

## **COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Nebraska Information Technology Commission

July 19, 2010, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

University of Nebraska-Technology Park

4701 Innovation Drive

Lincoln, Nebraska

□ **MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Chris Anderson**, City of Central City

**Rod Armstrong**, AIM Institute

**Linda Fettig**, Rural Development Commission

**Roger Hahn**, Nebraska Information Network

**Joan Modrell**, Department of Labor

**Tim O'Brien**, Nebraska Department Economic Development

**Jerry Vap**, Public Service Commission

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Norene Fitzgerald, Economic Development Professional; Dean Folkers, Department of Education; Darla Heggem, Twin Cities Development; John Jordison, Great Plains Communication; and Lynn Manhart, Central City Public Library

In the absence of the Co-Chairs, members agreed to have Anne Byers, Chair the meeting.

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

Ms. Byers called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. There were six members present at the time of roll call. A quorum was not present to conduct official business. The meeting proceeded with informational items. The meeting notice and agenda were posted on the Public Meeting and NITC websites on July 15, 2010. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was located next to the meeting materials.

### **APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2009 MINUTES**

Approval of the March 23, 2009 minutes was tabled until next meeting minutes due to lack of quorum.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **BROADBAND SURVEY OF NEBRASKA HOUSEHOLDS—Rebecca Vogt**

[http://psc.nebraska.gov/home/NPSC/NTIA/Internet\\_Connectivity\\_and\\_Use\\_in\\_Nebraska.pdf](http://psc.nebraska.gov/home/NPSC/NTIA/Internet_Connectivity_and_Use_in_Nebraska.pdf)

Mr. O'Brien distributed a one page summary of the Broadband Planning Work Group. Members of the group are Anne Byers, NITC; Connie Hancock, UNL Extension-Cheyenne County; Tim O'Brien, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Charlotte Narjes and Becky Vogt, UNL Center for Applied Rural Innovation. The group will identify barriers to the adoption of broadband and IT services, create and facilitate local technology planning teams, and collaborate with broadband service providers to encourage broadband deployment and use through the following approaches;

- Nebraskans will be surveyed about their computer and Internet usage, challenges and desired for the future. Status: 6,600 Nebraskans surveyed in February 2010 – received a 47% response rate. Results presented to the Public Service Commission the end of June 2010.
- Businesses will be surveyed through the Business Retention and Expansion process to identify the strengths and challenges they face in utilizing technology. Status: 16 of 27 communities have been identified. Statewide efforts are supported by DED.
- Regional planning teams will be formed to conduct regional assessment, prioritize needs, and develop strategies to address needs. Status: Initial presentations have been held in all regional

groups except North Central. Beginning to build relationships in Omaha (i.e. AIM) and on the tribal lands.

- Regional forums will be conducted to present broadband mapping and mail survey results, to solicit feedback, and to kick off regional planning efforts. Anticipate beginning regional forums in the Fall of 2010.
- Seven to ten focus groups will be held with anchor institutions and utility providers as well as population with low usage rates to gain understanding into the barriers from their perspective.
- Regional technology plans as well as a statewide report and recommendation will be developed and presented to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission, Nebraska Public Service Commission, Department of Economic Development and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. These plans will be made publicly available through the project website.
- Expanded proposal submitted in July for planning and technical assistance:
  - Portal Website
  - Entrepreneurship Identification and Mentoring
  - Forums, workshops, continued technical assistance

The work group welcomed Community Council's recommendations and input and asked for their assistance with the next steps. More details to report will be available at the next meeting.

Mr. Anderson arrived at the meeting.

Charlotte Narjes and Becky Vogt presented the [Broadband Survey of Nebraska Households](#) results.

### **BROADBAND MAPPING UPDATE—PSC**

Don Gray

The Nebraska Public Service Commission was awarded \$1.3 million for 2 years for the mapping project. The Federal government will evaluate the project for continued funding for years 3 and 4. Funding included a planning portion. ApexCovantage is the vendor assisting with mapping project. Eighty providers were identified as Internet service providers. Only 66 service providers actually provided data for the project. ApexCovantage developed survey data collection instrument per NTIA's (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) specific data matrix. The survey was conducted to determine availability and speed of mobile access. It did not include satellite.

California State University-Chico will do the mapping of information. The map is currently being reviewed. It is anticipated that the map will be available to the public during second year of the project.

The Public Service Commission has applied for supplemental grant funding. The application was submitted last week for \$3.7 million for years 3-5. The NTIA has to have all monies committed by end of September.

### **BTOP (BROADBAND TECHNOLOGIES OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM) AND BIP (BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM) UPDATE**

Anne Byers, Community I.T. Manager

Each state is to receive at least one BTOP grant. There are three Nebraska projects that are currently in the due diligence stage for funding. States all around Nebraska have been awarded a project but Nebraska has not received any funding.

### **HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE UPDATE**

Anne Byers, Community I.T. Manager

In March, the Nebraska Information Technology Commission received \$6.8 million for a statewide health information exchange initiative. The State of Nebraska is partnering with NeHII (Nebraska Health Information Initiative). NeHII will serve as the lead health information exchange and integrator. NeHII is already exchanging health information with Omaha areas physicians and hospitals. Mary Lanning

Memorial Hospital in Hastings and Great Plains Regional Medical Center in North Platte are now connected with NeHIII. Other health information exchange entities, such as the Electronic Behavioral Health Information Network (EBHIN) will connect to NeHIII. The ultimate goal is for all state health information exchanges to be connected to the Nationwide Health Information Network.

**WEBSITES FOR GROWTH UPDATE ([HTTP://WEBSITESFORGROWTH.COM/](http://websitesforgrowth.com/))**

Tim O'Brien, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

The Websites for Growth Project has been developing marketing tools. Mr. O'Brien distributed a postcard for the program. An effective on-line curriculum is now available for communities to develop a community website. The community can do this on their own with partnership with the Department of Economic Development. The Department of Economic Development will also go out to communities to assist. Other states and countries, for example Australia, have shown interest in the website.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Jason Barelman and Dan Shundoff have resigned from the Community Council. Members were asked to contact Ms. Byers with nominations for new Council members.

With no further business, Ms. Byers adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

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