Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2017, 10:00 AM CDT
State Capitol
1445 K Street Room 1023
Lincoln, NE 68508

Opening Comments

1. **Roll Call**

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

Others in attendance: Sue Krogman, Pam Kemper, James Lundsted, Bob Wilhelm, Lon Rennea, Vanessa Zobeck, Denise Bulling, Brett Hoffman

2. **Welcome, Introductions, and Open Meeting Law Information**
Bryan Tuma, called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM Central Daylight Time. Mr. Tuma verified public notice and availability of copy of law in the meeting location – NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 THROUGH 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007)

3. **Approval of Minutes**
Ike Brown made a motion to approve the March 14, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ray Richards; the motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstaining votes and no dissenting votes.

4. **Public Safety Communications Information and Reports**

   a. **Final Homeland Security Communications Project Submission – Nikki Weber**
      Nikki Weber was not present at the meeting; no update was provided.

   b. **Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Build Out Report – Sue Krogman**
      The buildout map was provided at the meeting and has been updated to show the progress of construction and installation. There are multiple areas under construction. A few areas have equipment purchased and are waiting for construction. Some counties have scheduled meetings to discuss NRIN capabilities. There are many counties using NRIN as their primary or secondary service. Some areas are able to use existing fiber networks with NRIN.

      A second map was provided at the meeting to compare NRIN usage areas to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) statewide.

   c. **Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Board Report – Tim Hofbauer/Jon Rosenlund**
      The NRIN Board is working on governance issues. There are three sub-committees working on various tasks to establish and develop NRIN:
      i. The Finance Committee is researching and developing a cost structure to operate and maintain the network. This committee will establish a rate for network usage to provide sustainability for NRIN.
      ii. The Technical Committee is collaborating with the Finance committee to identify costs to equipment as it becomes obsolete. This committee is also working with potential vendors and organizations to manage, monitor, and maintain the system moving forward.
      iii. The Policy Administration/Outreach Committee is working with a marketing firm, to develop a promotional video explaining NRIN capabilities. This video is to assist during presentations to county boards and other stakeholders. The Policy Administration/Outreach committee has created an application to be used by any government organization interested in utilizing NRIN. Applications submitted are reviewed for approval at the NRIN Governance Board meetings.

   d. **FirstNet Report – Bob Wilhelm**
      The FirstNet project and working group hired an analyst to review FirstNet. Ms. Minera Jafar started her analysis in November of 2016 by reviewing information collected from around Nebraska, the regional meetings, and online survey data. Ms. Jafar compared the data collected to the plan which was released on June 19th. She created an 11 page executive summary and sent it to FirstNet and AT&T for review. The full 59 page report has been restricted to the workgroup because it contains proprietary information. The workgroup was briefed at their meeting on August 11th where the group voted for Ed Toner to recommend Nebraska to opt in.

      The outreach and education Grant ends on January 1, 2018. Nebraska will be sending back $573,570 to the grant for the next cycle of funding. Sometime between March and November 30, 2018, the second portion of the grant will be released. Guidance will be released in mid-September.

      The Nebraska Public Safety Technology Summit was on September 27th and 28th at the Omaha Police and Fire Training Center. There were classroom sessions discussing broadband and ham radio topics.

Verizon has a strong footprint in Nebraska but AT&T is the official FirstNet vendor. Per Tim Hofbauer, Verizon and AT&T use different technologies for transmission so a roaming agreement between the two carriers would be difficult.

Regional Emergency Communications Council Working Group (RECCWG) meeting is in Kansas City on September 12th and 13th at FEMA Region 7 headquarters. Jim Lunstead can connect people with information on this event.

e. **Statewide Radio System (SRS) Report – Pam Kemper**
An updated map was provided at the meeting which shows Nebraska Dispatch, Regional Operations Common (ROC) Regions, and which dispatch centers have ROC capability (shared talk groups based on State Patrol Troop areas). Kimball and Cheyenne counties now have ROC and will receive official training in September. The map also shows which counties dispatch for neighboring counties. Kimball County is implementing radios on the Statewide Radio System (SRS) and will be using their ROC Consolette to monitor the dispatch channel instead of ROC. If they are needed on the ROCs, they can be contacted by phone to request their use.

There is a weekly ROC test and the response has been nearly 100%.

Agencies with dispatch systems on the SRS network have the ability to dispatch for each other which fits in well with their NG911 partnering. SRS radio system users all have shared talkgroups in their radios on which they can talk to each other.

The State Patrol's free radio program for local Law Enforcement agencies had 30 sheriffs' offices apply for the radios; 11 police departments applied and 7 emergency management agencies applied.

