

## **COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

September 14, 2007, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon

**Lincoln-Executive:** Lincoln Executive Bldg.-Suite 103, 521 S 14th ST.

**Columbus:** Columbus Public Library-Columbus Rm., 2nd Fl., 2504 14th St.

**Kearney:** Public Library and Info. Center-2nd Fl., 2020 First Avenue

**Norfolk:** NECC (Northeast Community College) MaClay Bldg.-Rm. 122, 801 East Benjamin Ave.

**Omaha-SOB:** State Office Bldg.-Rm. 207 (2nd Fl.), 1313 Farnam St.

**Ord:** Loup Basin Technology Center

**Scottsbluff:** Panhandle Research & Extension Center High Plains Rm., 4502 Avenue I

Phone bridge (402) 472-6290

## **MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chris Anderson, City of Central City  
Jason Barelman, Wayne State College  
Scott W. Bovick, City of Nebraska City  
Gene Hand, Public Service Commission  
Darla Heggem, Twin Cities Development, Scottsbluff-Gering  
John Jordison, Great Plains Communications  
Bethanne Kunz, Valley County Economic Development  
Angie Ramaekers, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce  
Dan Shundoff, Intellicom

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mitch Arnold, Preferred Partners, LLC;

Don Costello, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Norene Fitzgerald, York County Development Corporation; Linda Fettig, Rural Development Commission; Dean Folkers, Department of Education; Brad McPeak, AIM Institute; Lynn Manhart, Central City Public Library; Joan Modrell, Department of Labor; Michael Nolan, City of Norfolk; Caleb T. Pollard, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Rivkah Sass, Omaha Public Library; Ted Smith, Norfolk Public Library; and Steve Williams, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

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

The Chair, Ted Smith, was not available to attend today. The meeting was chaired by Anne Byers in his absence. There were nine members present at the time of roll call. A quorum was not present to conduct official business. Ms. Byers stated that the meeting announcement was posted on the NITC Web site and on the Nebraska Public Meeting Web site on August 20, 2007, and that the agenda was posted on September 10, 2007.

### **APPROVAL OF JULY 16, 2007**

Due to lack of a quorum, the approval of the [July 16, 2007 minutes](#) was tabled until the next meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **RECAP OF LAST MEETING - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

At the previous Community Council meeting, discussions began regarding the needs of communities and the council's mission, responsibilities, and goals. New council members stated that it has been helpful learning about the NITC and the council's purpose.

### **BROADBAND AVAILABILITY AND CELL PHONE COVERAGE ISSUES (PDF) | (PPSX)**

Gene Hand and Don Gray, Public Service Commission

Mr. Hand and Mr. Gray provided a brief presentation on broadband and cell phone coverage and issues in Nebraska. Also included in the presentation was information on support from the federal Universal Service Fund and upcoming Legislation in Congress. Council members were informed that they can serve as advocates for their communities. Mr. Hand provided an URL ([www.speedmatters.org](http://www.speedmatters.org)) where communities and citizens can check their broadband capabilities. Mr. Jordison stated that Nebraska has extensive broadband coverage, especially in comparison to other rural states.

### **PODCASTING ACROSS NEBRASKA FINAL REPORT & PODCASTING ACROSS NEBRASKA PODCASTS**

Ms. Byers provided a brief history of the Podcasting Across Nebraska project for new council members. The project is now completed. At a prior meeting, the podcast project was discussed but no decisions were made on whether to conduct another round of grants. Ms. Byers is in communication with University of Nebraska Extension and the Department of Economic Development about a more comprehensive approach to helping communities use podcasting and other technologies.

### **REVIEW AND UPDATE OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL GOALS**

In 1999, the original goals of the Community Council were established. Since that time, the Community Council has undergone changes in membership and focus, making this a good time to review Council goals.

Since the NITC has developed eight strategic initiatives and relies on the councils to develop action items to advance these initiatives, Mr. Henderson suggested that the council tie their goals to the NITC's strategic initiatives. While the Community and IT Development initiative most closely mirrors the Community Council's focus, members can consider goals that would support other initiatives as well. Members suggested focusing on awareness and teaching communities how to use I.T., and enhancing infrastructure, work force development and economic development in Nebraska communities. There were also discussions regarding broader, general goals versus specific and measurable goals.

A work group was established to draft goals to bring to the whole council. Volunteers for the group were John Jordison, Scott Bovick, Angie Raemakers, Bethanne Kunz, Dan Shundoff, and Darla Heggem. Ms. Byers will also ask Caleb Pollard to participate.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Byers will poll the members to determine the best meeting date.

With no further business, Ms. Byers adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Anne Byers of the Office of the CIO.