

March 9, 2026

Meeting of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains Board of Directors. Present were Vince Dugan, James Hawks, J. Patrick Keenan, Leann Ellis, Kirk Olson remotely, Michael Steele and Robert Stefka. Absent was Dwight Porter and Kevin Tighe. Attorney Kendra Strommen was present. Chair Hawks called the meeting to order at 1:30 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.

Ellis moved to approve the minutes from February 25, 2026. Keenan seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Ellis, Keenan and Stefka."Nays" none. Motion carried.

Finance: Steele stated nothing had changed from last report. No response on the extension. Facilities Report: Stefka reported the pits are being filled with County assistance and should be complete by next week. Core soil samples are being obtained currently. Nebraska Fire & Safety submitted a bill of \$4100 for the sprinklers. He will submit to the County. Scale house is installed and Snell's Electric is finishing up electrical.

Executive Committee: Hawks stated the executive committee met and reviewed items for agenda and Operator Agreement.

Discussion of the Port Operator Agreement with Railcore, LLC. Ellis moved to approve the Port Operator Agreement with Railcore, LLC as presented. Stefka seconded the motion. Discussion: Olson stated he has reviewed and would like to see the port move forward with the agreement. Dugan had questions regarding Section 9A. Strommen stated the 70-30 split was negotiated. Keenan asked about the termination clause. Strommen stated it is 180 days. Keenan called the question. Stefka seconded. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Ellis, Keenan and Stefka."Nays" none. Motion carried.

Oversight Committee: Hawks stated an Oversight Committee was recommended in the Accountability and Disclosure letter from the State of Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Hawks recommended three members from the port: Chair, Treasurer and Dwight Porter; Gary Person and a commissioner. The purpose of the Oversight Committee would be an advisory to review incoming businesses and contracts.

Dugan moved to establish an Oversight Committee. Keenan seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Ellis, Keenan, Steele and Stefka."Nays" none. Motion carried.

North Platte Quality Growth Funds: Keenan stated he would have a conflict as he has sat on the committee. Gary gave a brief description of the establishment of Quality Growth Fund and how the funds are approved, used and the application process. Some potential uses of the funds would be for insurance expenses and job creation. Steele mentioned funds could be used for software, billing or scheduling software needs in the future. Dugan suggested applying for a 1 year request. Dugan moved to authorize the Board to apply for \$200,000 from the North Platte Quality Growth Funds. Stefka seconded. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Ellis, Steele and Stefka."Nays" none. Keenan abstained. Motion carried.

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 and has been signed into law. LB 915 was changed to allow 8 ports and was included in the Christmas Tree bill attached to Urban Affairs Priority bill 1114 . LB1165 Grow Good Life Act strengthens UP presence in Nebraska with higher paying jobs and supports the merger. Drop and Pull surveys are done and area farmers have been notified.

NPPD & Dawson met with the Chamber.

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. The Chamber has applied and paid the \$215,000 application fee. NPPD has 18 months to complete the review.

Public Comment: none

Steele moved to adjourn at 2:36 p.m. Stefka seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Ellis, Keenan, Steele and Stefka."Nays" none. Motion carried. Hawks adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Advance notice and agenda for the March 9, 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 March 5, 2026, and was also emailed to the media on March 5, 2026.

The agenda for the meetings to be held on Monday, April 27, 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