DIRECTORS’ ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MONDAY, July 10, 2017
555 S. 10TH STREET
BILL LUXFORD STUDIO

I. MINUTES
   1. Approval of Directors’ Minutes June 19, 2017

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

IV. MAYOR’S CORRESPONDENCE

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE
   PLANNING DEPARTMENT
   1. Administrative Approvals, Administrative Amendment No. 17035

   URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE
   1. Public meeting scheduled for July 11, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

   PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES
   1. Fiscal Impact Statement dated 6/13/17

   PUBLIC SAFETY
   1. Open Data Annual Report

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSION REPORTS
   1. Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) (6.27.17) - Gaylor Baird
   2. Internal Liquor Committee (ILC) (6.26.17) - Christensen, Eskridge, Shobe
   3. Problem Resolution Team (PRT) (6.29.17) - Lamm
   4. Performance Audit Committee (PAC) (7.6.17) - Lamm, Raybould, Shobe

VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS
   1. Continued discussion on purchasing new electronic devices

VIII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE
   1. Allow Open Harvest a Liquor License - Dana Williams. Response received from Brian Will, Planning Department
   2. Flooding in the area north of Superior Street and west of the Outdoor Education Center near 48th Street - Shirley Foster. Response from Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director
   3. Lincoln Premium Poultry Introduction - Jessica Kolterman
   4. Lincoln Premium Poultry Project Comments from June 26th City Council Meeting - Kristen Hassebrook
   5. Costco Chicken Plant - Pippa White Lawson

IX. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS
See invitation list.

X. ADJOURNMENT
Memorandum

Date: June 27, 2017
To: City Clerk
From: Amy Huffman, Planning Dept.
Re: Administrative Approvals
cc: Mayor Chris Beutler
    Planning Commission
    Geri Rorabaugh, Planning Dept.

This is a list of the administrative approvals by the Planning Director from June 20, 2017 through June 26, 2017:

**Administrative Amendment No. 17035**, to Change of Zone No. 04075G, Village Gardens PUD, approved by the Planning Director on June 26, 2017, to revise the grading and drainage plan by reconfiguring the storm water detention facilities located in the vicinity of S. 68th Street and Bridle Lane, generally located at S. 56th Street and Pine Lake Road.
URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

The City of Lincoln Urban Design Committee will have a regularly scheduled public meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 210 on the 2nd floor, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, to consider the following agenda. For more information, contact the Planning Department at (402) 441-7491.

AGENDA

1. Approval of UDC meeting record of June 6, 2017.

DISCUSS AND ADVISE

2. City Centre Streetscape & Materials (Urban Development Dept.) – UDR17044

DISCUSSION

3. Staff Report & misc: Upstream Art

The Urban Design Committee’s agenda may be accessed on the Internet at http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/boards

ACCOMMODATION NOTICE

The City of Lincoln complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guidelines. Ensuring the public’s access to and participating in public meetings is a priority for the City of Lincoln. In the event you are in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to attend or participate in a public meeting conducted by the City of Lincoln, please contact the Director of Equity and Diversity, Lincoln Commission on Human Rights, at 402 441-7624 as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting date in order to make your request.

F: \ Boards \ UDC \ Agendas \ 2017 \ ag071117.docx
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: Public Works & Utilities  
DATE: 6/13/2017

Request to purchase additional and replacement Winter Operations Equipment in order to support the current brine production facility.

1) Five (5) additional anti-ice liquid systems ($95,000) – to achieve a 25% reduction in brine application times.
2) Seven (7) brine storage tanks for MSC production site, with auto-batching equipment ($211,000) – to replace old/aged, failing tanks and speed brine production.
3) One (1) dual-auger material spreader ($25,000) – to provide backup for our existing fleet.

This request is supported by savings realized in the FY2016-2017 budget from snow removal contractual services.

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SOURCE OF REVENUES: Unexpended Snow & Ice Removal funds appropriated in budget resolution.

DIRECTOR [Signature]  
DATE 6-14-17
FINANCE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Availability of Appropriations: Yes ☐ No ☐

BUDGET OFFICER

PURCHASING AGENT

FINANCE DIRECTOR  DATE 1/23/17

APPROVED: Yes ☐ No ☐ DATE 1/26/17

MAYOR

WHEN TO USE FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

1. Requesting transfer of operating appropriations.
2. Requesting increase in personnel (full time equivalents) appropriations.
3. Requesting transfer of capital improvement appropriations.
4. Requesting operational change not authorized during the budget process.
5. Requesting appropriations based on receipt of additional funds from outside sources.
6. Requesting use of Contingency funds.

