PROPOSED AGENDA

A. Call to Order, Dr. Gramberg

B. Roll Call

C. Introduction of Visitors

D. Approval of Agenda

E. Excuse Absent Board Member(s)

F. Public Hearings/Adoption of 2014 - 2015 WCCA Budgets

1) Public Hearing on Proposed 2014 - 2015 Budgets, Pursuant to Sections 13-501 to 13-513, R.R.S., and Section 85-1517, R.R.S. for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following budgets and consider amendments relative thereto.

   a) Open Public Hearing

   b) Presentation of Proposed 2014 - 2015 Budgets

      1) General Fund
      2) Capital Improvement and Bond Fund
      3) Designated Funds
      4) Restricted Fund
      5) Agency Fund

   c) Public Comments

   d) Close Public Hearing

2) Adoption of 2014 - 2015 Budgets

   a) General Fund - $26,104,185.00

PUBLIC HEARINGS/ADOPTION OF 2014 - 2015 WCCA BUDGETS MEETING

September 10, 2014

1:00 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARINGS/ADOPTION OF 2014 - 2015 WCCA BUDGETS MEETING

Boardroom
Western Nebraska Community College
Scottsbluff Campus
1601 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE
F. Public Hearings / Adoption of 2014 - 2015 WCCA Budgets – Cont.

2) Adoption of 2014 - 2015 Budgets – Cont.
   
   b) Capital Improvement and Bond Fund - $9,203,720.00
   c) Designated Fund - $5,503,811.00
   d) Restricted Fund - $7,499,864.00
   e) Agency Fund - $385,000.00

3) Public Hearing Pursuant to Section 77-1601.02, for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the tax request at a different amount than the prior year tax request.
   
   a) Open Public Hearing
   b) Presentation of 2013 - 2014 Property Tax Request - $9,906,793.38
   c) Presentation of 2013 Tax Rate - $0.102757
   d) Property Tax Rate (2013 - 14 Request/2014 Valuation) - $0.092842
   e) Presentation of 2014 - 2015 Property Tax Request - $10,727,436.61
   f) Presentation of 2014 Tax Rate - $0.100533
   g) Public Comments
   h) Close Public Hearing

4) Adoption of Final 2014 - 2015 Property Tax Request and Rate
   
   a) General Fund - $8,699,013.32 - $0.081523
   b) Capital Improvement and Bond Fund - $2,028,423.29 - $0.019010

G. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2014, immediately following the Public Hearings on the Proposed 2014 - 2015 WCCA Budgets, (at approximately 1:45 p.m.), Boardroom, Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

H. Adjournment
The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a meeting for the purpose of Public Hearings and adoption of the proposed 2014 – 2015 Western Community College Area Budgets at 1:03 p.m., on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, in the Boardroom, Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, located at 1601 East 27th Street, in the City of Scottsbluff, in the County of Scotts Bluff, in the State of Nebraska, as per the Notice of Budget Hearing and Budget Summary and Notice of Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request published in the Star-Herald, on Thursday, September 4, 2014, and the publicized notice in the Star-Herald, on Saturday, September 6, 2014, with the following members present: Timothy H. Daniels, F. Lynne Klemke, L. Paul Leseberg, Kimberly A. Marcy, Jack L. Nelson, Alexander D. Pavlista, M. Thomas Perkins, Mary K. Shaver, Richard G. Stickney, Julienne K. Walworth, Merlyn L. Gramberg, Chairperson. Absent: None. Student Representatives present: Alexandra Stricker, Scottsbluff Campus. Faculty Representatives present: Aletia R. Norwood, Scottsbluff Campus. College Staff present: Todd R. Holcomb, William D. Knapper, Coral E. Richards, Terry B. Gaalswyk, David E. Groshans, Susan K. Yowell, Paula J. Abbott, Garry R. Alkire, Michelle R. Coolidge, Ellen M. Dillon, Michael E. Houdyshell, Roger S. Hovey, Jason L. Stratman, Susan L. Verbeck. College attorney present: Phillip M. Kelly. A current agenda was available in the College President's office and the Board Secretary's office on the Scottsbluff Campus at the time of the publicized notice.

Dr. Gramberg declared a quorum was present for the transaction of business.

Dr. Gramberg announced that for public information, there is a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act available on the table at the back of the room.

Visitors were: Steve Erdman, Bayard; Gary Oltmann, Bridgeport; Stacy Swinney, Chadron; Jack Andersen, Lakeside; Robert Postl, Gering.

Dr. Perkins moved the agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Nelson. The vote was, Yes: Daniels,
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Cont.

