

February 25, 2025

Meeting of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains Board of Directors. Present were Vince Dugan, James Hawks, Kirk Olson, Michael Steele, Kimberly Steger and Kevin Tighe. Absent was Leann Ellis, J. Patrick Keenan, and Dwight Porter. Chair Hawks called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Dugan arrived at 2:18 p.m.

Hawks announced that the Open Meeting Act with amendments is posted for public review and Board of Directors will comply with the open meeting requirements.

Steger moved to approve the minutes from December 16, 2024, and January 6, 2025. Steele seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Hawks, Olson, Steger, Steele and Tighe. "Nays" none. Motion carried.

Hawks appointed to the following committees:

Finance: Kim Steger, Mike Steele, Pat Keenan and Kevin Tighe  
Facilities: Dwight Porter, LeAnn Ellis, Jim Hawks, Vince Dugan  
Executive: Jim Hawks, Kirk Olson, Kevin Tighe, Michael Steele

Steele presented a proposed budget.

Tighe moved to approve the proposed budget. Olson seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Olson, Steger, Steele and Tighe. "Nays" none. Motion carried.

Hawks continued the discussion item on visiting ports until March.

The Board discussed the need to hire a local attorney to provide legal services and attending meetings as needed. Hawks appointed Dugan, Steele and himself to interview potential candidates once the RFQ has been advertised.

Dugan moved to approve the RFQ to retain legal services with the suggested changes with a deadline of May 15 for submission, advertise in the North Platte Telegraph and with the Lincoln County Bar Association. Steele seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Olson, Steger, Steele and Tighe. "Nays" none. Motion carried.

The Board discussed sending out RFP for port operation services. Dugan suggested it might be to early. Tighe suggested working with Transystems to gather input for a future RFP to be prepared when the time is right and what is best suited for the property. Dugan agreed. Bruns stated to incorporate the airport in future expansion, it may be early but could be preparing. Steele agreed. Hawks suggested a committee to work with Paul with Transystems and possibly have a draft by the April meeting.

Dugan moved to authorize Kevin Tighe, Jim Hawks and Dwight Porter to work with Transystems to prepare a draft RFP for port operation services. Steger seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Olson, Steger, Steele and Tighe. "Nays" none. Motion carried.

Hawks reported that he executed the agreement with Transystems for the Transload Development Design Proposal. The next steps will be a Concept Plan then a Construction Plan. They are waiting on the railroad for approval. Construction could begin early spring of 2026.

Discussion on changing the March meeting date due to a conflict with the ribbon cutting for Sustainable Beef.

Steger moved to change the meeting date to March 31, 2025, Dugan seconded the motion.

Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Hawks, Olson, Steger, Steele and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried.

#### Update from Development Corporation

Gary Person reported that a key meeting toward building a soybean crush plant at the rail park had to be postponed due to the weather and hopes to get it rescheduled soon. He stated there are projects emerging that would be significant to the region. Energy has a significant impact and crypto of course uses a lot of energy. He discussed the move of the NCorp meeting to May regarding the proposed solar project. DevCo has an agreement with NCORP and having a good relationship with them is important to utilize the land. UPRR has determined that the railpark could do intermodal on site. The Railpark is considered the TOP 10 preferred sites and once that is official can be used to help market the railpark for more projects.

Public Comment: No public comment

Dugan moved to adjourn at 3:05 p.m.. Tighe seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Hawks, Olson, Steger, Steele and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried.

Advance notice and agenda for the February 24, 2025, inland port board meetings were sent to the Inland Port Board members and all others requesting the same. Advance public notice (includes agenda) of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains Board of Directors meeting was posted at the Lincoln County Courthouse, City Hall, Village of Hershey, and the Lincoln County website on February 20, 2025, and was also emailed to the media on February 20, 2025.

The agenda for the meetings to be held on Monday March 31, 2025, will be kept continually current and open for inspection at the office of the Lincoln County Board Assistant. The regular meeting of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains Board of Directors will be at 18610 W Highway 30, Hershey, NE 69143 at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Tammy White