. For example, Layer 1 consists of community anchor institutions which includes libraries and schools but in the future could also include other entities.

BROADBAND PLANNING UPDATE
Connie Hancock, University of Nebraska, Panhandle Research & Extension Center

Forums. The project will be conducting regional broadband forums. All forums will be held from 1-4 p.m. on the following dates and locations:
- March 23, Norfolk: Learning Center, 801 East Benjamin Avenue
- March 30, Gering: Civic Center, 1050 M Street
- March 31, Valentine: 4-H Building, 120 North Green Street
- April 6, North Platte: Quality Inn Convention Center, 2102 South Jeffers
- April 7, McCook: Mid-Plains Enterprise Center, 1205 East Third
- April 13, Lincoln: Embassy Suites, 1040 P Street
- April 14, Minden: Opera House, 322 East Fifth Street
- April 28, Omaha: Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, 1301 Harney Street

Ms. Hancock distributed extra flyers for members to take and distribute to other persons who may be interested. Local media have been contacted. State senators have been invited as well. The forums are being conducted to:
- Begin discussions about how their region can increase adoption and utilization of broadband services;
- Share how residents in their region are currently using and how the view broadband service through the results of a statewide survey;
- Showcase broadband mapping data from their regional as well as across the state; and
- Create a regional planning team to work on a regional technology plan.

Regional plans will be included in the statewide plan which will be completed in 2012. In addition to the regional teams, there will also be focus groups on agriculture, health care, tribal lands, and diverse minority populations. A portal will be created for the public to access information about broadband planning.

Workbook and Other Activities. The project would like the Community Council to review and provide their recommendations on the assessment tool as well as the statewide plan when it is developed. After regional teams are established, there will be funding available for them to conduct regional workshops. Webinars are being developed to raise awareness, adoption and utilization of broadband services in Nebraska.

HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE
Anne Byers, NITC

Anne Byers gave an overview of Nebraska's health information exchange efforts. In May 2010, Nebraska received a federal grant of 6.8 million dollars for Nebraska's health information exchange. In order to receive funding, Nebraska had to submit strategic and operational eHealth plans. Both of these are available via the NITC website. Rather than create a whole new system, Nebraska decided to build upon and integrate existing health initiatives. Grant funds will be used to expand services to additional providers and to expand functionality.

NeHII, Connie Pratt

NeHII is the acting as the lead health information exchange for Nebraska. Ms. Pratt distributed an updated fact sheet. The project began in 2005. NeHII is the statewide integrator and lead health information exchange. Currently 15 hospitals and over 1,300 providers are participating in NeHII. Creighton University Medical Center will go live on April 25th. NeHII is currently working with the State of Nebraska to exchange immunization data.

eBHIN (Electronic Behavior Health Information Network), Wende Baker

Nebraska is one of the few states to establish a separate behavioral health information exchange. Region V has been working on eHealth records effort for quite some time. Stakeholders have also been involved from the very beginning. The biggest hurdle right now is the development of a consent form that will allow them to operate in the HIE network and still meet HIPAA standards for health care professional and the patient. Other behavioral health regions are also interested in participating.   eBHIN is in the process of setting up a website and is expected to go-live April 26, 2011. Ms. Baker thanked Ms. Byers, the NITC and the ONC for their help with this effort.

MEMBERSHIP
Anne Byers, Community I.T. Manager

The Community Council has 11 active members. Members were encouraged to recommend persons to Ms. Byers. Currently, the council needs representatives from the libraries and local government.

Mr. Hahn announced that he will be retiring on August 31st. After that time, the NIN board will decide to either hire a replacement or close the doors.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

The meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Anne Byers of the Office of the CIO/NITC.