Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Minutes
December 7, 2015, 01:00 PM CST
Nebraska State Capitol, 1445 K St., Lincoln NE 68509

Opening Comments

1. **Roll Call**

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Attendance
Mike	Foley	Lt. Governor	X
Mark	Conrey	Tri-County PET Region	
Roger	Foster	League of Municipalities	
Kevin	Garvin	Northeast PET Region	X
Pat	Gerdes	Southwest PET Region	
Tim	Hofbauer	East Central PET Region	X
Adam	Matzner	State Fire Marshal	X
Tom	Nutt	Nebraska Association of County Officials	X
Pete	Peterson	North Central PET Region	X
Ray	Richards	Panhandle PET Region	X
Jon	Rosenlund	South Central PET Region	X
Ray	Ryan	Southeast PET Region	
Tom	Schwarten	Nebraska State Patrol	X
Jayne	Scofield	Office of the Chief Information Officer, Chair	X
Craig	Stover	Game and Parks Department	
Ed	Toner	Office of the Chief Information Officer	
Bryan	Tuma	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	X
David	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District	

Others in attendance: Denise Bulling, Mark DeKraai, Jim Heine, Dan Hiller, Pam Kemper, Sue Krogman, James Lundsted, Russ Stanczyk, Nikki Weber, Bob Wilhelm, and Janell Walther, and Quinn Lewandowski

2. **Open Meeting Law Information – verification of public notice, availability of copy of law in the meeting location – NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 THROUGH 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007)**

3. **Welcome and Introductions**
   Lt. Governor Mike Foley called the meeting to order at 01:03 PM Central Standard Time. A quorum of members was present.

4. **Approval of Minutes**
   Tom Nutt made a motion to approve the September 3, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tim Hofbauer; the motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstaining votes and no dissensions.

5. **Public Safety Communications Information and Reports**
    a. **Update on NRIN installment status – Sue Krogman, NEMA**
       The extremely cooperative weather has allowed the contractors to continue work on the three NRIN installments across the states. Work on the Giltner NET site is nearly complete; work on the Cheney to Nebraska City link and the new county tower in Albion continues.
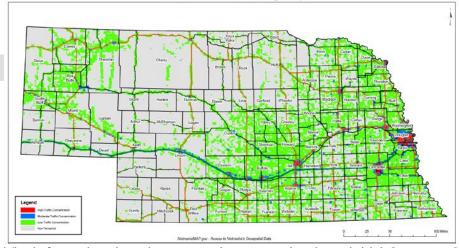
    b. **Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) –Tim Hofbauer, East Central PET Region**
       The committee has continued working on collecting interlocal agreements signed by counties and cities in support of the NRINC. To date, there are 45 counties and two cities that have signed the NRIN interlocal agreement. Elections for a governance board for NRIN will include voters from all entities that have entered into the interlocal agreement. Each of the eight regions will be represented by two regional representatives. The deadline for governance board member nominations is December 15th, 2015. Each NRIN member who has signed an interlocal agreement will have two votes in this inaugural election. Elections for the NRIN Governance Board will take place throughout the month of January, and the first meeting of the newly formed NRIN Governance Board should take place before February 29th, 2016. The next NRIN meeting will be held on December 16th at 1:00 PM CST.

    c. **Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) Working Group report – Bob Wilhelm, OCIO**
       The NPSBN Working Group has been gathering information and input from the regions to provide insight and information about any possible discrepancies of the initial FirstNet map:

Nebraska Baseline Coverage Map

The information that FirstNet used to create the above initial Coverage Objective Map included: public safety user population, public safety high risk/areas of interest, population density, developed areas/buildings, and roadways.

The subcommittee met and reviewed the information received during the regional workshops and provided the following recommendations for the five phases of deployment for the FirstNet Network across Nebraska:
1. Interstate and Federal Highways – with a 5 mile coverage radius from the center line.
2. State Highways – with a 2 mile coverage radius from the center line.
3. Increase coverage and capacity within population areas.