HOW TO USE FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NEED: There should be a detailed explanation of why a change to the previously approved budget is necessary. If the change will have any impact beyond the current fiscal year, it should also be noted.

FUTURE IMPACT: One of the boxes should be checked. An example of an item with ongoing impact would be a request for additional fte authorization that will also be requested in upcoming budgets. This would necessitate filling out the "Next Fiscal Year Annualized" column. An example of an item with limited impact would be asking for authorization to use salary savings for the one time purchase of equipment. If "Projected Completion Date" applies, please fill in.

REVENUES GENERATED: Please note if the request will affect current and future revenues.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES: These boxes should be marked yes or no. Some of the actions this form is used for (transfer of capital improvement appropriations, Contingency Funds) require a City Council ordinance.

PERSONNEL (full time equivalents): Please note the number of fte’s the request involves, if applicable.

PERSONNEL (cost), SUPPLIES, OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES, EQUIPMENT: All entries in these boxes must have the business unit, object code, and object code description along with the dollar amount. Negative amounts must be indicated by brackets.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: This box should contain the sum of the dollar amounts in the various expenditure categories.

SOURCE OF REVENUES: This box should contain the name of the fund the action is required for.
The Capital Improvement Program for the current fiscal year includes a brine production facility at 3200 Baldwin Avenue. “Other Financing” was identified as the funding source for this improvement, which “may include unexpended snow funds.” The brine production facility is estimated to cost approximately $607,000.

This request is supported by savings realized in the FY 2016-2017 budget from Regular Salaries and Overtime Pay Savings.

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SOURCE OF REVENUES: Unexpended Snow & Ice Removal funds appropriated in budget resolution.

DIRECTOR: ❀ ❀ ❀   DATE: 6-14-17
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Annual Report

to the Mayor and City Council
by the City of Lincoln Open Data Governance Committee

July 1, 2017

Introduction

Lincoln City Council Resolution 16R-180, passed by the City Council in August 2016, established an open data initiative for the City of Lincoln. The resolution requires the creation of an Open Data Governance Committee, and provides that the committee make an annual report on or before July 1 to the mayor and city council concerning the progress of the open data initiative, and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. This report from the committee is in response to that requirement.

Governance Committee

The Open Data Governance Committee required by the resolution was created in December 2016. The committee is composed of 20 members, including members from City departments, public sector private enterprise, non-profits, and the University of Nebraska.

David Young  Public Works and Utilities Department
Diane Gonzolas  Citizen Information Center
Elizabeth Elliott  Law Department
Eric Jones  Lincoln Fire & Rescue
Jeff McReynolds  Information Services Division
Jeff Peterson  Lincoln Police Department
Julee Hector  Lincoln Public Libraries
Leirion Gaylor Baird  Lincoln City Council
Lisa Pytlik Zillig  University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
Lori Seibel  Community Health Endowment
Matt Waite  UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications
Eric Jackson  Citizen/student
Raju Kakarlapudi  Health Department
Ryan Axmann  Planning Department
Steve Henderson  Information Services Division
Steve Miller  BVH Architects
Todd Wiltgen  Lancaster County Board
Tom Casady  Public Safety Director
Zach Pluhacek  Lincoln Journal Star
Lana Tolbert  Building and Safety Department
The inaugural meeting of the committee was held on December 19, 2016. As of this report, the committee has met six times. The committee has organized its work in five subcommittees:

Data Inventory and Prioritization
Open Data Website
Metadata Standards
Privacy Policies
Public Engagement Strategies

Each subcommittee is convened by a member of the Open Data Governance Committee. The subcommittees have been convening between full committee meetings since February 2017. The subcommittees and have been reporting back on their discussions and activities at the Open Data Governance Committee meetings.

**Open Data Training**

A number of documents and websites have been provided to the committee as resources. Many of these materials consist of publications and web pages from What Works Cities and the Sunlight Foundation. In addition, the committee has been provided with links to the open data websites of several other cities. These materials provided the members with background information about open data, and insight into best practices and the implementation of open data in other communities.

A half-day “Open Data Boot Camp” training was held at the Parks and Recreation Department on January 12, 2017. This training was attended by members of the Open Data Governance Committee, as well as several City department heads and staff. The training was conducted by Eric Reese from the Center for Government Excellence (GovEx) at Johns Hopkins University.

