

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2017, 1:00 PM CDT

University of Nebraska City Union – Regency Suite 1400 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Opening Comments

1. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Attendance
Mike	Foley	Lt. Governor	
Phil	Brazelton	Tri-County PET Region	
Roger	Foster	League of Municipalities	
Kevin	Garvin	Northeast PET Region	x
Ike	Brown	Southwest PET Region	x
Tim	Hofbauer	East Central PET Region	
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	x
Ray	Ryan	Southeast PET Region	x
Kyle	Otte	Nebraska State Patrol	x
Jayne	Scotfield	Office of the Chief Information Officer	
Craig	Stover	Game and Parks Department	
Bryan	Tuma	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Chair	x
David Designee: Matt	Webb Schnell	Nebraska Public Power District	x

Others in attendance: Sue Krogman, Pam Kemper, James Lundsted, Bob Wilhelm, Vanessa Zobeck, Denise Bulling, Quinn Lewandowski, Matthew May, Rod Zeigler, Kate Speck, Dave Sankey, Chip Volcek, Mark DeKraai

2. Welcome, Introductions, and Open Meeting Law Information

Bryan Tuma, called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM 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

Tom Nutt made a motion to approve the August 23, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Kevin Garvin; the motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstaining votes and no dissenting votes.

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4. Public Safety Communications Information and Reports

a. **Summary of Communication Priorities from the State THIRA/SPR/TEPW Workshops, the Senior Advisory Committee, and the Homeland Security Policy Group – Public Policy Center**

The purpose of the workshop last week was to prioritize the core capabilities, as shown on the heat map handout. The results advanced to the Senior Advisory Committee for review and potential modification. The Homeland Security Policy Group approved the priorities as presented to them after the Senior Advisory Committee modifications. The 2017 Priority Rating was the aggregate from the workshop and the subsequent review/approval meetings.

b. **2018 Investment Justification Process – Public Policy Center**

Guidelines for preparation of proposed projects for the 2018 State Homeland Security Grant Program application will be issued in December. The Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council serves as subject matter expert reviewers for all communications projects. All requests for communication projects come to this group for review and prioritizing. The projects will need to be rated independently prior to coming together as a group to creation of recommendations. Last year Cybersecurity requests bounced between two groups; direction has not been given on this topic again this year. The PET regions choose which area to place the project. Bryan Tuma will coordinate the creation of a Cybersecurity SME group

c. **Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Build Out Report – Sue Krogman**

The NRIN buildout has slowed since August. Pending construction is prioritized for future work. PSAP regionalization is being discussed with several counties with the possibility of NRIN serving as either the primary or the secondary network.

d. **Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Board Report – Tim Hofbauer/Jon Rosenlund**

The Board is meeting on a regular basis and is prioritizing the creation of a fee schedule in anticipation of moving future NRIN expenses from grant funding to more sustainable funding. The Board is currently collecting information on current costs for counties and network charges across Nebraska in order to provide a competitive rate. A firm has been hired to create a video for promotional purposes. Technological research is being completed in order to deliver Teletype over NRIN; this will require equipment upgrades in order to be compliant with security protocols. The Board is also reviewing vendor options for service level agreements for maintenance and monitoring of the network. Last year's grant awarded \$102,000 to sustain monitoring until the fee schedule is established.

e. **FirstNet Report – Bob Wilhelm**

On August 23rd, the Governor opted in to the FirstNet program with comments on proprietary questions, short-comings, and beneficial areas. The initial State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) award was \$1.5 million but Nebraska de-obligated funds back to the grant for the second year. The first year of the grant ends February 28th. The second year starts March 1st; Nebraska will apply but may not accept the grant because of the 20% match requirement.

AT&T has hired two people to work within Nebraska; one will be based out of Omaha and the other Denver.

