

# Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council (NPSCC)

September 23rd, 10:00 AM (CST)

Business Meeting – Webinar

## MINUTES

### 1. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Attendance
VOTING MEMBERS			
Mike	Foley	Lt. Governor	✓
Sue	Krogman	SWIC	✓
Bill	Muldoon	Tri-County PET Region	✓
Joel	Smith	Southwest PET Region	NO
Steve	Cody	Otoe County EMA	✓
Lynn	Rex	League of Municipalities	NO
Kevin	Garvin	Northeast PET Region	✓
Heidi	Gillespie	Panhandle PET Region	✓
Tim	Hofbauer	East Central PET Region	✓
Adam	Matzner	State Fire Marshal	NO
Tom	Nutt	Nebraska Association of County Officials	NO
Mark	Rempe	North Central PET Region	✓
Jon	Rosenlund	South Central PET Region	✓
Kevin	Ryan	Nebraska State Patrol	✓
Jayne	Scofield	Office of the Chief Information Officer	✓
Travis	Shepler	Game and Parks Department	✓
Bryan	Tuma	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	NO
Lon	Renner	Nebraska Public Power District	✓
EX-OFFICIO			
Dave	Sankey	Nebraska Public Service Commission	✓
Ed	Toner	Office of the Chief Information Officer	✓

*Others in attendance: Khadijah Davis, Andy Sackreiter, Kyle Richardson, Lesia Dickson, and Pam Kemper*

### 2. Open Meetings Law information – public notice/minutes/agenda/webinar on State website.

Lt. Governor Mike Foley called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM CDT and 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. Welcome and Introductions

By mandate, there will be an in-person December meeting.

### 4. \*Approval of Minutes of June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting.

Mark Rempe made a motion to approve the June 24, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ed Toner; the motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstaining votes and no dissenting votes.

Also noted that the Governor does not want to make any change to the composition of the committee at this time.

**5. Updates on your Agency Communications Projects** as well as any concerns or problems. This does not have to be a “state-wide” project. It can be something specific to your agency.  
Agency reports:

**(1) NEMA – Sue Krogman**

NEMA is updating all the TICP information across the state. Each region has its own TICP and NEMA wants to incorporate it with the State Communication’s TICP. They will be working with many members on the board to get everything updated. Then, they will be teaching classes across the state to enable all the locals to enter all current communications information online and have the TICP automatically updated. This plan is fluid and constantly updated for state and local plans.

**(2) OCIO – Jayne Scofield**

OCIO continues to work diligently with the city of Lincoln to make sure they are fully onboard and have everything they need. The biggest announcement is the coming retirement of Mike Jefferies. He will retire in the next couple of weeks, but will stay on to assist with the transition. He was instrumental in the success of the statewide radio system.

**(3) G&P – Craig Stover (Travis Shepler is here)**

One project is the MOU with the state of Wyoming. This will enable conservation officers to use the Wyoming G&P talk group (cooperative efforts in the panhandle). They are also working on an MOU with the city of Omaha so officers can get on with the Orion system. Outside of these updates, they are working on a few coverage issues in the Lake McConaughy and Lewis and Clark Lake area. The SRS is working well for them.

**(4) NSP – Kevin Ryan**

Douglas County is getting some of the NSP radio IDs set up on their system. Major Russell Stanczyk, who was a fixture of their agency, retired at the end of July. They are bringing Major Russ Lewis on from Grand Island. They are looking forward to his transition to Lincoln and bringing him up to speed for SRS issues.

**(5) SFM – Adam Matzner (na)**

Not available

**(6) League of Municipalities – Lynn Rex (na)**

Not available

**(7) NACO – Tom Nutt**

Not available

**(8) NPPD – Lon Renner**

NPPD is upgrading some of their microwave in the NW part of the state. This is used for transporting substation, control communications, and back-hauling several statewide radio sites in the Northwest part of the state. It should increase the reliability of the back-hauls and will occur in October. As for personnel changes, Matt Schnell is retiring in October and Dave Webb is no longer the CIO. Dave Webb has moved to working on innovation and rural broadband connectivity. Robyn Tweedy is now the CIO at the organization (female).

## **PET Region Communications Updates or Projects:**

### **(1) North East**

Kevin Garvin - Two counties are joining the SRS system in the Northeast: Stanton and Madison. They are attempting to move forward with Regional 911 but are encountering difficulties with one of the telephone companies. They are overcoming the obstacles.

### **(2) Tri-County**

William Muldoon – No updates

### **(3) South Central**

Jon Rosenlund – There is currently work throughout the region on NRIN. They are looking at a tower in Harlan County, outside of Alma. They are also planning tower work in Nelson, Webster County, and Buffalo County. The Nelson and Webster County towers will help them finish the Southern loop of the NRIN and will be placed on next year's IJ request. South Central continues to support the NRIN board, and maintaining the grant on behalf of the State and all of the regions for NRIN maintenance and monitoring.

