

**MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING OF THE
REMOTE NOTARY COUNCIL**

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 1 p.m.
Attendees appeared remotely via WebEx

A meeting of the Remote Notary Council took place on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, beginning shortly after 1:00 p.m. All council members (Patti Epstein, Cheri Hipenbecker, Mark Ladd, Jessica Shrestha, and Phil Suckow) were present and appeared remotely via WebEx. The meeting proceeded as follows:

Old Business:

Review/adoption of previous meeting's minutes. On the motion of Phil Suckow (second by Jessica Shrestha), the Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its January 6, 2021 meeting.

Agency updates on program administration and outreach. Matt Lynch of the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) shared a draft status report on the implementation of Act 125 for publication on the DFI website and distribution to interested organizations. Lynch also discussed proposed revisions to the standard conditions of technology provider approvals, which would expressly limit the scope of the approval to the proposed technologies and methods described in a provider's application and representations to the Council.

New Business:

Review of technology provider applicant Astrean. The Council met with representatives Christopher Walker, Trevor Martin, and Reynaldo Villar of Astrean and asked questions regarding the company's technologies and capabilities. The representatives explained that the company was originally conceived as a vehicle for connecting individuals with notaries (an "Uber for notaries"), but pivoted to developing a remote online notarization platform after the pandemic. Astrean's platform has been built but is not yet live; Astrean first intends to complete additional testing with notaries. The representatives further noted that the company's remote online notarization platform complies with MISMO standards for identity proofing, retains notarial act recordings for ten years on the notary's behalf, and is able to provide DFI with weekly updates regarding Wisconsin notaries that have become newly authorized to use its platform.

Discussion and vote on applicants LiveNotary and Northwestern Mutual. Council members deliberated regarding two pending applications for approval of technology for use in remote online notarizations in Wisconsin: LiveNotary, a commercial provider, and Northwestern Mutual, which seeks approval of its platform for internal use under circumstances where identity proofing is unnecessary because the notary possesses adequate personal knowledge of the individual. Upon the motion of Jessica Shrestha (second by Patti Epstein), the Council voted 4-0 to approve each of these providers subject to the providers' acceptance and compliance with DFI's revised conditions of approval. Mark Ladd, as the Council representative for providers of communication technology generally, abstained from this vote on approval or disapproval of specific communication technology providers.

Planning for future meetings: The Council scheduled its next meeting for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 1 p.m. via Webex.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned shortly before 2 p.m.

/s/ Patti Epstein
Secretary, Remote Notary Council