

**Southeast Nebraska Emergency Management Group  
Regional Governance Board  
MINUTES  
April 15, 2009 – 9 am  
Regular Meeting  
Gage County Emergency Operations Center, Beatrice, Nebraska**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman James Gerweck called the regular meeting of the Southeast Regional Emergency Management Governance Board to order at 9:04 a.m. on April 15, 2009 at the Gage County Emergency Operations Center, Beatrice, Nebraska. The meeting was held in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act was available for inspection.

Present were board members William Cover (Cass County), Bob Cole (Nemaha County), Mark Meints (Gage County), Kevin Edelmaier (Johnson County), Doug Ahlberg (Lancaster County), Mike Wilcox (Pawnee County), James Gerweck, Richardson County, Dan Jantzen (Thayer County), and Gary Petersen (Seward & York Counties). Gregg Goebel (Otoe County). Board members Terry Marshall (Fillmore County), John McKee (Jefferson County), B.J. Fictum (Saline County) and Gregg Goebel (Otoe County) were absent.

**2. Reception of Guests/Visitors:**

Guests included: Mark Hosking, Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department; Josh Groleau, SEMRS Coordinator; Lisa Bloss, Southeast District Health Department; David Niemeyer, Gage County EMA; Wayne Svoboda, Volunteer Partners; Brian Daake, Beatrice Fire & Rescue; Tom Hiser, Seward County EMA; and Dr. Denise Bulling, University of Nebraska Policy Center.

**3. Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made by Bob Cole and seconded by Bill Cover to approve the agenda as presented. Voting aye were Gerweck, Edelmaier, Meints, Cole, Wilcox, Cover, Petersen, Jantzen and Ahlberg; nays, none; motion carried.

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Mark Meints and seconded by Mike Wilcox to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2009 minutes as presented. Voting aye were Gerweck, Cole, Meints, Cover, Petersen, Wilcox, Edelmaier, Jantzen and Ahlberg; nays, none; motioned carried.

**5. Correspondence:**

No correspondence was presented by any board member that was not already contained within another agenda item.

**6. Committee Reports:**

- **Planning/Exercise/Training (PET)** — Chairman Doug Ahlberg expressed concern about individuals signing up for trainings and not showing up. He encouraged members to follow up with stakeholders from their counties to encourage attendance or cancel their course registration. The following upcoming training opportunities were highlighted:

- Public Information Officer (PIO) training – April 23 & 24, 2009
- Incident Command System (ICS) IS-300 – April 24 & 25, 2009
- Risk Assessment Training – September 21 & 22, 2009
- Campus Emergencies – October 6 & 7, 2009
- Hazardous Materials (HazMat) IQ – December 7-9, 2009 (Note: the cost of the HazMat IQ is split between different entities. Gerweck will check to see if 2008 grant money could be used to offset this training.)

Ahlberg expressed thanks to Josh Groleau for assisting with the Mass Casualty Course held recently. Members expressed how good they thought the course was. Ahlberg noted that there is a possibility of a hosting a disaster management course for water and wastewater.

- **Hazardous Materials (HazMat)** – Brian Daake indicated this committee had not met. Pending issues include discussion of needs related to replacing equipment such as monitors and suits. Recycling older equipment such as monitors as training aids was suggested along with pursuing the purchase of training aids via the state emergency response funding for hazardous material teams. A general need for practices with use of existing HazMat trailers was highlighted by members. Lancaster County is planning to do this in July 2009. Ahlberg recommended that Jim Bopp and Steve Dolezal be added to the HazMat Committee for their expertise. The HazMat committee will bring a list of equipment for purchase and a plan to address training needs related to HazMat and trailer familiarity by the June meeting.
  - **Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Training** – Ahlberg explored the possibility of hosting IED training provided by New Mexico State. He suggested that we sponsor a four-hour training block, assess the interest and need for more advanced training, then progress to the 8- and 16-hour training blocks if desired. Gerweck said a decision must be made soon about the amount of money required to meet the IED training needs of the Southeast Region so unused funds could be designated for other uses such as supporting the state bomb squads or Fusion Center. Members agreed to ask the executive committee to assemble a small group to formulate recommendations for the Board to consider at the next meeting related to (1) the amounts to keep/return and purpose of the funding; (2) designation of remaining funds; and (3) plan for meeting IED training needs in the Southeast Region. Bob Cole and Shawn Weise volunteered to participate with the executive group.
- **Communications** – The next Communications Committee meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2009, 10 a.m. in Wilber. Gerweck stated that September 2010 is the deadline for activities funded by the \$2,362,803 Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant and that the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) requires 3 months after projects are completed for completion of paperwork. NEMA has requested \$253,000 of the 2007 Homeland Security grant money allocated to the Southeast Region to support the state wireless network development activities that are not covered by PSIC grant funding.

