

OPEN SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

Friday, June 6, 2025
State Capitol Room 1507

Lincoln, Nebraska

Call to Order – Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and announced the location in the meeting room of a copy of the Open Meetings Law. He stated that notice of the meeting was posted on the Commission's website and on the State's Public Meeting Calendar.

Roll Call –

- Roderic Anderson – Present
- Adam Christensen - Present
- Janet Chung – Present
- Jeffery Davis – Present
- Robert Evnen - Present
- Mike Gloor – Present
- Andrew Reuss – Excused for Late Arrival
- Kate Sullivan – Present

Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the April 11, 2025 Meeting – Chairman Davis referred the Commissioners to their copies of the Open Session minutes of the previous meeting.

Introduction and welcome to new commissioner Adam Christensen – Chairman Davis asked Executive Director Hunter to introduce and welcome new Commissioner Adam Christensen. Commissioner Christensen is from Omaha, where he resides with his wife and children. Mr. Christensen has a master's degree in architectural engineering from UNL. He is a licensed professional engineer in Nebraska and in 12 additional states. Commissioner Christensen is currently a Senior Vice-President and Discipline Leader at Olsson, Inc. He is active in community involvement, Project Harmony, the UNL Architectural & Engineering Industry Advisory Committee and various youth sports programs. Chairman Davis welcomed Commissioner Christensen on behalf of the Commission.

The Secretary of State Bob Evnen next took the opportunity to address Chairman Davis and the Commission about Commissioner Christensen.

Motion by Gloor, second by Anderson, that the Open Session Minutes of the April 11, 2025 meeting be approved - Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Anderson, Christensen, Chung, Davis, Evnen Gloor, and Sullivan voted yes. Commissioner Christensen abstained. Motion carried (7-0-1).

Chairman Davis indicated that Commissioner Reuss was present at 9:06 a.m.

Report on late filing fees and requests for relief: The Executive Director indicated that there were no requests for relief.

Executive Director's Report (includes personnel activity, budget status, budget process and litigation status) – Executive Director Hunter reported to the Commission that Commissioner Jeffrey Peetz resigned from the Commission February 22, 2022. A successor will be selected by the Secretary of State. He noted this is the only vacancy at this time at the Commission.

The term of Rod Anderson expires on June 30, 2025. He is not eligible for reappointment and his successor will be appointed by the Secretary of State,

Executive Director Hunter indicated the opening for a Staff Auditor. The posting closed on May 25, 2025. Interviews will be conducted in the coming weeks

The Executive Director reported that a Staff Opinion had been requested by Senator Bob Hallstrom. This request was in relation to his former ties as a lobbyist prior to being elected to the Legislature. The response was provided on May 19, 2025. Mr. Hunter also indicated that there are plans to begin posting staff opinions on the Commission website in the near future.

The Executive Director indicated that the audit by the State Auditor of Public Accounts has been concluded. The agency exit interview is June 10.

Executive Director Hunter indicated that on July 11, 2025, the former Executive Director at the Accountability and Disclosure Commission, Mr. Frank Daley, will give a presentation at the Nebraska College of Law for the annual Government and Administrative Practice Seminar on ethical obligations. The presentation is for new public employees and newly elected officials of ethical obligations they should be aware of when they take on a role in government.

The Executive Director indicated that on October 1, 2025 the NADC staff will give a presentation in Grand Island at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center to County Sheriffs on provisions of the Nebraska Political Accountability & Disclosure Act (NADC), including are restrictions on doing business with the county, conflicts of interest, nepotism, use of public resources, and campaign activity.

Executive Director Hunter announced that this year the Council on Governmental

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Ethics Laws (COGEL) Conference will be held in Atlanta Georgia from December 7th through 10th 2025. For the 2025 conference the Commission will send three staff members. Mr. Hunter noted that COGEL is an organization that consists primarily of government agencies in the U.S., Canada and other countries which focuses on campaign finance laws, governmental ethics laws, lobbying laws and public information and meetings laws. The Commission is a founding member.

Executive Director Hunter indicated that ten months into the current fiscal year the Commission had expended approximately 50% of the agency budget.

Executive Director Hunter indicated that Lobbyist and Principal 1st Quarterly Reports were due April 30, 2025. Lobbyist Statements of Activity are due July 17th, and the Lobbyist and Principal 2nd Quarter Reports are due July 30, 2025. All reports that are filed will be available for review on the Clerk of the Legislature's website.

The Executive Director reported that the Lincoln General Election was held on May 6, 2025. The Omaha General Election was held on May 13, 2025.

The Executive Director indicated that the Lincoln 2nd General Election Campaign Statements were due April 28th. The Omaha 2nd General Election Campaign Statements are due on May 5th. Lincoln and Omaha Post General Statements are due June 16th and June 23rd, respectively. All filed statements are available for review on the FirstTuesday website.