Klemke, Leseberg, Marcy, Nelson, Pavlista, Perkins, Shaver, Stickney, Walworth, Gramberg. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

EXCUSE ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS

All Board members were present.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/ADOPTION OF 2014 – 2015 WCCA BUDGETS

Public Hearings

Pursuant to Section 13-501 to 13-513, R. R. S., and Section 85-1517, R. R. S., Dr. Gramberg declared the Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following budgets and consider amendments relative thereto open at 1:06 p.m.

Presentation of Proposed Budgets 2014 – 2015 WCCA General Fund Budget

Mr. Knapper reported over the past four months the Board has held informal meetings for the purpose of budget work sessions. During those meetings the budgets were presented and considered in detail.

Mr. Knapper referred Board members to the large budget book. He reported one change to note from what was presented during the work session on the General Fund Budget is a decrease in the draw from cash reserves. This is a result of the final State Aid distribution being slightly higher than earlier projected. The revenue source from cash reserves is $186,996.00. He reported further a transfer of unused scholarship fees in the amount of $50,000.00 was discontinued for the 2014 – 2015 Fiscal year.

Mr. Knapper reported the General Fund is the heart of the College’s operations. He presented the 2014 – 2015 General Fund Budget in the amount of $25,470,710.00. He reported the total General Fund Budget request is $26,104,185.00 which includes $633,475.00 for tuition remissions. Mr. Knapper reported the proposed 2014 – 2015 General Fund Budget reflects a modest 1.77 percent increase over the previous year.

Mr. Knapper reviewed the primary revenue sources for the 2014 – 2015 General Fund Budget which are state-aid, property tax, and tuition and fees. He reported the statewide appropriation for state aid increased four percent. The distribution of state aid as defined in LB 946 provided $12,233,634.00, which is an increase of $317,816.00 or 2.67 percent. Mr. Knapper reported state aid represents slightly more than 46.8 percent of the total General Fund
revenue for the College. He commented the increase provided slightly more than 34 percent of the new funds needed to underwrite the modest budget increase.

Mr. Knapper reported tuition revenue was budgeted at a decreased amount from the prior year due to decreasing enrollment. Revenue from this source was decreased $280,750.00 or 7.84 percent. He reported the per credit hour tuition rate increased $4.50 for resident students and $3.50 for non-resident students. The rate for per credit hour fees remains unchanged. Charges for consumable material costs were held static for courses with significant consumable fees. Revenue from business and industry training was reduced $99,751.00 or 6.31 percent based on historical trend.

Mr. Knapper reported the net revenue from ad valorem property tax is $8,445,644.00 which represents an increase of $540,407.00 or 6.84 percent. Mr. Knapper reported out of concern for property taxpayers, both the Board and the College administration developed a General Fund budget holding the increase in property taxes to no more than that necessary to fund the budget.

Mr. Knapper reported other General Fund revenue sources include: Interest - $45,000.00; Transfers - $112,000.00; and Miscellaneous, which includes the fees for consumable supplies - $300,000.00.

Mr. Knapper reported there are five expenditure categories: Personnel Costs - $16,142,165.00; Operating Expense - $8,049,811.00; Travel - $648,619.00; Equipment - $547,115.00; and a contingency of $83,000.00. Mr. Knapper remarked Personnel expense increased 2.79 percent. This increase reflects the most recent agreement with the Western Education Association. A review of staffing positions continues to result in the consolidation and elimination of vacant positions where possible.

In response to the challenges in developing the General Fund 2014 – 2015 budget, College staff members with budget duties were asked to develop division and department financial plans with no increase in operational budgets. Mr. Knapper reported Operating Expenses, which include utilities increased 1.53 percent. Travel Expenses increased 1.13 percent. This expenditure includes several
Mr. Knapper reported there are notable changes in the Capital Improvement and Bond Fund. He reported the 2014 – 2015 Capital Improvement and Bond Fund budget is $9,203,720.00. He reported revenue sources for this budget include: $1,969,343.00 from net ad valorem property tax; $1,750,000.00 from Pioneer Hall Revenue Bonds 2014; $236,517.00 transfer from student housing for debt service; $850,000.00 transfer from bookstore accounts for Pioneer Hall Addition and Renovation; and $219,100.00 from Facility Fee Revenue.