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f. Statewide Radio System (SRS) Report – Pam Kemper and Matt Schnell

There are only two counties left in the state that do not have the Regional Operations Common (ROC) talk group control stations in their dispatch centers: Sheridan and Box Butte Counties. Sheridan County has one but has not installed it yet. There are 21 counties using the SRS with SRS networked dispatch systems and/or SRS user radios in the field. Eleven additional counties have signed intents to use the SRS but have not yet implemented it. The SRS also has a partnership with Lincoln-Lancaster County to bring their towers on the SRS master controllers and use the SRS for their dispatch center and users. Laramie County Wyoming, Pine Ridge Reservation, and Yankton South Dakota are interested in interoperability with the SRS. Nebraska will test the SRS ISSI capability with Missouri in the first part of 2018. ISSI provides the ability to communicate across P25 radio systems for inter subsystem interoperability.

Representatives from the OCIO presented at the Nebraska APCO/NENA annual conference on how the SRS benefits next generation 9-1-1 technology and FirstNet. They also exhibited at the annual Nebraska Sheriffs and Police Officer's Association Conference to promote the Statewide Radio System. They will be exhibiting at the NACO conference in December.

The SRS mobile tower was deployed to the Fort Kearney Outdoor Expo, Ash Hollow State Park 150-Year Celebration, Ponca State Park Missouri River Outdoor Expo, and the Nebraska State Fair to enhance radio coverage.

The Motorola XTL5000 free mobile radio grant program has had 33 applications from Sheriffs' offices, 8 Emergency Management agencies, and 12 Police Departments.

Regarding SRS infrastructure, four sites have been implemented over the past year to increase coverage. Two additional sites are in the process of being implemented. In the first quarter of 2018, another site will be completed in the Lynch area to increase coverage. A new circuit is being installed from the OCIO in Lincoln to NPPD in Kearney for additional SRS network redundancy. It will be completed soon. Tom Nutt spoke highly of how the SRS provides clear interoperable communications. He suggested that the Chairs of County Boards be contacted and encouraged to promote the use of the SRS in their jurisdictions.

g. State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) Report – Rod Zeigler

Alerting in the United States has been under scrutiny lately due to several natural disasters. The Alerting System (AS) was not used in the California fire. Alerting was inconsistent during the hurricanes. Nebraska has never had an approved state plan because we did not have a second source to receive Presidential alerts and this is required by the federal government. We now have the means available to implement a second source and a plan has been submitted to the FCC. The FCC declined the plan stating an internet connection as the state's second source was not sufficient. The draft plan mentions the internet because it's federally required. There are six stations that serve Eastern Nebraska but there are only four operational at night. The Multiple Plan PEP involves satellite as the second source. When the FCC approves the plan, the SECC then has to approve it and send it to the NPSCC for final approval. Bryan Tuma suggests putting the plan in front of the Lt. Governor before January and then NPSCC will hold a meeting to review the plan.

The Emergency Alert System language survey was ordered by the FCC. The survey results are to be compiled by November 6, 2017. The results have to be published to the FCC in 6 months but this is contingent on the approval of the state alerting plan.

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Amber Alert update: improvements are being made to the system. Guardians do not have to submit a signed release to start an alert. A verbal release is now acceptable. Blue alerts are pending FCC decision. Silver alerts are pending legislation but are on hold due to the potential for an endangered person alert.

The federal government passed legislation which makes the technical broadcast representatives first responders.

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) is in the process of new regulation implementation.

A new alert criteria was established for a “Tornado Emergency” alert.

On Nov. 14th, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will host an integrated warning team (IWT) workshop at the UNO student union. Media, EM community, and broadcasters are invited to attend and discuss how we can improve warnings.

h. US Department of Homeland Security Report – James Lundsted

The fiscal year 2018 technical assistance catalog has been released to the state for consideration. These trainings will be coordinated through OCIO. 2017 wrap up for a tactical and operations planning is November 30th in Columbus NE. The 2nd date and location for this planning is pending.

i. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Report - Bryan Tuma

NEMA is holding communications training and working with the regions to update their tactical interoperable communications planning (TICPs). NEMA is continuing to work on a request for proposal (RFP) for an incident management software program; this is pending due to the deficit in the state budget. Efforts to merge resources are taking place in order to move these projects forward.