The Executive Director indicated that in the matter of litigation there was nothing to report.

Executive Director Hunter indicated that upcoming meeting dates are August 15, and October 17, 2025.

Discussion followed.

Legislative Update including consideration of position on new legislative bills – Executive Director Hunter stated that the Legislature convened on January 8, 2025, and adjourned Sine Die on June 2nd, 2025. Mr. Hunter next discussed Legislative bills in which the Commission had an interest.

LB 32 – A bill by Senator Hunt. This bill would allow a candidate the option of using a PO Box instead of a street address to satisfy the political advertisement disclaimer requirements. LB32 was Passed by the Legislature and Signed by the Governor. It will take effect September 3, 2025.

LB 261 – The Governor's Appropriations Bill for the Biennium covering Fiscal Years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

LR 217 – A Legislative Resolution proposed by Senator Michaela Cavanaugh. It is an interim study to examine the current fee structure for reports and filings submitted to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. This study would determine if late filing fees and penalties need to be increased or added for the enforcement of the NPADA by the Commission.

LB521 – A bill by Senator Sanders. Similar to LB19, this bill provides the option for the city of Omaha to hold their elections in alignment with the statewide elections during presidential election years. It also includes the option for the city of Lincoln to hold their elections in alignment with statewide elections. LB521 was passed by the Legislature with Emergency Clause and Signed by the Governor.

LB 644 – This is a bill by Senator Bostar, the Foreign Adversary and Terrorist Agent Registration Act. This bill would provide requirements under the NPADA for conduct that relates to lobbying by or on behalf of a Chinese military company. A violation of these requirements results in a civil penalty of \$100,000 more per each subsequent violation up to \$1,000,000 maximum. Adding that the Commission would pay a reward of \$50,000 to any person who provided information resulting in the finding of said violations. Mr. Hunter further indicated, per a late amendment, all penalties collected under this section would be remitted to the State Treasurer in accordance with Article VII, section 5 of the Constitution of Nebraska. Meaning the civil penalty would not be kept by the Commission. This bill was passed on final reading. It will become effective October 1, 2025.

Discussion followed.

Report of Conflicts Committee – Chairman Davis announced that there were no objections or concerns to report.

Report of Executive Committee – Chairman Davis indicated that there are no issues to report.

Recognition of the service of Commissioner Rod Anderson - Director Hunter bid farewell to Commissioner Anderson for his time on the Commission and thanked him for his service to the Commission and to the people of the State of Nebraska. Mr. Hunter deferred to General Counsel Neil Danberg, who as a longtime friend of Commissioner Anderson, expressed his heartfelt words of appreciation to Commissioner Anderson for his extensive work in public service. The Executive Director on behalf of the Commission thanked Commissioner Anderson for his public service to the State of Nebraska and the Commission. He presented Commissioner Anderson with an inscribed commemorative clock as a token of appreciation on behalf of the Commission.

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Commissioner Anderson expressed his sincere thanks to the Commission.

Closed Session - Motion by Evnen, second by Reuss, that the NADC go into Closed Session pursuant to the confidentiality provisions of the NPADA – Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Anderson, Christensen, Chung, Davis, Evnen, Gloor, Reuss, and Sullivan voted yes. Motion carried (8-0-0).

The NADC went into Closed Session at 9:25 a.m.

The NADC returned to Open Session at 9:51 a.m.

Announcements from Closed Session - Executive Director Hunter indicated that there was one report from closed session.

In the matter of Jena Orlowski v. Michael Frohberg (#24-02) - The Commission approved a settlement agreement. The Commission found 3 violations of §49-14,101.01(2) of the NPADA. The Commission assessed a civil penalty of \$375. The action was taken with eight Commissioners concurring, none dissenting, and none abstaining.

Election of Officers – Chairman Davis stated that Commissioner Anderson had prepared a slate of officers. He proposed Commissioner Jeffrey Davis, Commissioner Andrew Reuss and Commissioner Janet Chung as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary, respectively. Chairman Davis asked if there were any other nominations. There were none.

Motion by Evnen, second by Sullivan, to approve and accept Jeffrey Davis as Chairman, Andrew Reuss as Vice-Chairman, and Janet Chung as Secretary – Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Anderson, Christensen, Chung, Davis, Evnen, Gloor, Reuss, and Sullivan votes yes. Motion carried (8-0-0).

Secretary of State Robert Evnen took the opportunity to express gratitude to David Hunter for his service to the Commission as Executive Director, his past service to the Commission, and his continuing service with the Commission in the future.

Adjournment – Motion by Reuss, second by Sullivan, that the NADC adjourn. Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Anderson, Christensen, Chung, Davis, Evnen, Gloor, Reuss, and Sullivan voted yes. Motion carried (8-0-0).

Chairman Davis declared the meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.