Mr. Knapper reported Capital Improvement and Bond Fund expenditures include a lump sum of $2,689,266.00 for yet to be specified capital projects, which are identified in the Facilities Master Plan. Additional projects will include external and internal improvements at the Scottsbluff and Sidney Campuses totaling $150,000.00; the Pioneer Hall addition and renovation project in the amount of $5,236,000.00, and $42,000.00 for the Sidney Campus modular housing units. The debt service for Scottsbluff Campus student housing, the Certificates of Participation, and the Harms Addition totaling $363,137.00 are also included in the expenditures. Mr. Knapper reported the debt has been reduced from $536,433.00 the previous year as a result of the last half of payment for the Certificates of Participation.

Mr. Knapper remarked the facilities needs of the College continue to challenge the organization. The Scottsbluff Main Campus building and Pioneer Residence Hall are now more than 40 years old. He commented the Facilities Master Plan study concluded in 2013 will provide guidance for updating educational, residential and office spaces.

Mr. Knapper reported the 2014 – 2015 Capital Improvement Fund Levy is proposed at $0.019010 of which $0.015504 is for capital projects and $0.003506 is for debt service (down from $0.005838 in 2013 – 2014).
Mr. Knapper reviewed the Western Area Property Tax Levy for the period of Fiscal Year 1992 – 1993 through the current year. The highest tax levy request of $0.127600 occurred in Fiscal Year 1993 – 1994. In Fiscal Year 2002 – 2003, the levy was $0.077270 reflecting the only year when the state aid formula was fully funded. The proposed total tax levy for the 2014 – 2015 College budgets is $0.100533. This proposed levy is a decrease of $0.002224.

Mr. Knapper reviewed the supporting schedules which show the College budget is within the legal limit of Restricted Funds Authority and also the Levy Limit Authority. These supporting schedules are required to be filed as a part of the Budget Document that is submitted to each County Clerk and the State Auditor’s Office on or before September 20 of each year.

Mr. Knapper reported the College has $4,409,895.02 in Unused Restricted Funds Authority. For the 2014 – 2015 Year, the only allowable increase the College will receive is the base limitation of 2.5 percent. Other allowable increases are: growth in student enrollment; a one percent increase if approved by a seventy-five percent vote of the governing body; or a voter approved increase through a special election. Mr. Knapper commented the administration is not requesting the Board approve an additional one percent or a voter approved increase.

Mr. Knapper pointed out the College has a total levy limit of 11.25 cents, which includes up to a two cent limit for the Capital Improvement and Bond Fund. He reported the levy limit may be exceeded by the amount necessary to retire debt. Mr. Knapper reviewed the Levy Limit Form. He remarked the total levy request, excluding debt, of $0.097130 is well below levy limit established by Nebraska statute. Likewise, the levy request for the Capital Improvement and Bond Funds of $0.015606 is below the two cent levy limit established by State Statute.

Mr. Knapper reported the College also has additional funds which are supported by non-tax dollars. The Board of Governors approves the claims for the Designated Fund, Restricted Fund, and Agency Fund each month. These funds are self-supporting.

Mr. Knapper presented the Designated Fund Budget in the amount of $5,503,811.00. This fund is comprised of proprietary or enterprise funds that are internally restricted for a
PUBLIC HEARINGS/ADOPTION OF 2014 – 2015 WCCA BUDGETS

specific purpose, such as the bookstore, food service, and student housing. Mr. Knapper remarked the funds are segregated by campus.

Mr. Knapper presented the Restricted Fund Budget in the amount of $7,499,864.00. This fund is comprised of monies which are externally restricted for a specific purpose, primarily state grants and direct Federal grants.

Mr. Knapper presented the Agency Fund Budget which is comprised of monies which the College holds in a fiduciary capacity for others, primarily student organizations. He requested authority to act in a fiduciary capacity for the Agency Fund Budget in the amount of $385,000.00.

Mr. Knapper recognized and thanked Dr. Holcomb for his early and committed response to the financial challenges that became evident as the budgets were prepared. He also recognized and thanked Mr. Groshans for his assistance in budgeting for personnel costs and also thanked all of the College staff members who had budget responsibilities. Mr. Knapper remarked the budgeting process at the College involves many within the institution, which hopefully keeps the organization well informed about the budget.

Mr. Knapper commented the financial plan developed for the 2014 – 2015 Fiscal Year aligns the resources of the institution with the commitment of the Board members, faculty and staff to making a difference in the future of everyone attending the institution and improving the quality of life throughout the area.

Public Comments

Dr. Gramberg asked for comments from the Board members concerning the proposed 2014 – 2015 Western Community College Area Budgets. There were none.

Dr. Gramberg asked for comments from the public concerning the proposed 2014 – 2015 Western Community College Area Budgets.

