



Minutes – Quarterly Meeting

Date and Time: September 9, 2025, 9:00am central time

Location: Knight Museum, Alliance, NE

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Duane Gangwish at 9:03 a.m.

- Roll Call
 - Duane Gangwish Present
 - Chris Gentry Present
 - Marie Farr Present via video
 - Steve Stroup Present
 - Brenda Masek Present

The open meetings statement was read by Duane Gangwish.

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair per NE Statute 54-191**

Steve Stroup moved to nominate Duane Gangwish as Chair and Chris Gentry as Vice Chair.
Brenda Masek seconded the motion.
No other nominations.

Duane Gangwish Yes
Chris Gentry Yes
Marie Farr Yes
Steve Stroup Yes
Brenda Masek Yes

Motion Passes

- Adoption of Agenda**

Brenda Masek moved to approve the agenda as presented.
Chris Gentry seconded the motion.
No discussion

Duane Gangwish Yes
Chris Gentry Yes
Marie Farr Yes
Steve Stroup Yes
Brenda Masek Yes

Motion Passes

- Introduction of Attendees**

Duane Gangwish

Chris Gentry
Brenda Masek
Steve Stroup
Don Arp
Tom Hughson
Dean Anderson
Merritt Barton
C.J. Fell
Dalen Wood
Kayla Jesse
Scott Lindsey
Mista White

Remote attendees

Rick Leonard
Danna Schwenk
Shawn Hanks
Marie Farr

- Approval of Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2025

Brenda Masek moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Chris Gentry seconded the motion.

No further discussion

Duane Gangwish	Yes
Chris Gentry	Yes
Marie Farr	Yes
Steve Stroup	Yes
Brenda Masek	Yes

Motion Passes

- **Current Business**

1. Consideration and Acceptance of Financial Statements

Dean and Don explained the documents presented and expanded on the end of the fiscal year.

Chris Gentry moved to accept the financial statements as presented.

Steve Stroup seconded the motion.

No further discussion

Duane Gangwish	Yes
Chris Gentry	Yes

Marie Farr	Yes
Steve Stroup	Yes
Brenda Masek	Yes

Motion Passes

2. Annual Report
Dean expanded on the Annual Report.

No Action taken by the Committee.

3. FY 2025-27 Budget Items

Don Arp had nothing to present at this time

4. Staff Updates and Ratification of Personnel Changes
Dean gave an overview of staff changes over the last quarter.
A request was made to add staff numbers and current open positions to the report in the future.

Brenda Masek moved to ratify the personnel changes.
Chris Gentry seconded the motion.
No further discussion

Duane Gangwish	Yes
Chris Gentry	Yes
Marie Farr	Yes
Steve Stroup	Yes
Brenda Masek	Yes

Motion Passes

5. Estray Reports/School Fund Cases
Dean stated that there were no cases to be sent to the permanent school fund.

No action taken

6. Estray Reports/Unclaimed property
Dean presented none at this time.

7. Strategic Plan Review
Don presented an updated strategic plan with added goals and recommended that the Committee review it and bring it up for a vote at the next meeting.

The Committee took no action.

8. Fee Schedule Review

Don and Kayla presented the progress of the changes made at the last meeting.

The Committee took no action.

9. Policy, Rules, and Regulations Review

A. Ride along program.

Don presented a plan taken from ride along plan of the NSP and had the AG office adjust it to our needs. Duane questioned the age restrictions on the policy and Don stated that he would speak with the AG office about lowering the age with guardian consent.

The Committee took no action.

B. Facebook policy

Don presented the standard use requirements for the committee Facebook page. Discussion was had about policy advocacy and legislative updates. Decision was made to hold over until next meeting for updates to wording

The Committee took no action

C. Family leave policy

Don presented the pregnancy related leave policy.

Chris Gentry moved to approve the pregnancy-related leave policy with an effective date of October 1, 2025.

Brenda Masek seconded the motion.

No further discussion

Duane Gangwish	Yes
Chris Gentry	Yes
Marie Farr	Yes
Steve Stroup	Yes
Brenda Masek	Yes

Motion Passes

D. Brand conflict updated

Mista presented on the updates and changes made to the conflict list for new brand applications.

Chris Gentry moved to approve the updated conflict list as presented.

Steve Stroup seconded the motion

No further discussion.

Duane Gangwish	Yes
Chris Gentry	Yes
Marie Farr	Yes
Steve Stroup	Yes
Brenda Masek	Yes

Motion Passes

- E. Enhanced brand conflict determination review.
Don presented on the policy and the reason it is needed.

Steve Stroup moved to approve the enhanced brand conflict determination policy.

Chris Gentry seconded the motion.

No further discussion.

Duane Gangwish	Yes
Chris Gentry	Yes
Marie Farr	Yes
Steve Stroup	Yes
Brenda Masek	Yes

Motion Passes

10. Investigator Reports

Tom gave an overview of the state and nature of the investigators' work over the past quarter.
C.J. thanked the Committee Members for their involvement in the ILIA conference and spoke on the successes in hosting it.

11. Supervisors Reports

Tom expanded on the supervisor's written reports.

12. RFL Report

Dean gave an overview of the audits and the work of new RFL Auditor Madeline Steele.

13. Technology report

Don expanded on the Technology engagement plan.

Brenda Masek moved to accept the technology engagement plan.

Steve Stroup seconded the motion.

No further discussion.

Duane Gangwish	Yes
Chris Gentry	Yes
Marie Farr	Yes
Steve Stroup	Yes
Brenda Masek	Yes

Motion Passes

14. Legislative Updates

Don spoke about the public hearing to be held on October 7th in Kearney on LR 280, and the work on the information request to be completed by September 30, 2025.

15. Executive Director report

Don stated that it would be given in executive session.

16. Public Comment

None given.

17. Executive Session

Chris Gentry moved to move into executive session to protect the public interest to receive legal advice related to potential or anticipated litigation and discuss negotiation strategy.

Steve Stroup seconded the motion.

No further discussion

Duane Gangwish	Yes
Chris Gentry	Yes
Marie Farr	Yes
Steve Stroup	Yes
Brenda Masek	Yes

Motion Passes

The Committee moved to executive session at 11:48 a.m.

Steve Stroup left at 2:50 p.m. and rejoined meeting via phone.

Chris Gentry moved to come out of executive session.

Brenda Masek seconded the motion.

No further discussion

Duane Gangwish	Yes
Chris Gentry	Yes
Marie Farr	Yes
Steve Stroup	Yes
Brenda Masek	Yes

Motion Passes

Returned to public session at 3:02 p.m.

18. Proposed Brand act changes.

Brenda Masek moved to distribute the draft of proposed changes to the Brand act, to members of the agriculture community and legislature.

Chris Gentry seconded the motion.

No further discussion.

Duane Gangwish	Yes
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Chris Gentry	Yes
Marie Farr	Yes
Steve Stroup	Yes
Brenda Masek	Yes

Motion Passes

19. Adjournment

Duane Gangwish adjourned the meeting by executive order.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.