

February 25, 2026

Special Meeting of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains Board of Directors. Present were Vince Dugan, James Hawks, J. Patrick Keenan remotely, Leann Ellis, Dwight Porter, Michael Steele and Robert Stefka. Absent was Kirk Olson and Kevin Tighe. Attorney Kendra Strommen was present. Chair Hawks called the meeting to order at 2:00 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.

Stefka moved to approve the minutes from January 20, 2026. Dugan seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Ellis, Porter, Steele, and Stefka."Nays" none. Motion carried.

Finance Committee: Steele presented Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss. The request for extension has been submitted. The 2nd transloader is still outstanding and Stefka stated it should be delivered end of March.

Facilities Report: Stefka reported the pits are being filled with County assistance. He was able to get building plans with Village of Hershey Clerk assistance. Core soil samples are being obtained currently,

Executive Committee: Hawks stated the executive committee met and reviewed items for agenda and Accountability and Disclosure review.

Paul Hentschke with GFT presented construction plans for a transloading "drop and pull yard" and the construction of 3 tracks. He said the final design is on track to be submitted to the Union Pacific Railroad for review by March 9. Darren Wisniski with the Union Pacific Railroad said they will review the exclusions. Paul stated once Union Pacific reviews and approves the plans would then be ready to proceed with seeking bids in the spring for construction.

Stefka reported on the scale house and portable ramps for the scale. An additional \$29,500 would be needed for the construction of portable ramps to allow the scale to be moved as needed as well as the purchase of a scale house with electrical added in the building.

Stefka moved to authorize up to an additional \$29,500 to be used to purchase materials and labor for the construction of portable ramps, scale house and provide electrical to the scale house. Steele seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Ellis, Porter, Steele, and Stefka."Nays" none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Chris Bruns reported pits are getting filled in. He reported the RAISE grant is now approved and given the Notice to Proceed. The kickoff meeting will be March 6.

Gary Person reported on legislation that directly effects the inland ports. LB719 clarified that the state's \$30 million in direct rail park development aid can be tapped for the drop and pull yard though it overlaps U.P. property. Person and Commissioner Wuehler testified against LB 915 which would authorize a sixth Nebraska Inland port.

LB1165 strengthens UP presence in Nebraska with higher paying jobs and supports the merger. Person stated there is a challenge for prospects as anchor project at the rail park due to the need for more than 5mw of power. A potential anchor project will need 15mw of power. NPPD can

conduct a review; however, the application fee is \$200,000, will take 18 months and a letter of intent and drawings need to be submitted with the application.
Person stated the buildings are getting removed.

Public Comment: none

Hawks stated there is a need for a closed session.

Dugan moved to enter into closed session at 2:35 p.m. with regard to contract negotiations. Steele seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Ellis, Porter, Steele, and Stefka. "Nays" none. Motion carried. Hawks stated members of the Board, Gary Person, Tammy White, Kendra Strommen and Spiros Monastiriotis will stay in for the closed session.

Steele moved to enter into open session at 3:12 pm. Ellis seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Ellis, Porter, Steele, and Stefka. "Nays" none. Motion carried.

Hawks adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Advance notice and agenda for the February 25, 2026, 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 18, 2026, and was also emailed to the media on February 18, 2026.

The agenda for the meetings to be held on Monday, March 9, 2026, 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 the Nebraska International Port of the Plains facility located at 18610 W Highway 30, Hershey, 69143.

Submitted by:
Tammy White