Mr. Stacy Swinney, Dawes County Commissioner, thanked the Board for reducing the levy. He reported last year the College received $730,000 in tax funds from Dawes County. He compared the amount sent to support the College to the amount Dawes County spends for roads and highways. He remarked this has caused concern, so a group met with Senator Davis to seek some way to expand
state funding and find property tax relief. Mr. Swinney assured the Board the group is not unhappy with the College; but, sees a need for properly tax relief. Mr. Swinney acknowledged that any change in the way the community colleges are funded would require legislative action. He invited College representatives to meet with Senator Davis and county representatives in an open discussion. A meeting with Senator Davis will be scheduled in early October, possibly on October 9, 2014. He suggested it might be possible to phase in a change in the funding that would provide property tax relief without adversely affecting the College’s ability to serve the needs of its constituents. Mr. Swinney again thanked the Board for reducing the levy; however, the reduction does not offset the increase in valuation.

Mr. Leseberg thanked the members of the public who came to speak to the Board about reducing property tax. He commented that he did not disagree that rising property taxes are a concern. He remarked that the Legislature has failed to fully fund the community college state-aid formula; thus, placing a greater burden on property taxes.

Mr. Steve Erdman, Morrill County Commissioner, thanked the Board for reducing the levy. He remarked that Morrill County spends approximately 45 percent of its budget on unfunded state mandates. He suggested the state should fund the community colleges much like it does the University of Nebraska. He commented any help the College can offer to reduce property taxes and increase state funding would be appreciated.

Dr. Gramberg asked for additional comments from the public. There were none.

Close Public Hearing

Adoption of 2014 – 2015 WCCA Budgets
General Fund

Mr. Daniels moved the Board adopt the 2014 – 2015 Western Community College Area General Fund Budget in the amount of $26,104,185.00 which will require funding from ad valorem property tax in the amount of $8,699,013.32 generating net ad valorem property tax receipts of $8,445,644.00. He further moved, pursuant to 85-1517(2)(a), the Board set the property tax levy for the 2014 – 2015
General Fund Budget at $0.081523 on each one hundred dollars on the taxable valuation of property subject to the levy within the Western Community College Area. Seconded by Ms. Klemke. The vote was, Yes: Klemke, Leseberg, Marcy, Nelson, Pavlista, Perkins, Shaver, Stickney, Walworth, Daniels, Gramberg. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Ms. Klemke moved the Board adopt the 2014 – 2015 Western Community College Area Capital Improvement and Bond Fund Budget in the amount of $9,203,720.00 which will require funding from ad valorem property tax in the amount of $2,028,423.29 generating net ad valorem property tax receipts of $1,969,343.00. She further moved, pursuant to Section 85-1517(2)(b) and Section 13-520 the Board set the property tax levy for the 2014 – 2015 Capital Improvement and Bond Fund at $0.019010 on each one hundred dollars on the taxable valuation of property subject to the levy within the Western Community College Area. Seconded by Ms. Walworth. The vote was, Yes: Leseberg, Marcy, Nelson, Pavlista, Perkins, Shaver, Stickney, Walworth, Daniels, Klemke, Gramberg. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Ms. Walworth moved the Board adopt the 2014 – 2015 Western Community College Area Designated Fund Budget in the amount of $5,503,811.00. Seconded by Mr. Stickney. The vote was, Yes: Marcy, Nelson, Pavlista, Perkins, Shaver, Stickney, Walworth, Daniels, Klemke, Leseberg, Gramberg. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Daniels moved the Board adopt the 2014 – 2015 Western Community College Area Restricted Fund Budget in the amount of $7,499,864.00. Seconded by Mr. Nelson. The vote was Yes: Nelson, Pavlista, Perkins, Shaver, Stickney, Walworth, Daniels, Klemke, Leseberg, Marcy, Gramberg. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Daniels moved the Board authorize the College to act in a fiduciary capacity for the Agency Funds that the College holds for others in the amount of $385,000.00 for the 2014 – 2015 Fiscal Year. Seconded by Ms. Walworth. The vote was, Yes: Pavlista, Perkins, Shaver, Stickney Walworth, Daniels, Klemke, Leseberg, Marcy, Nelson, Gramberg. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.
Pursuant to Section 77-1601.02, Dr. Gramberg declared the Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers related to setting the tax request at a different amount than the prior year tax request open at 1:51 p.m.