A familiarization session pertaining to the open data website was conducted for all City department directors at the Mayor’s cabinet meeting on April 26, 2017. Presentations were also made to the management staff of the Police Department, Lincoln Fire & Rescue, Planning Department, and Public Works and Utilities Department during the spring of 2017.

**Technical Support**

The City has been receiving technical support on open data and performance management from What Works Cities since October 2016. This technical support has included access to publications, websites, and other open data resources; training sessions; and personal consultations between the governance committee chair and What Works Cities staff. These consultations consisted of weekly telephone conferences for the first six months, graduating to monthly consultations. Follow-up support presently consists of email, online collaboration site, and quarterly telephone conferences. In addition, What Works Cities staff has travelled to
Lincoln on several occasions for in-person meetings with City personnel and governance committee members.

What Works Cities also provided the City’s performance management and open data chairpersons with travel and attendance at the 2017 What Works Cities Summit, held in New York City on March 27-29, 2017. The summit consisted of presentations, panels, and discussions attended by approximately 350 participants from 77 communities.

**Open Data Website**

As the open data initiative began in late 2016, a small group of City employees began working on developing an open data website. This group identified a variety of City data sets and resources that were either already available to the public on various City websites, or could easily be obtained and made available.

The focus of this group’s efforts, as specified by the city council’s resolution, was data already produced by the City in its normal course of business. The group adopted the tools of ESRI’s open data portal, a template and tools designed for creating and managing open data websites. This is City available to the City at no additional cost because of the City’s existing enterprise license with ESRI for GIS software.

A substantial number of data resources and open data sets were identified and prepared for the beta version of an open data website, which was demonstrated to the Open Data Governance Committee in early 2017. This website was opened to the public at a mayoral news conference on March 23, 2017. The site, opendata.lincoln.ne.gov, initially contained 32 data sets and resources, and presently contains 119 data sets and resources.

These data consist of true open data (machine-readable), and also a variety of data and resources that, while not true open data, were already available to the public on other City web pages. Previously, many of these resources could be somewhat difficult to find, due to the sheer volume of web pages maintained by City departments. The open data website allows easy searches by keywords or categories, and serves as a “one-stop shopping” experience for the City’s most popular data sets and resources, with a simple URL address.

**Open Data Usage**

Since the public launch of Lincoln’s open data website, the governance committee has been tracking site usage using Google Analytics. As of this report 3,601 unique users have visited the site, initiating 5,607 sessions, and generating 26,343 page views. Several datasets have been downloaded over 100 times.

Anecdotally, the committee has become aware of several interesting uses of open data. The open data website has entirely replaced an FTP server for delivering GIS content to the public.
On several occasions, the open data website has been used internally for City employees to obtain data sets that would have required email exchanges, extraction, and at least minor delays otherwise. Open data has been used by the news media and UNL students for specific projects. As an example, an instructor in the College of Business who teaches four sections of Business Analytics directed his students to the open data website for their class projects. There have been several occasions when citizens seeking City data have simply been referred to the open data website to serve themselves.

The City has contributed relevant data to the Police Open Data Initiative, a national repository created through the 2015 White House Police Open Data Initiative, and presently managed by the Police Foundation.

**Open Data Costs and Resources**

To date, the City has incurred no direct costs related to open data, other than the contribution of staff time. No purchases have been necessary and no additional personnel or overtime costs have been incurred. Staff time has primarily consisted of attendance at committee and subcommittee meetings. Three employees have devoted somewhat more time to the initiative, to develop the open data website, but this has all been accomplished by these employees in addition to their regular duties.

The cost of the Open Data Boot Camp (other than staff time for attendance), for the 2017 What Works Cities Summit, and for WWC consultation and support were all provided by What Works Cities as part of the scope of work agreement with the City executed in the fall of 2016.

**Next Steps and Recommendations**

The Open Data Governance Committee will continue to meet and work through its subcommittees in the coming year. The committee is working to make more City data sets available as open data on the website. The committee will continue to prioritize those data that pertain to City democracy, City financial information, and City information related to health, safety, and welfare.

The open data website will continue to be a work in progress. As new releases and updates to the ESRI open data portal occur, the committee will adapt the website to those changes. New data sets will be added where possible.

