

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, August 11, 2016

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Steve Anderson, Chairperson	PRESENT
Don Oelsligle	PRESENT
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT
Shirley J. Petsche, ex-officio	PRESENT

**STAFF**

Dr. Michael Chipps  
Mary Honke  
John Blaylock  
Lynne Koski  
Derek Bierman  
Amanda Nipp  
Eric Johnson  
Dr. Tracy Kruse  
Jennifer Happold  
Jim Curry  
Diane Reikofski  
Brenda Sock

**OTHERS**

Carol A. Sibbel

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS**

Keith E. Harvey	ABSENT
Arlan W. Kuehn	PRESENT
Dr. Terry F. Nelson	PRESENT
Julie Robinson	PRESENT
Jeffrey M. Scherer	PRESENT
Gene L. Willers	PRESENT

**MINUTES**

1. Steve Anderson, Chairperson of the External Relations Committee, convened the meeting at 2:16 p.m., in Room 1108B of the College Welcome Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the July 14, 2016 meeting.
3. Dr. Michael Chipps reported that for the last three and a half years he has worked hard to help the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to recognize the importance of America's community college, and in particular, Northeast Community College. As we continue to develop the Center for Excellence for Agriculture and Water, Dr. Jim McKenney and Dr. Tracy Kruse have been diligent in arranging relationships and meetings with rural development offices, federal agencies, National Resource and Conservation Services (NRCS), congressional offices, etc. For the past several months, relationships have been created with colleges in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Nebraska to begin to develop a national front in Washington.

While in Washington, DC last week, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the NRCS and Northeast Community College. The purpose of the MOU is to partner to advance the conservation of natural resources and to help farmers, ranchers, and forest owners with best practices for stewardship of our agricultural and community resources. The partnership will focus on cooperation and coordination in the areas of soil health, nutrient management, water quality, wildlife habitat, resiliency to climate change, and related conservation topics. This begins the dialogue and demonstrates to USDA the value of community colleges.

The goal is to make Northeast Community College the first community college in the nation to have a Center for Excellence for Agriculture and Water.

4. The quarterly Foundation Report was provided by Arlan Kuehn who reported that the annual meeting of the Foundation was held on July 19<sup>th</sup> with four new members being added to the Board of Directors; Troy Brooks, Betty Garwood, Larry Poesnecker, and Jeanne Reigle.

An event was recently held at Meadville with Susan Risinger Green being introduced as the Campaign Coordinator for the Ag and Water project. An overview of the Ag and Water campaign was also provided.

5. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned 2:31 p.m.