Damage assessments may be done soon using a wireless or handheld device with GIS capabilities. This system improves damage calculations and the speed of the report to FEMA who may provide assistance for the program. This new model is a nationwide effort and will be in effect by the next event in Nebraska.

Alert Sense is being implemented through the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) across the state but there have been a few technical glitches. Nebraska may pursue the use of a software to assist with standardized plan development.

Dan Hiller, the current Planning Unit Supervisor, is retiring effective tomorrow. Dan’s position will be posted soon.

j. Regional updates

i. Southeast –Ray Ryan

There was no update from the Southeast Region.

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ii. Tri-County – Phil Brazelton

The Tri-County Region was not present at this meeting.

iii. Northeast –Kevin Garvin

There was no update from the Northeast Region.

viii. East Central – Tim Hofbauer

The East Central Region was not present at this meeting.

iv. North Central – Mark Rempe

The North Central Region is working with Sue Krogman at NEMA to prepare for NRIN capabilities.

v. South Central – Jon Rosenlund

The South Central region is working on the NRIN buildout. The county representatives are working with a local owner, who was a past emergency manager, to lease property for a tower which will extend NRIN southward. The region is considering the addition of two towers. 911 communications has a regional system, a Centurylink Viper system, used by multiple counties. The majority of counties in the South Central Region have access to SRS through the consolettes. Hall County is building a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which will include dispatch.

vi. Southwest – Ike Brown

Lincoln, Franklin, Dawson, and Buffalo County are sharing Viper. Hitchcock, Chase, and Dundee Counties are planning to join this agreement as well. The Southwest Region will be regionalizing their mapping system with Lincoln County with Geocomm as the provider. They anticipate being operational in February.

vii. Panhandle – Ray Richards

The Lake Minitare Power Site equipment was damaged during shipping and needs replaced. The Region has a new vendor, Zurcher out of Sioux Falls, for Records Management; Zurcher. Text to 911 has a slow response and is very rudimentary so they have not published a press release to push this service. State Patrol Troop B dispatch is no longer emanating out of the Panhandle, but the region continues to work closely with North Platte to assist them on a variety of calls.

5. Member Comments

Bryan Tuma asked if the State Patrol transitioned to a new CAD system for SRS. Kyle Otte responded that yes, it is in the process of transitioning to a new product.

6. Public Comments

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Matthew May: Asked the group if there was anything he should bring up to the Regional Emergency Communications Council Work Group (RECCWG) Region 7 – there was nothing from the members.

7. Next Meeting

At the next meeting, the Board is the SME for the investment justification workshop proceedings.. Sue Krogman suggests the NPSCC Board meet regularly, at least every 3 months, due to all of the communication progress in the state. The next meeting will be in February after the regions place and prioritize projects.

The NextGen 911 plan will be reviewed by the Public Service Commission next week. The project will then be reviewed by the Legislature on December 13th at 10:30am with an opportunity for public comment at 1pm. One significant change in the report is a plan to initiate NextGen 911 without an increase in surcharge funds.

8. Adjourn

Jon Rosenlund 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 2:27PM CDT.

Acronym	Meaning
APCO	Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
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
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFO	Federal Funding Opportunity
GIS	Geographic Information System
IJ	Investment Justification
IP	Internet Protocol address
IPAWS	Integrated Public Alert & Warning System
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

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NPSBN	Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network
NPSCC	Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council
NRIN	Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network
OCIO	Office of the Chief Information Officer
PDA	Personal Digital Assistant
PET	Planning, Exercise, and Training
RECCWG	Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Work Group
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