4. Locations without current land mobile radio or cellular coverage.

5. Major Critical Infrastructure, county seats, government administrative and communications facilities. Give review and consideration to areas not provided coverage in previous priorities in Phases 1-4.

The Working Group met on September 29th, 2015 at which time they approved the above recommendations of the subcommittee. During this process it was recognized that the unknowns and details FirstNet could not provide Nebraska regarding their plan or vision about how it would look, operate, or unfold had added difficulty to Nebraska's effort to provide FirstNet with the information they requested. Having said that, Nebraska is pleased with the opportunity to provide input to FirstNet and with the interaction and exchange we had with our stakeholders during this process.

The map below was submitted to FirstNet and represents enhancements based on Nebraska's stakeholder input into the initial Coverage Objective map from FirstNet (pictured above) and the recommended phases of deployment.

Nebraska Baseline Coverage Objective Map from Regional Workshops

d. **State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) – Janell Walther, UN PPC**
The State Emergency Communications Committee last met on September 17. Their next meeting is this Thursday, December 10th.

The SECC will set the 2016 required monthly test (RMT) schedule and discuss the tornado alert waiver for 2016. The SECC is in the process of creating standard operating procedures for the Nebraska Emergency Alert (EAS) system. SECC minutes and updates are posted online at http://ne-eas.org.

e. **Statewide Radio System (SRS) – Jayne Scofield, OCIO**
The SRS is in place and continues to work, and continues to refine and improve the system. NEMA went through a drill with the OCIO and NSP. The drill tested the SRS from the Grand Island area. The drill discovered some training deficiencies and coverage issues. Currently working with OCIO to patch up the coverage issues experienced from that drill most notably in the Webster County

area. On January 27th, 2016 a larger scale SRS drill will take place with on utilizing the Lincoln and Omaha area. The exercises will continue to gradual scale up the size and complexity of the drills to be ready for the April/May TERREX exercise.

f. **Paraclete project – Bryan Tuma, NEMA**
Paraclete is supposed to serve as the backbone for the IPAWS network, yet there are only a handful of individuals that utilize Paraclete. The annual cost for the Paraclete license is $200,000, the cost of which is split by each of the PET regions. AlertSense or Code Red has been used in other states as a backbone for IPAWS network. In some preliminary discussions with representatives, Code Red is willing to provide a state license for $25,000 with some initial programming fees.

g. **Regional updates**
   i. **Southeast – Ray Ryan**
   NRIN microwave system installation in the Southeast Region should be completed by the end of December. Regional 911 Phone system contract language has been approved by all involved parties and is being signed. The City of Lincoln's New P25 radio system RFP's are currently being reviewed.
   ii. **Tri-County – Mark Conrey**
   No changes in the region to report. Washington County is implementing IP simulcast and TDMA.
   iii. **Northeast – Kevin Garvin**
   Under the FY 15 SHSG, we have approval to install an SRS consolette at Norfolk Police Division. Under FY 14 we installed the consolette at Dakota, Knox and Wayne. Once all the equipment is installed and OCIO completes training almost all the dispatch centers in the NE Region will have the BROC channel capability for interoperable communications. Anticipated completion is spring 2016. In September, the Ponca State Park holds the Missouri River Outdoor Expo that draws and estimated 50,000 people. Each year the park asks the Northeast All Hazards Incident Support team to assist with communications. For the 2015 event, the OCIO Public Safety group was asked to help out. Cory Simmons with OCIO brought up the portable tower and related equipment OCIO successfully created a temporary site to provide coverage for SRS users. The Northeast team provided equipment and technical support to make sure that the local agencies involved in the event had interoperable communications. OCIO provided equipment and technical support to make sure that State Agencies involved in the event had both operable and interoperable communications. An incident dispatch center was established complete with teletype capabilities and experienced dispatchers on site for each day of the event. A large challenge regarding interoperable communications in the NE region still remains training. There still remains a lot of confusion over the interoperability channels. Many responders don't use them on a regular basis and forget their training reverting back to what they are comfortable with. There are a few instances of agencies not having the channels in their radios.
   iv. **East Central – Tim Hofbauer**