### **(4) South West (na)**

No updates

### **(5) South East**

Steve Cody – They conducted a regional SRS exercise with the entire South East region on September 3rd. With NEMA's help, the exercise went well. They identified issues and look to complete an after action next week. They will also come up with a plan to host these types of communications (i.e., SRS exercises) yearly within the region while reaching out to involve other agencies, including first responders.

### **(6) East Central**

Tim Hofbauer – They are continuing to work with the East Central 911, which is composed of nine counties. There are conversations about consolidation for additional counties and dispatch centers. As for mutual-aid base stations, what are other regions doing? There was a push years ago to install them (they are installed in East Central except for one location), but is this still on the radar as far as something that needs to be done? These stations allow for calls into the dispatch system and, if need be, to talk on the channels and monitor what is occurring.

### **(7) North Central**

Mark Rempe – North Central is working with Sue on the NRIN system. There are leases on towers that are coming up; and they are trying to get out of the 10-year agreements. They recently met with a consolidated telephone company to investigate a fiber optic option to replace a few towers. While there are no final decisions, they are working to get out of the IJ projects to alleviate some grant costs.

Response to Tim's Question: Each of their fire departments has a mutual-aid base station and they do use them each month.

### **(8) Panhandle**

Heidi Gillespie – The Hubbard Gap Fire occurring in Banner County a few weeks ago is out. There were 26 fire departments participating and working on the fire. While it went well, concerns about interoperability for communications were communicated at a recent meeting. The departments noted that they had enough help, but they struggled to talk to each other. The Panhandle did an after action report on this concern at the meeting last night. Additionally, Heidi and Sue are working together. They will visit Kimball County the second week of October for FirstNet and NRIN.

## **6. Reports from Working Group Committees:**

### **ESInet – Dave Sankey**

- The PSAPs are regionalizing across the state. In the Western portion of the state, the PSAPs are now the South Central Panhandle region. Kimball and Scottsbluff are committed to joining thus completing the region. Once the State ESInet is in place, this will be the first region connected.
- For the North Central region, Antelope County has decided to join the region and is working on switching out their call handling equipment so they can make the connection.
- In the South East region, they are still waiting for Adams and Saline County to make the cutover and become part of the region.
- There is a meeting scheduled to talk to Mid-Rivers (Franklin & Webster Counties), to see what they would like to do in the near future (Campbell, Mid-Rivers).
- There is a new region forming, Mid-East 911, that will be Colfax County and Dodge County. The new region will act as the host PSAP with Burt County and Cuming County joining as well.
- They are working on a North East 911 with Norfolk and South Sioux City as host sites. The other PSAPs will operate as remotes in the region.
- In the central part of the state, Custer County and Alma are weighing their options.

### **Next Generation 911**

GIS will play a critical element in the Next Generation 911 environment. Once everything is updated, they will be able to geospatially locate and route calls to the correct PSAP. For this to happen, it is critically important to establish PSAP boundaries. Boundary establishment is about 60% complete, so this project is ongoing. Some PSAPs want to use county lines and others want to use fire districts, so the physical boundaries will look different. For example, the Panhandle established boundaries by fire districts. Any calls placed in Banner County, Scottsbluff, or the southern half of Sioux will route to the Scottsbluff PSAP.

### **Other Updates**

They have been working with state purchasing and have had an RFP out since March 17th. The RFP has exhausted all of the steps that are required within an RFP. Evaluators have evaluated all the proposals received and the process is completed. The next step is the commission offering an intent to award which requires a commission vote. This should occur in the next couple of weeks so they can enter into a contract and eventually get the region connected.

### **Communications**

They are working on a new funding model: funding for next generation 911 and dollar allocation to PSAPs. An additional task included establishing a statewide training on technical standard. The committee is evaluating the recommendations at this time.

### **NRIN – Tim Hofbauer/Jon Rosenlund**

Tim Hofbauer – They continue to enjoy the contract with NPPD to provide assistance with routers and configurations as part of the build out. They recently signed a contract with Mark DeKraai who will act as the Chief Operations Officer. He will assist the board with all of the required activities as well as the operation of the build out and the network.