Gerweck and B Cole gave a short presentation about the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). According to the website, IPAWS is “the the nation’s next-generation infrastructure of alert and warning networks that will expand upon the traditional audio-only radio and television Emergency Alert System (EAS) by providing one message over more media to more people before, during, and after a disaster.” (Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/>)

- **Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR)** – The next NCOR meeting is in Broken Bow at 1:30 p.m. on April 23, 2009. Notes from NCOR meetings are posted at (<http://www.homelandplanning.nebraska.edu/nebraskacouncil.php>). Gerweck, who is the Southeast region rep on NCOR, said an update to the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan should be available in two weeks. NCOR was asked for and provided input to the plan.

## **7. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**

Wayne Svoboda of Volunteer Partners gave a presentation about the Medical Reserve Corps. The MRC program currently administered by Volunteer Partners is region-wide (Attachment A contains information about the MRC that Svoboda said he would send to board members via email following the meeting). Many of those present mentioned the importance of the involvement of Public Health in EM decisions to mobilize MRC volunteers. The current MRC list is comprised of approximately 110 people with a variety of skill levels. General discussion ensued about MRC composition (e.g., type of professions and numbers of each required to adequately meet the medical needs of Southeast Nebraska). Members encouraged Volunteer Partners to increase involvement of hospitals in background reviews of potential volunteers to ensure they are deployable within area medical facilities or at alternate care sites. Liability and supervision were expressed as concerns by several board members of the group and under whose they would operate. The issue of supervision was also discussed.

## **8. Planning Workshop**

A motion was made by Doug Ahlberg and seconded by Bob Cole to table this item on the agenda; Planning Workshop — Reports/Discussion and Brainstorming for FY2009 and Beyond. Voting aye were Gerweck, Cole, Edelmaier, Cover, Wilcox, Petersen, Jantzen and Ahlberg; nays, none; motion carried.

## **9. Public and Board Comment**

- Lisa Bloss (Southeast Public Health District) mentioned the requirement for Health Departments to address training for minority populations in disaster and emergency preparedness. She encouraged emergency managers to attend these events when possible.
- Mark Hosking (Lincoln/Lancaster County Public Health Department) shared information about a product called EBeam Complete that can be utilized with any white board and project the image to other computers in real time. Members requested a demonstration of the products use at the next meeting.
- Gerweck reminded emergency managers of their requirement to participate in the Communications Leader (COML) training.

- Cover said he received many responses to a salary survey being conducted by the Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers, but would like more from the part-time programs. The results of the survey will be on the Association web site in the future.

#### **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on May 20, 2009 at 10 a.m.. The tentative location is Fairbury with alternate site of Beatrice.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Doug Ahlberg made a motion to adjourn, Bill Cover seconded the motion. Voting aye were Gerweck, Cole, Edelmaier, Cover, Wilcox, Petersen, Jantzen and Ahlberg; nays, none; motioned carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m..

Gary Petersen, Vice Chairman

APPROVED:

James Gerweck, Chairman  
May 20, 2009

**Southeast Nebraska Emergency Manager's Meeting 04/15/09**  
**Medical Reserve Corps discussion**  
**Notes and Observations**

MRC composition: Nationally, MRCs are about half medical and half non-medical in membership. The Southeast Nebraska MRC is about seventy percent medical and thirty percent non-medical in make-up.

Depending on a particular Emergency Manager's situation, the preferred 'balance' may differ. There may be no perfect composition.

Within the MRCs medically credentialed members, what should the composition be? How many nurses, EMTs, etc. Medical staff within hospitals and public health departments have been consulted and that input is being compiled.

Activation. This must be by Emergency Managers. However, if an incident has occurred, the EM of the involved area(s) could be contacted by MRC staff. Assistance would likely initially be requested by hospital or public health department staff.

Recruitment. Targeted recruitment by way of physician's office managers is planned, as are public school nurses.

Selection. An interview committee should be composed. This would be a step in the following process:

1. Application is completed, during which, a description of the selection process is provided.
2. Interview scheduled/conducted.
  - a. Interview Committee: 2 medical professionals (preferably with relevant background) and a current MRC member).
  - b. Acceptance is contingent on verification of credentials.
3. Credentials are verified.
4. Member is oriented to the MRC, policies and procedures, to include a 'learning tour' of at least one area hospital
5. Member is added to the MRC database/roster.
6. There is ongoing communications with all MRC members on available trainings, meetings, contact information updates, NIMS compliance, etc.

MRC updates/reports. These can be provided monthly, quarterly, etc.; both program and financial. This might avoid or reduce questions of fiscal integrity. Provided Goals and Objectives should include more quantification and due dates; benchmarks. Attend quarterly meetings?

Liability issues and hospitals. While this is beyond our purview, this topic needs further clarification.