The NRIN is playing a big role in the regional 911 system. It is working out very well. After southern half of the ring was done it helped a lot. No problems since that. No issues on QOS. It is saving quite a bit of money.

v. **North Central – Pete Peterson**

Western half of their region of their NRIN ring is complete; the other eastern half of the region is waiting on the bend to come back around to complete the ring. NRIN activity is primarily confined to the western portion of the region. Still continue have the VHF and some UHF mutual aid base stations tied into the NRIN system into dispatch centers in Broken Bow and Ogallala. The dispatch center in Perkins County closed their doors October 1st and entered into an agreement with Keith county to provide that service. They are saving lots of money by piping their radio signals through NRIN. OCIO has provided great technical support.

vi. **South Central – Jon Rosenlund**

Eleven of the South Central counties have signed NRIN interlocal agreements. . A number of Paraclete users in the South Central region, and some good infrastructure tied into the Paraclete system.

vii. **Panhandle – Ray Richards**

They are waiting for the tower company to do some of the cleanup from the previous vendor. They currently do not have a clear shot from their PSAP out to their tower site, make some adjustments. Making a path calculation now. Once they have a clear path from the PSAP to the Minotaur site then they will have a clear shot to Angora NET. They should be up and running.

viii. **Southwest – Pat Gerdes**

The Southwest region has utilized grant funds and local funding where applicable to maintain the Paraclete equipment to allow for interoperability on the conventional systems. Although some counties have taken their equipment offline, some areas still serve as hubs for the equipment and can still be utilized. Each PSAP has been equipped with a SRS consolette to provide connectivity from dispatch to a Trooper or a Troop Dispatch. No provisions have been made to allow any patching of these to local agencies at this time. The region will be purchasing an SRS radio for each Emergency Management Office to allow for interoperability by at least one local agency. Dundy County now has a 800 MHz base station on the 8TAC43 channel to allow communications between Dundy, Yuma County Colorado, and Cheyenne County Kansas. The NRIN service has been routed from Keith County to McCook. Due to infrastructure issues the system cannot get to Beaver City, Curtis Dispatch or to Atlanta NET to connect the South Central and Southwest together. There is a need for more towers or fiber optic connectivity to continue this project.

h. **Member Comments**

Colorado has been very innovative with their FirstNet activities. To support public safety communications for the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in Colorado, the OIT/ FirstNet Colorado implemented a demonstration PS LTE broadband network using the FirstNet licensed 700 MHz spectrum with General Dynamics LTE technology. Users of the Public Safety LTE network included the Vail Police Department, Beaver Creek Sheriffs, Federal Law Enforcement

agencies, FBI, National Guard, FEMA, and numerous local agencies and public safety support personnel. FirstNet Colorado's experience at the Ski Championships in Vail, CO video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQnlcT4nMKQ

This technology was also used at the 2015 University of Iowa vs. University of Nebraska football game to help screen attendees.

6. **Public Comments**
   No public comments were made.

7. **Next Meeting**
   The next meeting of the NPSCC is scheduled to take place: March 15th, 2016 in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Lincoln Community Foundation Building (215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508) at 01:00 PM CST.

8. **Adjourn**
   Jon Rosenlund made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded Tom Schwarten; the motion passed by consensus. The meeting adjourned at 02:39 PM CST.

Acronym	Meaning
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EAS	Emergency Alert System
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
IP	Internet Protocol address
NACO	Nebraska Association of County Officials
NCOR	Nebraska Council of Regions
NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NPPD	Nebraska Public Power District
NPSCC	Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council
NRIN	Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network
OCIO	Office of the Chief Information Officer
PET	Planning, Exercise, and Training
RFP	Request for proposals
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
SPR	State Preparedness Report
SRS	Statewide Radio System
SUG	Statewide Radio System Users Group
TDMA	Time division multiple access
TEPW	Training, Exercise, & Planning Workshop
THIRA	Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
UHF	Ultra high frequency
VHF	Very high frequency