A major goal of the governance committee is to further market the City’s open data by engaging the public more directly. The committee intends to empanel a group of citizens to provide feedback on the site’s usability and data availability in the coming year. The committee also intends to explore hosting a City “hackathon,” whereby members of the public will be invited to an event and asked to assist the City in analyzing and/or visualizing data related to a
specified topic. These events have proven to be fun, interesting, and valuable in other communities.

The committee recommends that the current focus of the open data initiative remain in place: making existing data sets already collected in the City’s usual course of business available as open data wherever feasible.

The committee also recommends that City departments, the City Council, and Mayor all consider the implications of all software adopted by the City to the open data initiative. Whenever practical in evaluating acquisitions and purchases, the City should consider whether software under consideration readily supports exporting or providing outputs in an open format that can be consumed by the open data website.

An important issue for the Open Data Governance Committee, City Council, and Mayor to consider going forward is sustainability. The open data website will require occasional maintenance, and a more significant investment of time will be required every year to update those data sets composed of annual files for previous years. While a considerable number of data sets and resources have been gathered, these represent the low hanging fruit: obtaining new data sets may be more time-consuming and require more effort and resources.

As the open data initiative continues to evolve, the City should track website usage, citizen feedback, and products or outputs derived from the City’s open data resources.
We think this should actually be sent all City Council members, can you help with that?

Brian J. Will, MCRP, AICP
Planning Department
Lincoln/Lancaster County
555 South 10th Street, Room 113
Lincoln, NE 68508
Ph. 402-441-6362
bwill@lincoln.ne.gov

Dana,

The City of Lincoln adopted provisions to regulate the sale of alcohol in the Zoning Ordinance in 1994. Since then, the sale of alcohol is only allowed in commercial zoning districts by a special permit, with a few exceptions.

Having said that, there are a few exceptions to this rule. One exception is that the sale of alcohol is a permitted use in the B-4 district (Downtown Lincoln), meaning no additional zoning approval is needed. Other exceptions are the B-2 and B-5 zoning districts (suburban and regional shopping centers) where the sale of alcohol is a conditional use. In these cases, a special permit is not required, rather the licensed premises must meet a list of conditions in the Zoning Ordinance prior to operation.

The last exception would be those uses selling alcohol that were in existence prior to 1994 when the provisions regulating alcohol sales were first adopted. There are many of these uses throughout Lincoln, and the Brewsky’s and Russ’s you mention are two such establishments. Since both were in existence prior to 1994, they are allowed to continue to legally operate. This ‘grandfathering’ of uses is typical when the Zoning Ordinance is amended like this. That is, the effect of new regulations is typically not retroactive, rather the provisions only apply to those new uses proposed after the new regulations go in to effect.

I also want to let you know that Open Harvest has an application in process to amend the Zoning Ordinance. It proposes to create an exception in the alcohol regulations to reduce the required separation from 100’ to 25’ specifically for grocery stores. Open Harvest agreed to place the request on hold for the time being to allow time for the Planning Commission to become better informed about regulating alcohol sales in Lincoln.
In regard to this information gathering process, the Planning Commission has held two public briefings on the topic of alcohol regulation, with a third one tentatively scheduled for 8/2/17. The intent of the process is for the Commission to become better informed of the issues involving the sale of alcohol in Lincoln. I can’t predict the outcome of this process, but that will be the Planning Commission’s decision to make when the process is complete.

I hope this addresses your question, but if not please feel free to contact me.

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From: Dana Williams [danawilliams88@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 5:36 PM
To: Planning; Cyndi Lamm; Leirion Gaylor Baird; Jon Camp; Roy A. Christensen; Jane Raybould; Bennie R. Shobe; Angela M. Birkett; Carl B. Eskridge
Subject: allow Open Harvest a Liquor License

Why is Brewsky's allowed to sell liquor but not Open Harvest? People go to Brewsky's to get drunk, and then drive home. People are not going to Open Harvest to get drunk, they just want to buy local and special beer and wine that they will then take home and enjoy. It's not logical to allow Brewsky's to sell alcohol on tap where patrons then drive away having drank alcohol, but Open Harvest can't sell a niche 4% alcohol beer from a local company that can't be opened in the store or drank before driving home. What's more, Russ's market, less than a half-mile away is allowed to sell alcohol. It's obvious that someone in the city has something against Open Harvest.

Please review Section 27.63.685 of the Lincoln City Municipal Code in an effort to make it possible for neighborhood businesses, such as grocery stores, to obtain a liquor license.
We think this should actually be sent all City Council members, can you help with that?

