

**Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR)**

**Minutes**

**FRIDAY – June 24, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department Training Center, 3140 N Street – Lincoln Nebraska**

**Opening comments**

**1. Roll Call**

First	Last	Organization	Attendance
Pat	Gerdes	Phelps County Emergency Management	x
Mark	Conrey	Douglas County 911 Center	x
Patrick	Foust	South Sioux City/Dakota County Emergency Management	x
Jim	Gerweck	Richardson County Emergency Management	x
Tim	Hofbauer	Columbus/Platte County Emergency Management	x
Larry	Thoren	Hasting Police Department	x
Pete	Peterson	Keith County Emergency Management	x
Ray	Richards	Scottsbluff County 911 Director	absent
Thomas	Schwarten	Nebraska State Patrol	x
Dave	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District	x

1. **Open Meetings Law information**- verification of public notice, availability of copy of law
2. **Approval of Minutes**– Dave Webb made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2011 meeting. Thomas Schwarten seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus (Ray Richards absent, Jim Gerweck abstained).

**Discussion Items**

1. **Governance/Network Subcommittee Report :Tim Hofbauer, Columbus/Platte Emergency Management**  
The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) legal team clarified the issue surrounding interlocal agreements. NPPD will be able to do interlocal agreements involving equipment and site sharing/exchange. The group now has approval to move forward in creating agreements. The impact of the interlocal agreement with NPPD is huge and will be great for cost savings and efficiency. The committee will need to look at whether agreements would be between regions or individual counties. The Governance/Network Subcommittee will start creating a timeline and plan for this process. There has been some discussion on the governance of the project after the project ends. Tim Hofbauer and Mark DeKraai have reviewed the previous model and discussed some options for streamlining it. Mark DeKraai and Denise Bulling will facilitate a meeting to discuss who should be involved in this process and who will govern. It will be important to include key stakeholders in these meetings. The committee feels that there are two main discussions: the technical and the usage issues. Different people need to be included for each. The committee would like each region to identify at least two people to be involved in this project, one with Information Technology (IT) expertise and another for the operational aspect, and send this information to Tim Hofbauer by July 8<sup>th</sup>. It will also be necessary to involve some people from OCIO in this process and later down the road some county attorney involvement.
2. **Regional Interoperability Network Project Update: Rod Hutt, NEMA; Mark Higgins, CSI, Inc.**  
The Panhandle Pilot Project is moving ahead and equipment orders are being submitted. It will take 6-8 weeks to receive equipment. Then CSI will begin installation. All materials are ordered for ring locations (Angora to Mullen, and Dunning to Ogallala to North Sterling). CSI is waiting to order materials for the US Cellar tower at Oshkosh because ownership has changed so the costs and options are being reviewed. Licensing is ordered for all of those sites as well. Licensing approval will take about 15-30 days. Once the coordination process and approval is done equipment installation can begin. Tower mapping and structural analysis is beginning in the Southwest and South Central Regions. NEMA is working on getting Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for tower owners and EHP documentation has been submitted. Similar work has begun in the Southeast Region and CSI and NEMA are ready to start looking at some of their available facilities. The East Central Region will likely

have to use a lot of elevators because they lack usable towers in their region. The Southwest Region came together very well and it should be possible to move into the next phase much more quickly with the next region.

**3. Mutual Aid Project Update: NEMA; Mike Jeffres, OCIO**

Nothing new to report for Phelps County. The Tri-County area has a commitment from Raven that they will send two new IP boxes to Motorola by the first of July, which will allow testing to begin to see if they will work. There are three dispatch centers in the North Central Region that are working to install a console system. Once installed, this system would allow the dispatch centers to patch through from the State Radio System to a user on a local system, giving them coverage in sixteen counties. There are still several issues to be worked out between Motorola and Raven, so that part of the project will likely not be tested until after September.

**4. Interop Solutions/Paraclete Project Update: Sue Krogman, NEMA**

Training is on hold while the training staff is assisting with the flooding disaster efforts. Once things are under control, training will resume. More technical people will be added to the training cadre so that they can take care of problems as they arise in the field.

