

NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Varner Hall-Board Room
3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
Thursday, November 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m. CT

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, Chair
Senator Wendy DeBoer, Nebraska Legislature
Shane Greckel, Greckel Farms, LLC
Zach Mellender, Omaha Zoological Society
Leah Barrett, Northeast Community College
Jim Ediger, Hamilton Telecommunications
Kirk Langer, Lincoln Public Schools
Katie Niemoller, Children's Hospital and Medical Center

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska
Dan Spray, Precision Technologies, Inc.

STAFF PRESENT:

Rick Becker, NITC Administrative Manager and Legal Counsel
Anne Byers, Digital Equity Manager/NITC Administrative Manager
Casey DunnGossin, GIS Coordinator
Becca Kingery, Education IT Manager
Lori Lopez Urdiales, Office Services Manager II

ROLL CALL; MEETING NOTICE; OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on September 19, 2023. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on November 3, 2023. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was in the meeting room and a link to the act was included with the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF JULY 14, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Greckel moved to approve the July 14, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Langer seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Ediger-Yes, Langer-Yes, and Niemoller-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

MOTION TO RATIFY

At the July 14, 2023, commission meeting, there were six commissioners participating—five in person and one by virtual conferencing. However, the July meeting was not considered a virtual conferencing meeting under the Open Meeting Act, therefore the commissioner appearing by virtual conferencing did not vote and did not count as a member in attendance. Thus, there were only five members present at the meeting, one short of a quorum. The meeting continued as if a quorum was present, including voting on several action items noted in the meeting minutes. Staff recommends that the commission adopt a motion to ratify.

Commissioner Barrett moved to ratify all the actions taken at the July 14, 2023, commission meeting due to the lack of a quorum at the meeting. Commissioner Langer seconded. Roll call vote: Niemoller-Yes, Langer-Yes, Ediger-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Greckel-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

REPORTS

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Ms. Kingery provided the report.

Approval of membership nominations. In June, Dr. Dan Hoelsing's membership representing K12 Administrators, became vacant. The Nebraska Council of School Administrators has nominated, Dean Tickle. Mr. Tickle is the Superintendent of Loop City Public Schools.

Commissioner Mellender moved to approve Dean Tickle's nomination to serve on the Education Council. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Barrett-Yes, Ediger-Yes, Langer-Yes, Niemoller-Yes, Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, and Mellender-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

The Communications Task Group is developing action plans to broaden awareness of Network Nebraska, but also reinstitute a previously phased out Network Nebraska Services survey to better understand what our constituents know, and other services they'd like to see. In raising awareness of what Network Nebraska is across the state, the trifold brochure was inserted into the folders for attendees of the Nebraska Cyber Security Conference on October 31. They also plan to have individuals available at the upcoming at the Nebraska Association of State Boards State Education Conference (11/15-17) at the ESU CC table for questions.

Digital Education and Network Nebraska updates. The RFP for 2023 has been released to the Nebraska State Purchasing Bureau. This is the first time that Norfolk is appearing as an option for an aggregation site and participants are hopeful we will see positive momentum in prices for that region of the state. The RFP is expected to be released to the public on November 14th, with the official bid opening being held on December 29th. Contracts are expected to be signed by late February. The Lincoln aggregation site's internet connection contract expires in 2024. The RFP document is currently being drafted by the Nebraska University System's engineering team and should be released in the coming weeks. A Special Construction RFP is being discussed to offer both Network Nebraska ethernet transport connections to bring non-fiber public libraries into the "gig-capable" status prior to 2024, there is a plan to duplicate the appendices for commodity internet at the same time. This will require coordination on the part of the Nebraska Library Commission to ensure that libraries have updated USAC profiles to utilize Special Construction Funding. Participation in eduroam continues to grow, there was a recent press release from Cox Communications an InCommon highlighting a pilot program in Omaha making all Cox public access points also broadcast eduroam, broadening access for any participating educational entities in the Omaha Metro. Brett Bieber of the Nebraska University Systems was also recognized by Internet2 recently and given the Rose-Werle Award for his efforts in expanding eduroam in Nebraska K12 schools.

GIS COUNCIL

Ms. DunnGossin provided the report.

The Council has 2 vacancies:

- Lincoln Metro Rep. This vacancy was formerly held Jeff McReynolds, who went to work for the private sector. Adam Miller is the GIS Project Manager for the City of Lincoln and is on the board for Nebraska GIS/LIS Association.
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Chad Boshart formerly held this membership but has left employment with the State. Nathaniel Smith has been identified by NEMA as their

preferred representative to the Nebraska GIS Council. At NEMA Nathaniel administers and develops web-based solutions to further NEMA missions and provides general IT support.

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve the GIS Council membership nominations. Commissioner Niemoller seconded. Roll call vote: Ediger-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Greckel-Yes, and Toner-Yes. And Niemoller-Yes, Langer-Yes, Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

In the November meeting the GIS Council officially established 2 sub-committees and approved updates to the GIS Council Charter. Jeff McReynolds was voted in to be the 2024 Vice Chair.