Sue Krogman – They are continuing to work with the South Central region (Nuckolls County). Their 911 center was moved and they want to put up a new tower in the area. Once the height and reach of the tower are decided, the IJ will be submitted for the tower. They are also looking at putting a tower in Webster County. There are high spots in the area that they are trying to get over. It will not take huge towers, but they will be usable towers for NRIN and anything else the county chooses to put on it. They are doing paperwork, have completed build out from Pierce water tower/dispatch, and are now working on the Carrol NET Tower. Wayne Dispatch is ready to go and is currently utilizing one of the towers for the Wayne State College area. Next, they will go to Wakefield, which also has a tower that is ready to go. The contractor prebuilt each one of these spots in his shop, so the mounts are ready for installation. The MOUs are finished and finalized all the way to the Winnebago BIA tower. Once the legal aspects of the MOU are finalized, everything to West Point will be set. And, approval was received from the West-Point Board to hang dishes on their water tower.

In the North Central area, the environmental protection paperwork was submitted to the Department of Homeland Security for the new tower that will be built around Amelia. Additionally, Antelope County is currently purchasing the NDOR tower. The North Central area is doing some forward thinking and trying to find solutions that do not involve redoing the current contracts for another 10 years.

Question: Steve Cody – How are things coming along with Richardson/Nemaha County?

Answer: It was the hope that Steve would have more insight as that group regionalizes with them for dispatch. The NRIN group does have a backup plan in case the tower is not built there.

## SRS – Pam Kemper

They are continuing to grow the subscribers on the system and look for ways to continuously improve their experience. They currently have approximately 170 different agencies at the federal, state, and local levels utilizing the system. The total radio IDs operating are approximately 11,500 with approximately 7,000 from Lincoln/Lancaster County. The map has been updated as of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and there are varying colors to describe the status across the state.

- Solid green means that the dispatch center has consoles networked into the system and that the law enforcement agencies/emergency managers, at minimum, have radios on the system. They are all in users.
- Green striping indicates that the dispatch consoles do not need replacement yet. However, the users wanted to have a radio on the statewide radio system because of the interoperability that provides to them with other agencies. At minimum, their Sheriffs and Emergency Managers have radios operating on the system.
- Pink indicates the county is in the process of joining the system on one level or another.
- Yellow counties have their dispatch consoles networked into the system, but the users have not put radios on the system
- White (Tri-City area) indicated the Orion system and there is interoperability with them.

## Other Updates

- In the Richardson County Sheriff's office, they purchased radios to operate on the SRS system and will migrate. They are also planning to purchase SRS dispatch consoles so they can be all in users.
- Norfolk is a partnership and they are live on their 800MHz P25 system. They are using the SRS CORE, which gives interoperability with their system. Their city agencies and all the people they dispatch for are using the system.
- Madison County Sheriff's Office and Dispatch Center is also live on the statewide radio system. Their Sheriff's office and PD are using dual band radios on the system.
- Bancroft Police Department is obtaining an SRS radio.
- The Cuming County EM has one and scheduling for training is occurring. Afterwards, they will be full users.
- Stanton County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management Agency, dispatched out of Norfolk, also purchased radios. The assignment of IDs and aliases are complete and they are planning the migration to be full-time users.
- Buffalo County is now live on their SRS dispatch system. They have developed a three-year transition and are now working on infrastructure design to connect with a three-site system around the county.
- York County Sheriff's Office purchased radios. They are looking for funding to migrate to the statewide radio system.
- Thomas County Sheriff's Office (North Central) demoed the radios delivered in August. If everything went well, they intend to join the statewide radio system.
- The city of Alliance will be joining with their 800MHz system. They are currently in the planning phase and will most likely go live in 2021.
- Scottsbluff County is working through radio options and funding. They have projected 2021 or 2022 as the timeframe in which they will join.
- The Beatrice tower, located near Jefferson County, may move further south of Beatrice to improve coverage in area.
- There is some spotty coverage in the West McPherson area and they are looking into available towers.
- The Omaha site may move to get better coverage. There are three candidate sites and the team is currently

looking into the availability and structural integrity of the sites.

- If the area on the map is not white, all dispatch systems in county have connectivity to statewide radio through a dispatch console and have interoperability talk groups. At minimum, if they do not have radio users on the system, the dispatchers can patch them in so they can talk directly to the statewide radio users.

#### Events

- On August 5<sup>th</sup>, there was a meeting in the Panhandle with 20 attendees (15 different agencies) to discuss specific needs in the area.
- The group does outreach on a regular basis with meetings every other month occurring in a different region. These meetings allow for regional focus and time to understand unique regional needs. One of the meetings was in Mullen on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The Hooker County Sheriff sponsored/hosted the meeting. There were 11 total attendees and six agencies represented. It gave them a chance to discuss challenges and ways to improve communication.
- There is a North East meeting in October where counties will report how demoing the system went for them.
- There is a meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10am – 12pm at the Norfolk Public Library. This meeting's host is Norfolk PD and will include a tour of the new dispatch center afterwards.