Mr. Knapper presented the 2013 – 2014 Property Tax Request and Property Tax Rates for the Western Community College Area Budgets as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Tax Request</th>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$8,142,394.11</td>
<td>$0.084456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Improvement</td>
<td>$1,764,399.27</td>
<td>$0.018301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Bond Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,906,793.38</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.102757</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Knapper reported the 2014 Assessed Valuation for the Western Community College Area is $10,670,571,755.00 as certified by the County Assessors of the Western Area on August 20, 2014. The assessed valuation of property within the Western Community College Area increased by 10.68 percent above the previous year. He remarked last year (2013) property valuations increased 5.68 percent. This year the assessed property valuation increased in all counties. He reported seven counties certified double-digit increases in assessed valuation: Box Butte County – 12.36 percent; Cheyenne County – 14.03 percent; Deuel County – 15.92 percent; Garden County – 16.24 percent; Morrill County – 12.94 percent; Sheridan County – 16.23 percent; and Sioux County 17.31 percent.

Mr. Knapper presented what the property tax rate would be using the 2013 – 2014 Property Tax Requests and the 2014 Valuation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Tax Request</th>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$8,142,394.11</td>
<td>$0.076307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Improvement</td>
<td>$1,764,399.27</td>
<td>$0.016535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Bond Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,906,793.38</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.092842</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. Knapper presented the 2014 – 2015 Actual Property Tax Requests and Rates as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Tax Request</th>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$8,699,013.32</td>
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<td>Capital Improvement and Bond Fund</td>
<td>$2,028,423.29</td>
<td>$0.019010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,727,436.61</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.100533</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Knapper remarked the total tax request includes a one percent collection fee and a two percent delinquent fee allowable by statute.

Mr. Knapper reported the 2014 Tax Rate represents a decrease of $0.002224 below the 2013 Tax Rate.

Public Comments

Dr. Gramberg asked for comments from the Board. There were none.

Dr. Gramberg asked for comments from the public concerning setting the tax request at a different amount than the prior year tax request.

Mr. Robert Post, Banner County Commissioner, speaking as a taxpayer, commented the tax request has increased nearly one million dollars even though the tax levy has decreased slightly. The result being taxpayers will see a tax increase because of the higher assessed valuation. He remarked that Banner County did not ask for more tax dollars. He encouraged the Board of Governors to leave the dollar amount of the College’s tax request the same as last year.

Close Hearing

Dr. Gramberg declared the Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the tax request at a different amount than the prior year request closed at 1:54 p.m.

Adoption of Final 2014 – 2015 Property Tax Request and Rate

Ms. Klemke moved, pursuant to Section 77-1601.02, the Board set the Western Community College Area General Fund 2014 – 2015 tax request at $8,699,013.32. She further moved, pursuant to Section 85-1517(2)(a), the Board set the final property tax levy for the 2014 – 2015 Western Community College Area General Fund at $0.081523 on each one hundred dollars on the taxable valuation of all
PUBLIC HEARINGS/ADOPTION OF 2014 – 2015 WCCA BUDGETS
Public Hearing for Setting a Tax Request Different than the Prior Year Cont.

Adoption of Final 2014 – 2015 Property Tax Request and Rate Capital Improvement and Bond Fund

property subject to the levy within the Western Community College Area. She further moved the Secretary be instructed to certify the final tax request and final tax levy to each county Board of Equalization within the Western Community College Area. Seconded by Mr. Nelson. The vote was, Yes: Perkins, Shaver, Stickney, Walworth, Daniels, Klemke, Leseberg, Marcy, Nelson, Pavlista, Gramberg. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Ms. Walworth moved, pursuant to Section 77-1601.02, the Board set the Western Community College Area Capital Improvement and Bond Fund 2014 – 2015 tax request at $2,028,423.29. She further moved, pursuant to Section 85-1517 (2)(b) and Section 13-520, the Board set the final property tax levy for the 2014 – 2015 Capital Improvement and Bond Fund at $0.019010 on each one hundred dollars on the taxable valuation of all property subject to the levy within the Western Community College Area. She further moved the Secretary be instructed to certify the final tax request and final tax levy to each county Board of Equalization within the Western Area. Seconded by Mr. Daniels. The vote was, Yes: Shaver, Stickney Walworth, Daniels, Klemke, Marcy, Nelson, Pavlista, Perkins, Gramberg. No: Leseberg. Absent: None. Motion carried.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING The next Regular meeting of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, immediately following the Public Hearings on the Proposed 2014 – 2015 WCCA Budgets, in the Boardroom, Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT Dr. Gramberg declared the meeting for the purpose of the Public Hearings and adoption of the proposed 2014 – 2015 Western Community College Area Budgets adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Meryn L. Gramberg, Chairperson Coral E. Richards, Secretary