- The first sub-committee is to review the LR370 report drafted by Tim Erickson which catalogs all Nebraska statutes that mention boundaries. The subcommittee will take volunteers that will meet in a work group and review the document to identify different boundaries that are used by statutes. The document is 212 pages long and will take a while to review.
- The second sub-committee was established to review NITC 3-202 - Land record information and mapping standard for a possible update and for the discussion of a possible parcel standard to be created.
- The key changes to the GIS Council Charter were to align the charter to statute, create a tribal representative position, and modify the length of service descriptions.

Commissioner Mellender moved to approve the revised GIS Council Charter. Commissioner Niemoller seconded. Roll call vote: Mellender-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Ediger-Yes, Langer-Yes, Niemoller-Yes, Toner-Yes, and Greckel-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Commissioner Greckel recommended having an agricultural representative on the GIS Council. Ms. DunnGossin will discuss this recommendation with the Council.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND BROADBAND REPORT

Ms. Byers provided the reports.

Rural Broadband Task Force. The 2023 Rural Broadband Task Force Report is available at <https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov/reports/2023RBTfreport.pdf>.

State Digital Equity Planning Grant. Sixty-five individuals attended the state digital opportunities planning workshop on August 8, including two NITC Commissioners, Leah Barrett and Zachary Mellender. Workshop participants identified barriers faced by key demographic groups and began drafting strategies to address broadband availability and affordability, access to digital devices, digital skills, knowledge and use of privacy and security practices, and the online accessibility of public resources.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln completed an online survey of Nebraskans to determine barriers to access and their digital skills. The Nebraska Department of Gerontology conducted four focus groups in Omaha, Columbus, and Ainsworth. These reports are available on the NITC website.

A draft digital opportunities plan will be available December 1. We will open a 30-day comment period starting that day.

Commissioner Mellender and Commissioner Barrett commended Ms. Byers on a job well done.

BEAD. The Nebraska Broadband Office (NBO) is moving to the next phase of efforts to ensure access for all Nebraskans to reliable broadband.

As part of this effort, there will be ongoing public engagements across the state including a series of nine public meetings and an open comment period from November 13 to December 13.

Opportunities will be available to submit public comments online at <https://ndot.info/community> or in-person at one of the following meetings hosted by the Nebraska Broadband Office:

- Sidney, Nov. 7, 5:30-7 p.m. Western Nebraska Community College, 371 S College Dr., Room 1516
- Chadron, Nov. 8, 5:30-7 p.m. Holiday Inn Express, 247 Ash St.
- O'Neill, Nov. 9, 5:30-7 p.m. The Evergreen, 300 Jeanette Way
- Fairbury, Nov. 13, 5:30-7 p.m. Union Bank, 1313 K St.
- Springfield, Nov. 14, 5:30-7 p.m. Springfield Community Center, 170 N 3rd St.
- Lincoln, Nov. 15, 5:30-7 p.m. NDOT Headquarters, 1500 Nebraska Parkway
- Columbus, Nov. 16, 5:30-7 p.m. Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, 753 33rd Ave.
- Kearney, Nov. 20, 5:30-7 p.m. Holiday Inn Express, 110 2nd Ave.
- Ogallala, Nov. 21, 5:30-7 p.m. Holiday Inn Express, 206 Pony Express Lane

Meetings are open to the public. For those who are unable to attend the meetings or open comment periods and want to learn more about high-speed internet access in Nebraska, visit <https://ndot.info/community> to review information and provide feedback.

TECHNICAL PANEL

Commissioner Langer provided the report.

Heath Tuttle, University of Nebraska Computing Services Network, has replaced Bret Blackman on the Technical Panel.

Enterprise project status dashboard report.

Commissioner Langer reviewed the status report and entertained questions.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Commissioner Toner provided the report.

PRESENTATION: GIS HIGHLIGHTS

Ms. DunnGossin provided GIS highlights to the Commission. NSGIC (National State Geographic Information Council) grades state's GIS efforts. Nebraska's overall grade has improved. Other state agencies such as the Public Service Commission and the Department of Transportation, for example, manage projects that contribute to the state's grade. The USDA collects Ortho-Imagery (Leaf-on NAIP) to the public and other states. NAIP imagery is refreshed on a two-year cycle. Other states of a similar size can pay up to \$1.2 million for the data but Nebraska pays \$65 for a NAIP download. NRCS and USGS sponsor LiDAR collections in Nebraska to support their missions and then share the data and deliverables with Nebraska. Unfortunately, the USDOT analyst responsible for the National Address Database application is retiring this year.

GIS is moving to the cloud. In preparation, there have been weekly entry group meetings and data processing testing. It is anticipated that the proof of concept will be ready by December. Once everything has been moved to the cloud, the cost savings to the state will be approximately \$450,000. Moving forward, the GIS Council will be developing the GIS statewide technology plan.

OTHER BUSINESS

This will be Anne Byers' last NITC meeting. Ms. Byers was acknowledged and thanked for her work and dedication to the State of Nebraska.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Mellender moved to adjourn. Commissioner Barrett seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Ms. Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by staff.