

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. C-3206
on its own motion, to administer)
the Nebraska Internet)
Enhancement Fund.) ORDER AWARDING GRANTS
)
)
) Entered: May 22, 2018

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

The Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission") opened the above-captioned docket, on its own motion, to administer the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund ("NIEF") established by the Legislature pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat.* §§ 86-579 through 86-580 (Reissue of 2008). The Commission in an order issued on October 17, 2017, adopted grant forms and established a schedule for the 2016-2017 application process and award under the NIEF Grant Program.

The Commission received five pre-applications. On January 9, 2018, the Commission entered an order inviting the following pre-applicants to submit full applications: Box Butte County, OurTech, LLC, City of Chappell, Custer County Board of Supervisors, and Warp Networks, Inc.

Three full applications were received on or before April 1, 2018: Custer County Board of Supervisors, Box Butte County, and City of Chappell. Our Tech, LLC, and Warp Networks did not submit full applications.

The NIEF Advisory Board (NIEF Board) reviewed the above-mentioned applications during its April 20, 2018, meeting. In a letter dated May 9, 2018, the NIEF Board recommended that each of the applicants be awarded a NIEF grant in the amount of \$25,000. In the letter, the NIEF Board felt each project complied with the grant guidelines and awarding three smaller grants would allow multiple projects to begin improving rural access.

The Commission has reviewed the applications submitted and finds that the proposed projects are consistent with the statutory purpose and goals of the NIEF program. Furthermore, the proposed projects will provide financial assistance in the areas in which the provision of the internet and advanced telecommunications services are particularly costly due to factors including population scarcity and location remoteness. Furthermore, the Commission finds that the proposed project is

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. C-3206

Page 2

economically viable and sustainable, provides benefits to the areas proposed to be serve in terms of access to the internet and advanced telecommunications services and will enhance rural development, economic development, education, and telemedicine.

The Commission finds that the following applications should be approved in the amount of \$25,000 each:

Custer County Board of Supervisors
Box Butte County, Nebraska
City of Chappell

The Commission further finds that pursuant to NIEF guidelines, the grant recipients shall sign a Grant Agreement containing the terms and conditions of the grant, previously approved by the Commission, prior to receiving any grant funds.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned applications be approved for \$25,000 each.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the grant recipients shall sign a Grant Agreement, as previously approved by the Commission, containing the terms and conditions of the grant.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 22nd day of May, 2018.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

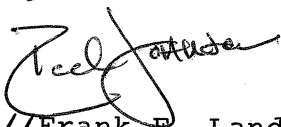
COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:




Chairman



ATTEST:




Executive Director

//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Mary Ridder