**5. TICP/SCIP Revision Project Update: Bob Eastwood, NEMA**

Tactical Interoperability Communications Plans (TICPs) were final as of the end of the year, but revisions are still being accepted. It is important to use the file format discussed last year, including saving the documents with the date in MMDDYY format. Next year there will be another TICP workshop and another round of TICPs will be due at the end of that year. A Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) workshop was held; Bob will send out the goals when he receives them. NCOR can review and approve and have different individuals contribute different sections. The operating procedures will be added in to the SCIP in future revisions.

**6. NECP Goal 2 Compliance: Sue Krogman, NEMA**

Sue Krogman added all of the NCOR members as regional users so they are capable for reporting for their counties. Sue has drafted a letter to the counties letting them know about the Goal 2 deadline. NCOR would like to again express their desire to see a full time SWIC appointed for the state of Nebraska who has expertise in this area. While it was decided at the last meeting that the NCOR reps would be the points of contact for Goal 2 purposes they feel they were unaware that it was the state, not the local entities that are responsible for reporting to the federal government when they made that decision. The members feel they do not have the authority to force counties to comply with Goal 2 requirements. The committee agrees to send a list to Sue Krogman by July 8<sup>th</sup> regarding who will be the point of contact for each county in their region. Janell Walther, PPC, will prepare a summary the Goal 2 workshop and Jim Lundsted is willing to hold a webinar on the topic if there is enough interest.

**7. Narrowbanding Project: Pete Peterson, Keith County Emergency Management; Mike Jeffres, OCIO**

50 people participated in the narrowbanding webinar. The slides and audio from the webinar are available on the website under News. Janell Walther will work to track how many people access the webinar on the website.

**8. Statewide Interoperability Coordinator- Pete Peterson**

Pete Peterson sent a letter to the governor summarizing NCORs desire to see a full-time SWIC appointed for Nebraska, but has received no response back. The council feels the lack of a full-time SWIC is slowing the progress of the project which is problematic. Sue has agreed to fill some of that role during this time. The primary issue is that there is no funding available for a SWIC position. It is possible to request deficit funding from the legislature next year but there is no guarantee that would pass. The SWIC newsletter is currently going to NEMA, the Lt. Governor's office, and OCIO. NCOR is interested in exploring the possibility of MOU'ing enough funds back to the state from the regions to fund this position. Pete will work with Al Berndt to assess what the annual cost of the SWIC position would be and then see if some regions would be willing to use some of their planning funds to fund the position.

**1. NEMA: Bob Eastwood, Nikki Weber**

John Myers is the coordinator for Region 7 (FEMA). They have representatives for each state and meet biannually in person with additional meetings by phone to discuss issues at state and federal level. The coordinators work with tactical issues and are available to help states in their emergency communication needs and are able to provide additional resources on this issue.

2007 funds end June 30<sup>th</sup>. If a region needs an extension for 2008 funds please submit a letter to Al Berndt in writing stating why you need an extension and for how long. The 2008 grant ends Aug 31<sup>st</sup>. 2009 will end a year from now. All TIMR plans came in; if you didn't get a response let us know and we will get back to you.

**2. University of Nebraska PPC: Janell Walther**

The PPC sent out three newsletters this month: one on frequencies, one on mutual aid, & one on narrowbanding. The Narrowbanding webinar is available on the News page of the Homeland Planning website. Goal 2 information is also available on the News page under Office of Emergency Communications. The final 2011 Investment Justifications will be placed on the website. The next Interoperability webinar is July 26. It will target emergency responders so please help get the word out. July 15 is the Disaster Behavioral Health Conference in Omaha, which will be geared towards threat assessment this year.

**3. OCIO- No Report.**

**4. NCOR representatives to N-WIN- No report.**

**5. SECC Update**

The committee passed procedures at their last meeting and now has an official member list. All members will have alternates so that there is always quorum. The Minutes will be sent out to everyone. A grant will help fund new equipment for the emergency alert system; broadcasters appear to be taking advantage of that program.

**Comments**

**1. Member comments**

To clarify, the mutual aid and statewide systems are totally different so at this time mutual aid cannot be used by troopers. Larry Thoren notes that these gaps in communication can be very dangerous for law enforcement officers, especially in high-speed chases. OCIO is revising fleet maps to help determine if troopers can talk on mutual aid frequencies on the statewide system. There are three locations under consideration for a consolette on the State Radio System; they are Keith County, Region 26, and Buffalo County. These pilot projects could potentially help with some of the communications issues.

**2. Public comments**

Next Meeting – Friday, July 22, 2011, 10:00 AM, location TBD.