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Please review Section 27.63.685 of the Lincoln City Municipal Code in an effort to make it possible for neighborhood businesses, such as grocery stores, to obtain a liquor license.
Dear Ms. Foster: I have had an opportunity to look further into the ponding water in the south end of Boosalis Park between the Game and Parks Outdoor Education Center and Salt Creek. There is a regulated wetland in the treed area of this portion of the park. It appears that the wetland formed in a former bend of Salt Creek that existed prior to channelization of the creek channel. Please see the aerial photograph depicting wetland areas in and around Boosalis Park below. Wetlands assist in storm water management by collecting storm water drainage and allowing it percolate slowly into the soil below. It appears that the subject wetland is performing this function. We have had several large rain events so far this year, as well as several in the past few years. I suspect that the volume of storm water run off coming from these storms has resulted in increased volume of water collecting in the wetland. There may also be some added runoff coming from the new building and parking areas.

As I indicated above, it appears that this wetland area is doing its job of collecting storm water runoff. We may be seeing additional standing water because of the intensity of rainfall events over the past few years. We will continue to
monitor the situation. Please let me know if you have additional questions, or if I can be of assistance. Again, thank you for your interest in Boosalis Park.

Sincerely,
Lynn Johnson
Parks and Recreation Director

From: Lynn Johnson
Sent: Saturday, June 24, 2017 12:15 PM
To: shirleya_98@yahoo.com
Cc: Angela M. Birkett; Cyndi Lamm; Jerry J. Shorney; JJ Yost; Jim Portis
Subject: RE: Constituent Correspondence

Dear Ms. Foster: City Councilmember Cyndi Lamm shared your message regarding ponding of stormwater in area of Boosalis Park north of Superior Street and east of Salt Creek. We will investigate the situation. As you may know, the area is very flat and there may be additional storm drainage coming from the new Game and Parks Outdoor Education Center building and parking lot. We'll check to see if anything has occurred that may be blocking the natural drainage pattern. I suspect that the problem may be a combination of saturated soils, flat topography that does not drain well, and perhaps additional storm drainage coming from the area to the east.

Thank you for your message and for your interest in Boosalis Park. Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director

From: WebForm [mailto:none@lincoln.ne.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 8:01 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: InterLinc - Feedback

Council Office - Feedback
Date: 6/22/2017 8:00:57 AM
Full Name: Shirley Foster
Address: 5336 Mission Lane
City: Lincoln, NE
Phone: -
Email: shirleya_98@yahoo.com
Comments: There's an ongoing problem with flooding in the area north of Superior St & west of the Outdoor Education Center near 48th St. This happens every spring & the stagnant water is allowed to remain. I have called the City Parks Dept about this for the past two years with no results. I have lived in Lincoln for over 50 years & this is not normal. Obviously, something has changed which is stopping the flow of water. If allowed to continue, it will eventually kill the trees. It's also a very UNHEALTHY situation with breeding mosquitoes etc. I'm asking you to please take action to FIX this problem! Thank you.
Mayor Beutler and Members of the Lincoln City Council,

Some of you have had the opportunity to meet me previously, but for those of you who have not, my name is Jessica Kolterman and I have worked in governmental relations for some time in Nebraska. I am currently serving Lincoln Premium Poultry by handling community relations and outreach, and have been serving in that position since the first of the year.

As background, over the past year we have worked with the community of Fremont, Dodge County, Fremont public works and utilities board, two LB 840 committees, and an SID and have participated in over 30 public hearings related to our project through processes within or before those entities. Additionally, we have several more public hearings on the horizon, at the state, city, and county levels.

I provide this background of our public approvals process so that you have an idea of the extensive amount of due diligence done by the local and regional officials in Fremont and the surrounding areas as it relates to our project.

In addition, we have spent a great deal of time presenting background information on our project to anyone who has reached out asking for information. Those meetings have ranged from 1 or 2 concerned citizens to large groups of 30 or 40 people. We have felt each meeting has been valuable and we continue to do these meetings regularly. We have also met with quite a few public entities, such as your own Department of Public Works and Utilities, MUD, Nebraska Game and Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and other entities who have had questions or concerns or wanted additional in-depth information about the project.

To this point our efforts for education and outreach have primarily focused on the areas where the project will be located geographically, and therefore I had not yet reached out directly to you as a body to offer a meeting. While I have worked through your Department of Public Works and Utilities providing information, I had not reached out to you collectively, and for that I apologize.

