

NIEF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
August 24, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.
Nebraska Public Service Commission Hearing Room
300 The Atrium
1200 N Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Meeting Called to Order at 10:00 a.m. by Nichole Mulcahy:

Roll Call

Attending were the following:

Ron Melbye
Commissioner Tim Schram
Chuck Whitney
Mike DeVore
Brian Thompson
Rick Nelsen

Not Attending:

Linn Gowen (via phone)

Those attending from Commission staff were: Nichole Mulcahy, Staff Attorney; Cullen Robbins, IT/Telecom/GIS Analyst; Gene Hand, Director of Communications; Steve Stovall, Accountant; and Deena Ackerman, Administrative Assistant, Communications.

Elect New Board Chair and Vice Chair: Nichole asked for nominations for Chair. Rick Nelsen nominated Chuck Whitney. Tim Schram seconded the nomination. The nomination was carried unanimously. Nichole then asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Chuck nominated Rick Nelsen. Mike DeVore seconded the nomination. The nomination was carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Chuck Whitney made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2012, meeting with correction to the spelling Rick Nelsen's name. The motion was seconded by Ron Melbye. Motion carried unanimously.

NIEF Financial Report: Steve Stovall reviewed the spending authority and cash balances for the fiscal years of 2016-17 and 2017-18. Rick Nelsen made a motion to accept the financial report. It was seconded by Brian Thompson. Motion carried unanimously.

Nebraska Broadband Report: Cullen Robbins reviewed the progress since the last meeting in 2012. He also highlighted the federal efforts currently going on. Gene Hand discussed the history of the broadband grants and buildout in Nebraska.

Discuss & Determine Grant Applications to be recommended to the Commission:

Nichole Mulcahy gave a brief history and explanation of the NIEF grant program. The current grant documents were reviewed and no edits were suggested. Brian Thompson made the motion to recommend approval of these documents for the upcoming grant process and Tim Schram seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss timeline for next round of grants: Nichole Mulcahy discussed a proposed timeline schedule for the next round of grants. No changes were made. Efforts to publicize the grant program, including press releases, will begin September 1, 2016.

Scheduling next meeting: Staff will contact the members for future meeting when pre-applications are received for review.

Adjourn: The NIEF Advisory Board adjourned at 11:05 a.m.