Four new RF sites were added to the SRS in the past year and two more will be added before the end of the year in response to user agencies' requests for improved coverage in their areas of operation.

f. **State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) – Denise Bulling**
The SECC plan is currently under review by the Federal Communications Committee (FCC). The SECC is conducting a survey of radio and TV stations to identify who offers multi-lingual alerts, what languages are used, and the reasons behind these options. The next meeting is September 20th.

g. **US Department of Homeland Security Report – James Lundsted**

Verizon and AT&T are competing for Government emergency telecommunication services which may result in fee changes.

The Office of Emergency Communication (OEC) was created post Hurricane Katrina and has created other agencies to improve Emergency Management. The focus of this office is communication and data interoperability. The OEC supports planning, preparation, response, and coordination ahead of an incident; they do not respond after an event. In Nebraska, the OEC works directly through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

The National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) has been developed into an application which can be downloaded to iPhone and Android devices. The OEC also develops various technical assistance activities.

The Communications Assets Survey and Mapping tool (CASM) helps in the development of Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs).
The OEC works closely with FEMA's National Integration System to deliver classes under the ICS Communications Unit.

h. **Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Report - Bryan Tuma**
    NEMA signed an agreement with Nebraska Task Force One; an urban search and rescue team. Nebraska can utilize the task force as Type III incident commanders, if an emergency is declared, FEMA personnel may soon be assigned or imbedded at the state level. Currently, Nebraska's FEMA representative is located at Region 7 in Kansas City. State directors are providing feedback on this concept and are waiting to hear the results which will be provided at the National meeting during the first part of October. Also up for discussion at the National Meeting is how the regions interact on a state and local level.

    NEMA is providing a daily brief through their Watch center. NEMA is working with the State's Division of Administrative Services to procure an incident management software that will be used to provide a common operating picture. NEMA would like feedback from local and regional personnel on whether such software would be beneficial.

i. **Regional updates**
    i. **Southeast –Ray Ryan**
        The Southeast region is making progress on the NRIN and SRS buildout. Lincoln, NE is upgrading their system which will connect with the SRS.

    ii. **Tri-County – Phil Brazelton**
        Douglas County is upgrading their base stations. The county anticipates working with Sue Krogman at NEMA to connect with NRIN.

    iii. **Northeast –Kevin Garvin**
        The dispatch center is upgrading their console.

    viii. **East Central – Tim Hofbauer**
        The East Central region is using the NRIN system as their primary 911 center. An Additional tower is coming online and will provide connection in the Northern ring. The region is also working on base station projects. The Albion area is looking at the possibility of establishing connection to NRIN. Platte County is considering combining their 911 dispatch with the City of Columbus and have three possible locations.

    iv. **North Central – Mark Rempe**

The North Central region is working on insurance coverage for towers and NRIN connections.

v. **South Central – Jon Rosenlund**
The South Central region was not present at this meeting.

vi. **Southwest – Ike Brown**
The Southwest Region is working on exercises and coordination. The South Central region is collaborating with the Southwest Region to support each other for 911 dispatch; equipment will be in place by the end of the year.

vii. **Panhandle – Ray Richards**
The Panhandle Region has had tower rent issues in Chadron. The region is not online with NRIN because of miscommunication between their technical representatives. The Chadron phone system has been upgraded. The Region's TICP was reviewed due to the total eclipse and some discrepancies were discovered, updated, and corrected. Mike Jeffries was recently onsite discussing recent problems with patching local resources to the SRS system. The region is no longer using the Sleuth system for law enforcement records management and will be going through a data migration to their new provider in the next few months.

5. **Member Comments**
The State Homeland Security Planning Workshops will take place in October.

6. **Public Comments**
Denise Bulling: Meeting materials are posted on the Homeland Security Planning website (http://www.homelandplanning.unl.edu/) but maps will not be provided in an effort to reduce potential criminal activity. Denise recommends this group meet in the fall to set priorities for communications prior to the Investment Justification (IJ) workshop which will begin in December or January.

7. **Next Meeting**
This fall after the State Homeland Security Planning Workshops.

8. **Adjourn**
Phil Brazelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark Rempe; the motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:23AM CDT.

Acronym	Meaning
CASM	Communications Assets Survey and Mapping
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DSL	Digital Subscriber Line
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EM	Emergency Management
EMPG	Emergency Management Performance Grant
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FFO	Federal Funding Opportunity
IJ	Investment Justification
IP	Internet Protocol address
MACH	Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
MDC	Mobile Data Computer
NACO	Nebraska Association of County Officials
NCOR	Nebraska Council of Regions
NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NPPD	Nebraska Public Power District
NPSBN	Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network
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
ROC	Regional Operations Common
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SME	Subject matter expert
SPR	State Preparedness Report
SRS	Statewide Radio System
THIRA	Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis
TEPW	Training, Exercise, Preparedness Workshop
TICP	Tactical Interoperable Communications Planning