

## **NRIN Meeting**

**February 24, 2014**

**Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Chip Volcek	Adams County Emergency Management
Tim Hofbauer	East Central PET Region, Platte County Emergency Management
Pete Peterson	North Central PET Region, Keith County Emergency Management
Ike Brown	McCook Police Department
Ron Kallhoff	Nebraska Educational Television
Sue Krogman	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
Mike Clabo	Nebraska Public Power District
Ray Ryan	Southeast PET Region, Lincoln Emergency Management
Janell Walther	University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
Mark DeKraai	University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

*Non-attending committee members:* Ray Richards, Scotts Bluff County; Neil Miller, Buffalo County Sheriff; Mark Conrey, Douglas County Communications; and John Bomar, Fire Chief, Madison Nebraska.

**Overview of NRIN**

The Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) will carry voice and data communications across the state with end points at each Public Safety Answer Point (PSAP), or dispatch center. The goal is to have 85-90% of the build out complete by August 30, 2014 with 100% completion in Spring 2015 (pending grant funding). Counties and PSAPs are needed to join the project in order to ensure maintenance and use. Potential future uses for NRIN could be as a transport or back up for 911 in each county. The system will work to enhance public safety communications once complete.

In regards to sustainability, the existing contract pays for the first year of management and maintenance, but not costs like leases and electricity. The contractor pays for two years of maintenance to the system. We would like to have an inter-local agreement with each PSAP that includes a cost per county to cover tower leases, maintenance, and management in order to divide the cost more evenly. As long as State Homeland Security Grant funding continues, the counties will not need to pay with county dollars. The current estimate per county without the grant funding is approximately \$2,000 per county. Some Regions have arranged for initial monitoring and management for tasks such as creating routes and setting endpoints through the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer. There will be challenges if other regions select different vendors for these functions.

A challenge is getting NRIN to become connected and functional in areas where it is already constructed to demonstrate utility.

One of the difficulties with outreach is knowing what it will do and when it will do it.

## **NRIN Outreach**

It is important to identify the audience for outreach and put together a brief one-pager or “treatment” talking about what it can do and include key contact information. Additionally, it will be useful to create a short video and a website for reference. NET can work with a small group of individuals and a prepared script or outline to create a short video vignette for approximately \$4,000-\$8,000 (for in-studio work at state rates).

*Audience:* Key levels for outreach will be:

1. High-Level – such as county commissioners and elected officials
2. Professional Level – such as sheriffs, PSAP directors, emergency managers, and other potential users of NRIN
3. General Public Level – through editorials, for example

For each of these groups, it is important to identify the high-level “why” and “why not” to participation in the NRIN system. What functionality is associated with NRIN.

Measurements of outreach success will be in the participation rate (county buy-in), number of presentations given, number of communication meetings held, and/or number of public safety stories published in local media.

## **Next Steps**

1. Sue and Pete will work to hook up the NRIN equipment in Scottsbluff and teach Scottsbluff how to use NRIN for data transfer.
2. The Public Policy Center will help scheduled an “NRIN Champions” meeting will be scheduled in Kearney to discuss key messaging and outreach ideas on April 23<sup>rd</sup> (approximate date).
3. Sue will see if grant funding may be used for NRIN outreach and NET video.
4. A small NRIN Communications Committee (Chip, Ron, Mike, Tim, and Janell) will help to create key messaging and create marketing plan noting target population, vehicles for outreach, and estimating the costs of messaging.
5. Pete will prepare a “Show & Tell” for areas west of Kearney about the NRIN system.
6. The NRIN Committee will discuss NRIN governance and finances.