

NIEF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
April 26, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.
Nebraska Public Service Commission Hearing Room
300 The Atrium
1200 N Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Meeting Called to Order at 10:04 am by Chairman, Dennis Hall:

Roll Call

Attending were the following:

Ed Cole

Linn Gowen

Commissioner Tim Schram

Charles Whitney

Dennis Hall

Jim Nekuda

Not Attending:

John Jordison

Those attending from Commission staff were: Nichole Mulcahy, Staff Attorney; Gene Hand, Director of Communications; Don Gray, Telecom Analyst, Communications; and Deena Ackerman, Administrative Assistant, Communications.

Announcements: Ed Cole clarified his employment status to the Advisory Board. Mr. Cole is no longer a staff member at Consolidated Telephone Company, but is now a private consultant for local exchange carriers.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Schram made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2011, meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Linn Gowen. Motion carried unanimously.

Nebraska Broadband Map Demonstration: Don Gray did a demonstration of the Broadband Mapping website and its capabilities. Gene Hand gave an update on the National Broadband plan and implementation. He reported that the third round of data has been submitted.

Discuss & Finalize Recommendation on Modified Grant Guidelines and Pre-Application Form/other Grant Forms: Nichole Mulcahy gave an explanation of the Modifications made to the Pre-application Form and Grant Guidelines documents, directed by the board at the February 24, 2011, meeting. Further, copies of other forms used during the grant application and project phases were considered by the Board. Ed Cole made a motion to approve the modified Pre-Application and Grant Guideline forms

and with all other documents remaining unchanged and recommend the forms as adopted to the Commission for the 2011-2012 Grant cycle. The motion was seconded by Charles Whitney. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss & Finalize Recommended Timeline for next round of grants: The proposed Grant schedule was discussed and the following dates proposed:

- May 16 – Aug 15, 2011 – Pre-Applications accepted
- May 2011 – issue news release seeking pre-apps to newspapers/ any other outlets (NACO, League of Municipalities, DED, others)
- Aug 15 – Aug 31 – Advisory Board Meeting re: review pre-apps, invite full apps be submitted
- Sept 1 – Nov 15 – Full Applications accepted
- Nov 28 – Dec 9 – Review Applications, meet to finalize recommendations to Commission
- December 2011/January 2012 – Award Grants

Charles Whitney made a motion to approve the timeline as discussed and recommend the proposed timeline to the Commission; it was seconded by Jim Nekuda. Motion carried unanimously.

Scheduling next meeting: The next meeting will be sometime in August, with staff finalizing a date and time with the board members via email.

Adjourn: The NIEF Advisory Board adjourned at 11:28 a.m.