I learned earlier today that several members of the council have questions about the project and were interested in visiting with us. I want you to know that we would be happy to meet with each of you to visit about what we are doing to mitigate concerns and to be good stewards of our natural resources.

We have pledged to always follow all laws, rules and regulations, and in many cases are going above and beyond requirements outlined in the law. Costco is committed to doing the right thing in all ways and wants to set the standard in this industry. Would there be a time in the near future when we can share that information with you as well and walk you through the specifics of this project as it relates to both the poultry
processing complex and the grower barns? I am confident that once you see the technology infrastructure we plan to implement throughout this entire project that you will be as excited about this opportunity for Nebraska as we are.

We have wonderful partners who are also committed to this project and delivering factual information, including State Senator Lynne Walz, Fremont Mayor Scott Getzschman and the City of Fremont Staff, AFAN/WSA, and Nutrient Advisers, among others. They can also provide background and information that might be helpful about our track record of working locally over the past year to remain responsive to local concerns, as well as be a good partner in the community.

As a homeowner in the Lincoln Near South neighborhood, I certainly appreciate you asking the questions that should be asked as it relates to what we at Lincoln Premium Poultry/Costco are doing to make sure Lincoln's water remains clean. We are happy to answer those questions and provide you with more background and information that should be helpful.

We look forward to hearing from you and finding an opportunity to meet. Please feel free to call any time.

Sincerely,

Jessica Kolterman
Lincoln Premium Poultry
jkolterman@lincolnpremiumpoultry.com
(402)-641-8471
Dear Lincoln City Council and Mayor,

Hello. My name is Kristen Hassebrook and I serve as the Executive Director for the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN) and We Support Agriculture (WSA). Both organizations work to support the development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially responsible livestock operations in Nebraska.

I attended the Lincoln City Council meeting yesterday, June 26th, to listen to the commentary from individuals on the Costco/Lincoln Premium Poultry project in and around the Fremont, Nebraska area. The hearing went late in to the night and while I disagree with many of the statements made I did not want to draw things out any further for you and opted to email you today instead.

I know you have heard presentations from the Public Works Department here in Lincoln and they have no concerns with the project as planned. I know you have also heard from Lincoln Premium Poultry themselves about some of the specific details. So, I will let those experts speak for themselves and only respond to a handful of issues I heard last night that I feel warrant highlighting.

First, this project has had and will continue to have extensive public vetting and transparency surrounding it. Multiple city and county hearings have been held in Fremont on the plant, hatchery and feed mill. Moving forward there will also be public hearings on the poultry barns that will be built in the surrounding counties as well.

Second, testifiers were misleading with their statements about the lacksidasical management of the poultry litter by the growers and that there is not adequate regulation. Every farmer that grows chickens for Lincoln Premium Poultry will be required to have a Nutrient Management Plan which will govern how they manage, store and apply the poultry litter, as well as many other facets of management on their operation. These nutrient management plans will require them to do annual testing of the litter, their fields and create a nutrient budget to ensure they are only applying the amount of fertilizer that piece of ground needs.

A local livestock environmental engineering company out of West Point, Nebraska is working with the poultry growers on this project and I can tell you they are one of the most respected firms in Nebraska. If you would like to learn more about the all encompassing components of a Nutrient Management Plan I would encourage you to look at Chapter 14 in Title 130 of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Regulations. I have linked to it below.

Third, testifiers were uninformed as to the value, efficiency and usefulness of poultry litter in agriculture. Poultry litter is a valuable fertilizer that improves soil quality when managed properly. I would strongly encourage the Council and Mayor’s office to bring Dr. Amy Millmier Schmidt from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in for an information session about livestock waste management and its impacts to the environment. Dr. Schmidt is a Livestock Bioenvironmental Engineer. Her contact information is aschmidt@unl.edu.

I would also be happy to provide more information about this project, how livestock operations operate or the benefits of livestock development for the state of Nebraska if you would like. Do not hesitate to reach out to me via phone or email if you have any questions or comments.

Kristen Hassebrook
Executive Director
Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN) / We Support Agriculture (WSA)
Email: kristenh@a-fan.org, kristenh@wesupportag.org
Phone: 402-440-7371
Thank you so much for giving time and attention to the Costco Chicken Plant situation. This project should not be given a go-ahead until we know all the environmental and health consequences that it will have on the citizens of Southeast Nebraska, not to mention our water.