

NEBRASKA INVESTMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY

**NIFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING
NIFA'S CONFERENCE ROOM - 2ND FLOOR - COMMERCE COURT
1230 'O' Street, Lincoln, NE**

MINUTES OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2010 @ 10:00 A.M.

**Notice Published: November 14, 2010 – *Omaha World Herald*
November 14, 2010 - *Lincoln Journal Star***

Open Meetings Act - A copy of the Open Meetings Act was located on the table as you enter the room.

All votes taken by roll call of the members.

NIFA BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members Present: Richard Baier, Marlin Brabec, Michael Maroney, Jeff States, John Way and Bobbie Wickham

Board Members Absent: Mary Jo McClurg (arrived at 10:08 a.m.)
John Blazek
Pete Graff

NIFA Staff Present: Executive Director and Board Secretary Tim Kenny, Clerk Karon Andretti, Chief Operating Officer Steve Clements, Treasurer Judy Krasomil, Single Family Program Manager Jacki Young, Deputy Director of Operations Larry Jablonski, Deputy Director of Finance Christie Weston, and Deputy Director of Community Investment Steve Peregrine

Guests: Thomas Judds and Patti Peterson

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call

Chair Richard Baier called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. with six members present. Richard stated that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was located on the table as persons entered the room. Karon Andretti reported that the notice of the meeting was published on Sunday, November 14, 2010 in the *Omaha World Herald* and in the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

Mary Jo McClurg arrived at the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

2. Public Comment related to the November 30, 2010 Agenda Items (comment period limited to five minutes)

Richard Baier asked if anyone wished to comment on any of the agenda items and directed that they come forward and state their name and address for the record. No one came forward to comment on any of the agenda items.

3. Discussion of Nebraska Modernization Fund Concept

Richard Baier reported the Department of Economic Development engaged Battelle Technology Partnership Practice to do a competitive advantage assessment and strategy for Nebraska. One of the outcomes of this assessment indicated that Nebraska small businesses would benefit from the creation of a fund to assist in the modernization of their businesses. Copies of the report were made available to the board members. Richard indicated he has had conversations with the banking community to get their interest in a resource such as a "modernization fund". This proposed fund would create a new financing program for Nebraska industries to encourage upgrades to manufacturing/industrial processing equipment and physical facilities. It was discussed that improvements financed with this resource should enhance productivity, decrease operating costs and generally make the participating business more competitive in the global market. It is proposed that NIFA would work with Nebraska banks to offer an easily administered resource to eligible businesses.

Tim Kenny gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining some basic parameters and questions to be answered in connection with establishing a business modernization program. There was discussion regarding the type of program guidelines to be incorporated into this proposed program which included discussion regarding identifying the need for the subsidy, the type of subsidy, eligible users of the resource, whether to target specific types or sizes of businesses, the various types of eligible improvements, other priorities, the appropriate level of subsidy, the appropriate level of risk and appropriate program metrics – definitions of success. There will be continued dialogue at the next board meeting to work on identifying the guidelines for a modernization program.

Richard Baier left the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

John Way was appointed acting Chair in Richard Baier's absence.

4. Announcements and Discussion of Upcoming Events and Scheduling

None

5. Adjournment

John Way adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy R. Kenny
Executive Director

