

Community Council
Wednesday, April 8, 2015
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. CT (8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. MT)

Lincoln: Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, 1800 North 33rd Street, Board Room

Sidney: ESU 13, 1114 Toledo Street

Norfolk: Northeast Community College Welcome Center, 801 East Benjamin Ave., Room 1341

Grand Island: Voc Rehab, 203 E Stolley Park Rd, Suite B

MINUTES

ROLL CALL, NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA, & NOTICE OF NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT POSTING

Members Present:

Pam Anderson

Jay Anderson

Rod Armstrong

Randy Bretz

Jessica Chamberlain

Shonna Dorsey

Steve Fosselman

Phil Green

Dave Hahn

Connie Hancock

Jacob Knutson

Megan McGown

Joan Modrell

Gene Hand (for Commissioner Jerry Vap)

Holly Woldt

Members Absent: Chris Anderson, Brett Baker, Norene Fitzgerald, Darla Heggem, Steve Henderson, David Lofdahl, Monica Lueking-Crowe, and Marion McDermott

ROLL CALL, NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA, & NOTICE OF NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT POSTING

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Rod Armstrong. Fifteen members and alternates were present at time of roll. A quorum was present.

The meeting announcement was posted on the NITC website on March 13, 2015 and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on March 17, 2015. The agenda was posted on April 6, 2015. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available on the wall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF November 17, 2014 MINUTES*

There were no corrections to the minutes. Jay Anderson moved to approve the Nov. 17, 2014 minutes. Randy Bretz seconded the motion. **The vote was as follows: Adams-Yes, Anderson-Yes, Armstrong-Yes, Bretz-Yes, Chamberlain-Yes, Dorsey-Yes, Fosselman-Yes, Green-Yes, Hahn-Yes, Hancock-Yes, Knutson-Yes, McGown-Yes, Modrell-Yes, Hand-Yes, Woldt-Yes.**

Members Absent: Chris Anderson, Brett Baker, Norene Fitzgerald, Darla Heggem, Steve Henderson David Lofdahl, Monica Lueking-Crowe, and Marion McDermott

Motion carried.

UPDATES

Nebraska: Think IT. Jacob Knutson gave an update on the Nebraska: Think IT career awareness event held at community college sites on March 17. A panel discussed IT career paths. Nebraska businesses also talked about their needs. Twenty-one businesses and approximately 175 school administrators and counselors participated. The event was highly rated by participants, with 86% indicating that they would apply the information learned that day.

FirstNet. Phil Green gave an update on FirstNet. The State of Nebraska received a \$1.5 million two-phase federal FirstNet grant. Nebraska's FirstNet consultation was held March 18-19 in Kearney. FirstNet is a public safety broadband project and will not replace the public safety radio system. It will provide one to one communication only, not one to many. Access to the network may be available to commercial providers. Part 2 of the project will involve gathering data from stakeholders on users, devices, and estimated data needs. Coverage will likely not be everywhere in the state. States are being asked to prioritize coverage areas. Participation is voluntary. Gene Hand expressed concerns about how the network will be funded and the costs for local public safety entities to participate.

Youth Coding. Holly Woldt told members about a webinar on youth coding resources hosted by the Nebraska Library Commission in January. Speakers included Jenny Melander from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Holly Woldt and Sally Snyder from the Nebraska Library Commission, Jessica Chamberlain from the Norfolk Public Library, Steve Fosselman from the Grand Island Public Library, Rod Armstrong from AIM, and Anne Byers from the NITC. Eighty-five librarians registered for the webinar. Another webinar on wearable technology and books is planned for April 22. Steve Fosselman commented that the Grand Island Public Library is incorporating a coding component into their summer reading program. Rod Armstrong shared that the Eisely Branch Library in Lincoln has been partnering with AIM to offer CoderDojos. Connie Hancock asked about marketing the webinars beyond libraries.

Updates from Other Members. Shonna Dorsey gave an update on Interface. 30 people participated in the program last year. The average starting salary for graduates was \$46,000. Four classes are underway this year with 31 participants. Interface is partnering with local business to provide tuition reimbursement for participants. Ms. Dorsey is also looking for funding for new computers for participants. Ms. Dorsey has also partnered with Omaha Public Library on coding programs for adults and children.

Rod Armstrong shared that InfoTech will be held April 21-22 and Big Omaha will be held May 6-8 in Omaha.

Gene Hand shared that 911 dialing is getting attention. At hotels and many large organizations with PBX phone systems, users can't just dial 911. They need to dial a 9 (or something else) to get a line out first. FCC Commissioner Pai has taken a leadership role in addressing this issue. Mr. Hand also reported that Commissioner Pai may be coming to Nebraska.

BROADBAND PLANNING AND MAPPING

Charlotte Narjes shared information on the evaluation report on the broadband planning project prepared by the Heartland Center for Leadership Development. The report included five recommendations:

- Continue the annual conference;
- Sustain collaboration among stakeholders, including providers;
- Maintain the mapping element;
- Find ways to continue youth engagement; and
- Maintain a public education strategy.

The agenda included a link to the new broadband website (broadband.nebraska.gov). Members liked the new site.

Without additional funding, hosting another broadband conference is not feasible. However, Charlotte Narjes shared that the Nebraska Broadband Initiative is working with the Nebraska Rural Futures Institute on broadband sessions for the Rural Futures Conference which is scheduled for Oct. 21-23.

A link to the community broadband planning workbook was sent out to members. Anne Byers also had a few copies at the meeting. Members liked the workbook. Ms. Byers invited members to share their thoughts about next steps. Steve Fosselman asked about the importance of community anchor institutions. Ms. Byers commented that her predecessor, Chris Hoy, was a pioneer in working with communities on technology plans. He often talked of the importance of involving four "food groups:" business/economic development, local government, libraries, and health care. The process in the workbook stresses the importance of bringing community anchor institutions and other sectors together to address broadband-related development.

Several members expressed an interest in working on the project.

ADJOURNMENT

Jay Anderson made a motion to adjourn. Gene Handed seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.