

North Central Region PET Meeting Minutes June 10, 2011 – Thedford, Nebraska

Chairman Alma Beland called the meeting to order on Friday, June 10, 2011 at Brahmer's Steakhouse in Thedford, NE at 11:06 a.m. Present: Alma Beland/Region 26, Doug Fox/Region 24, Pete Peterson/Keith County, Shawn Owens/Custer County, Nancy Parliament/ Custer County Communications, Kevin Hood/Thomas County, Janell Walther/PPC, Chris Blaha/ETO and Eric Hess/SES.

After approving the minutes from our last board meeting, Eric Hess of SES, Inc. was present to discuss the five year contract with the Department of Agriculture on emergency preparedness support to the region. He would like to have a workshop or tabletop leading to an exercise. His company would facilitate the trainings. Given the seriousness of a potential emergency, Doug feels that this information needs to be channeled through NACO or the Nebraska Cattleman's Association directed to counties with feed lots and sale barns that will impact the most producers.

Debris Management- Alma wondered if anyone had any problems? Doug stated he has had to put John Ferrone off due to flooding in his area. Pete and Alma have received their first drafts. The group discussed that the footwork will most likely fall on the Emergency Managers.

CODE RED- No clarification has been given concerning the minutes. It was mentioned that the system was very "user friendly", has the ability to call out specific groups. By use of a map, everyone in the specified area or programmed groups would be included in the call. "Operator intercept" is a problem with cell phone "ringback tones". This can be solved by a simple programming. Jim Ericson would be available to help with problems that might arise.

Communications Workshop- The dates for this statewide Communication Workshop is June 22nd and 23rd. there will be a narrowband webinar on June 20th at noon. Radio frequencies can be found at publicsafetytools.info. All wideband frequencies will not be available after December 31, 2012.

Credentialing System- During the NAEM Conference, Doug won a subscription with Midland System. Shawn would like for the region to purchase printers for system to comply with the possibility of a mandate coming from the State for a statewide credentialing system. The group felt that it would make sense for all the regions to be using the same system throughout.

ETO cell phone- Doug has had problems with US Cellular billing. Pete felt it would be beneficial for Doug to advance bill for three months from the state to pay the bill in a timely matter.

ETO laptop computer- Chris has reported to the region that there is a problem with the connection port on the laptop. Apparently this is a common problem where the connection port will separate from the mother board. It can be attempted to be soldered. The group decided for Chris to take it to Mike at Platte Valley communications in Kearney to be repaired.

ETO email- Due to the reliability to of a Hotmail acct and some sensitive material, Chris will inquire about a secure e-mail from Regional Information Sharing Systems Program Automated Trusted Information Exchange. (RISS ATIX)

The Region has significant flooding in many areas and the Directors have been quite busy.

2010 Grant- The group discussed the 2010 Workplan. There was discussion and movement of some items in different grant years to agree on submission. Pete would like continued ability to move items within grant years.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Chris Blaha, Secretary