

MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING of the NEBRASKA BRAND COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 6th, 2025
9:00 a.m. Central Time / 8:00 a.m. Mountain Time

Via Telecommunications

Video Registration Link:

<https://sonvideo.webex.com/weblink/register/rbc959b8fa24e4f2d91e2972ae5e89f75>

Meeting Code: 2494 563 7446

Password: g8BRy8FPJm8

Physical Meeting Location:
Nebraska Brand Committee Office
411 Niobrara
Alliance, NE 69301

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Duane Gangwish at 8:06am

- The opens meeting statement was read by Duane Gangwish

- **Roll Call**

Duane Gangwish	Present
Chris Gentry	Present
Marie Farr	Present
Steve Stroup	Not Present
Brenda Masek	Not Present Present at 8:20
Sherry Vinton	Present

- **Introduction of Attendees**

Tom Hughson
Dean Anderson
Merritt Barton
Don Arp
Danna Schwenk
Dalen Wood
Brian Beach
Mathew Melchor
Martin Swayne
Casey Shoemaker
Jacob Leaver
Spike Jordan

Carrie Stedheim

- **Adoption of Agenda**

Chris Gentry moved to approve the agenda as presented

Marie Farr seconded the motion

No Discussion

Duane Gangwish Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Marie Farr Yes

Motion Passed

- **Current Business**

1. Review of legislation

Duane explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss LB 646 and the work, staff and the Committee have done since the last meeting. He also stated that Chris Gentry would present on behalf of the Committee at the Feb. 11th hearing. He then spoke on reaching out to other interested parties and stated that he had received broad concern for the content of the bill.

Don Arp also said that he had received concern from the groups he had spoken to. Chris Gentry asked Tom Hughson if he would need a warrant to enter these feedlots, if the bill passed? Tom responded that more than likely they would need one, and they could be difficult to get do to burden of proof.

Brenda explained that she had a meeting with Nebraska producers in San Antonio and they stated that they had been trying to work with senator Ibach, to get changes to the bill and requested that Don reach out to her as soon as possible to have a discussion about the bill.

Chris inquired as to the time of the hearing. Duane stated that it would be at 1:30 and that his confirmation hearing would be prior to the hearing for the bill.

Duane cautioned and discussed the open meetings act and quorum concerns leading up to the hearing.

Chris asked Don to compile a narrative and requested it contain a couple real world scenarios. Duane asked Don to draft the statement and send to the Committee members to review. Brenda stated that she would send a list of the Nebraska Cattlemen's requested amendments. Chris stated that he feels their first objective should be to kill the bill, if amendments are brought, then they could reconsider their position. The committee then spoke on the importance of having citizens reach out to their senators on this issue.

2. Public Comment

Spike Jordan spoke on the failing of LB 571 and how he feels it relates to LB 646. Said the Registered Feedlot Program already existed to help the feedlots. He then asked if calculations of what this bill would cost the Brand Committee had been done. Duane spoke on the projected financial impact of the bill and need to raise maximum on fees.

Sherry Vinton asked if we could have Don plan on testifying in a neutral capacity, to provide any factual clarification needed. Also said that Tom might be good to have on hand for the hearing. It was asked if we could have multiple people testify in different positions. Duane stated that this could be a good strategy. Tom said that he planned on being in a support capacity and would do whatever was necessary.

Martin Swayne of Gordon, NE echoed the statement to try and kill this bill and stated that where he lived Brand was very important.

Marie asked if we could put out a Facebook media post. Duane said it could be done, carefully, asking for a call to action from all producers.

• Adjournment

Brenda Masek moved to Adjourn the meeting.

Chris Gentry seconded the motion.

No discussion

Duane Gangwish Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Marie Farr Yes

Brenda Masek Yes

Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned at 8:54am