

**NORTHEAST NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT – NENEDD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING VIA ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 – 7:15 P.M.**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order: The Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD) Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7:26 p.m. by NENEDD Chairman Loren Kucera who informed the public about the location of the Open Meetings Act and that it was accessible to the public. All board members attended the meeting via conference call as per Gov. Pete Ricketts' Executive Order 20-36, extended by Executive Order No. 21-02.

II. Roll Call: NENEDD Administrative Assistant, Grace Petersen, read roll call.

Board Members Present:

Loren Kucera, Chairman, Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC), Wayne
Judy Mutzenberger, Secretary/Treasurer, Cuming County
Gary Jackson, City of Norfolk
Charlie Bahr, City of Columbus
Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong, West Point Chamber of Commerce
Blake Denton, BankFirst-West Point

Board members absent:

Dan Kathol, Vice Chairman, Hartington Community Development Corporation; and Troy Uhlir, Madison County.

NED Inc. Board Members Present:

Jim McCarville, Northeast Community College, and Megan Weaver, Wakefield Progressive, Inc.

NENEDD Staff Present:

Thomas L. Higginbotham, Jr., Tina M. Engelbart, Jeff Christensen, Kristen Rosner, and Grace Petersen.

III. Introduction of Guests: NENEDD Chairman Loren Kucera introduced guests. The following guest was present: Sally Ganem, City of Fremont.

IV. Secretary's Report

A. Consideration to approve the February 24, 2021, agenda and the January 27, 2021, minutes:

Gary Jackson made a motion to approve the February 24, 2021, agenda and the January 27, 2021, minutes. Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong seconded the motion. **AYES:** Gary Jackson, Judy Mutzenberger, Loren Kucera, Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong, Charlie Bahr, and Blake Denton. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dan Kathol and Troy Uhlir. Motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report

A. Consideration to accept the January 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented. NENEDD Fiscal Officer Kristen Rosner presented the report. Charlie Bahr made a motion to accept the January 2021

Treasurer's Report as presented. Gary Jackson seconded the motion. **AYES:** Gary Jackson, Judy Mutzenberger, Loren Kucera, Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong, Charlie Bahr, and Blake Denton. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dan Kathol and Troy Uhlir. Motion carried.

VI. Action Items

A. Consideration to approve a \$101,250 loan to Bouck's Soap & Suds, LLC, d/b/a Commercial

Laundry Service-Norfolk. NENEDD Business Loan Specialist Jeff Christensen presented. Brooke and Calvin Bouck are planning the purchase of Commercial Laundry Service (CLS) at 305 Braasch Ave. in Norfolk. CLS cleans linens owned by various sectors and maintains ownership of linens, which are leased to businesses. Total project costs are \$250,000. NENEDD will lend \$100,000 to purchase Commercial Laundry Service in Norfolk. The associated fees of 1% (\$1,000) loan processing fee and \$250 loan closing fee will be included as part of the loan for a total loan of \$101,250. The \$101,250 NENEDD EDA CARES loan will have a term of 10 years at an interest rate of 2.00% for years 1&2, then 4.50% (fixed) for years 3-10. NENEDD will have a subordinate UCC lien on the business personal property. NENEDD will require personal guaranty and life insurance assignments from Brooke and Calvin, each for the amount of the loan for the life of the loan. NENEDD also will file a deed of trust on their personal residence in Norfolk. Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong made a motion to approve a \$101,250 loan to Bouck's Soap & Suds, LLC, d/b/a Commercial Laundry Service-Norfolk. Judy Mutzenberger seconded the motion. **AYES:** Gary Jackson, Judy Mutzenberger, Loren Kucera, Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong, Charlie Bahr, and Blake Denton. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dan Kathol and Troy Uhler. Motion carried.

B. Consideration to appoint Sally Ganem to the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD) Board of Directors. NENEDD Executive Director Thomas L. Higginbotham, Jr. presented. Glen Ellis submitted his resignation from the NENEDD Board of Directors. Per Article III, Section I, the City of Fremont is to appoint a representative to serve on the NENEDD board. The Mayor of Fremont has appointed Councilwoman Sally Ganem to represent the City of Fremont. Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong made a motion to appoint Sally Ganem to the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD) Board of Directors. Charlie Bahr seconded the motion. **AYES:** Gary Jackson, Judy Mutzenberger, Loren Kucera, Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong, Charlie Bahr, and Blake Denton. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dan Kathol and Troy Uhler. Motion carried.

C. Consideration to approve a resolution to request to release EDA's federal interest in the RLF. NENEDD Executive Director Thomas L. Higginbotham, Jr. presented. Over the past few years, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has been working with EDA to defederalize EDA RLF's that had a final grant disbursement more than seven years ago. Congress passed the legislation in 2020 allowing districts to go through the process. NENEDD will still use the funds as an RLF, but will reduce administrative burden and allow for the funds to be used for a broader economic purpose. Judy Mutzenberger made a motion to approve a resolution to request to release EDA's federal interest in the RLF. Gary Jackson seconded the motion. **AYES:** Gary Jackson, Judy Mutzenberger, Loren Kucera, Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong, Charlie Bahr, and Blake Denton. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dan Kathol and Troy Uhler. Motion carried.

VII. Chairman's/Board Comments: None.

VIII. Next Meeting Date: The NENEDD Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 7:15 p.m. or following the NED, Inc. meeting. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

IX. Adjournment: Judy Mutzenberger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong seconded the motion. **AYES:** Gary Jackson, Judy Mutzenberger, Loren Kucera, Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong, Charlie Bahr, and Blake Denton. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dan Kathol and Troy Uhler. Motion carried. NENEDD Chairman Loren Kucera adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.