If anyone wants further updates or to be added to the distribution list, please contact Pam at [pam.kemper@nebraska.gov](mailto:pam.kemper@nebraska.gov).

#### SECC – Rod Zeigler

Charter and bylaw edits were made due to the documents showing NCOR as the oversight committee. Since NCOR is gone, this reference changed to NPSCC and the SECC board accepted the documents. There will be a vote on these documents in December for acceptance by the NPSCC board.

The Public Policy Council contract ran out and the ability to update the website was lost. The Nebraska Broadcaster's Association is now going to manage and fund the site. The site will be live again.

#### FirstNet – Sue Krogman/Kyle Richardson/Andrew Sackreiter

Kyle Richardson (Authority Representative for Nebraska) – This is an update on what FirstNet has done from a response perspective. FirstNet/AT&T is supporting medical facilities, drive through testing, quarantine centers, and emergency operations centers nationwide. More than 50 FirstNet mobile cell sites were deployed for COVID-19 related emergencies. Kyle noted that First Responders consumed more than twice as much data as AT&T commercial customers from January to May of 2020. This data underscores the need for a public safety dedicated network. Kyle also noted that the AT&T procured blimp, first deployed for the hurricane in Louisiana, provided coverage for up to two weeks in a large area and may serve as a good option for areas where you cannot deploy a vehicle. Additionally, an EM resource guide is in development that will contain resources such as numbers, a network status tool, and a checklist.

Lesia Dickson (Field Operation's Direction for the North Region) – The region is trying to provide tools to help public safety understand how to get the most out of FirstNet with a series of topical educational webinars. On October 1st, there will be a law enforcement focused panel. Three agencies will present: a county in Ohio, Sheriff Miller from Buffalo County, and Chicago PD. They will discuss how FirstNet is making a difference and implementation. There will be an additional webinar on October 15th (tentative) that will target hospitals and encourage discussion on access and implementation. Please let Lesia know if you did not receive an invitation for the events.

Andy Sackreiter – For Build Out Nebraska, there were 56 sites added since information was presented in May. Not all of the sites were live in their quarter with some quarter four sites going live in quarter three. Some of the June sites are not on air yet but are under construction (two sites in Kearney).

Question: Lt. Governor Mike Foley: Are any of these sites targeted for 2021?

Answer: The Pink dots are targets for the first and second quarter of 2021. There is not anything beyond that at this point.

## 7. Jim Lundsted – Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

High-level incidents occurred: Storms in Midwest and Hurricane in Texas/Louisiana

The derecho event occurred in Iowa on August 10th and 11th. It started east of the Nebraska state line and continued as a series of tornadic storms (more straight-line wind) for almost 700 miles into Indiana. In Iowa alone, there were 10 million acres of corn crops lost along with other structural and agricultural damage. The recorded straight-line winds were 105 mph and located just east of Marshalltown in Iowa. In Clinton County, destruction of a broadcast tower and the primary public safety communications tower was caused by wind gusts. The state of Iowa deployed one of their trailer-mounted sites on wheels, which allowed temporary service. There was significant damage to overhead wires, which affected wireline, wireless, and cable services. Central offices failed in a few locations because generators were unable to be refueled.

When the carrier offices were lost, a significant part of being able to communicate was lost. They noticed, in one county, that all of the wireless carriers were dependent on one back-haul carrier who suffered mile-long overhead fiber loss. Due to the nature of the event, the FCC's Disaster Information Reporting System was activated at the request of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the SWIC office. The system was used to obtain reports of what sites were out and helped focus response efforts. It was critical to remind customers about Wireless Priority Service (WPS). WPS allows you to call in a situation where you have cellular service but your call is blocked due to route availability. When you call, the service adds a high probability of completion flag to try to get around the busy signal. The caveats are that you cannot originate a call where there is no tower and they cannot terminate where there is no receiver.

A Category 4 hurricane, Laura, impacted Louisiana and Texas in early September. The Adobe Connect room was set up by the ESF2 (Emergency Support Function #2) team to share info and graphics to indicate status of capabilities in the two states. The next hurricane, Sally took a sharp, last-minute turn and struck Louisiana. While power loss in Texas was significant, the majority of damage occurred in Louisiana. An early assessment identified 1,870 miles of knocked out power transmission lines, 13,000 poles damaged, and significant power outages in multiple counties that remain today. Some residents on the Intercostal Waterway will not have service restored until Mid-November. The team learned that Adobe Connect is useful for a quick view (a no cost feature). The site is static and you can create the tiles to show what is most important at a glance. The Emergency Communications Division's field team supplied two coordinators to directly support the SWIC and FEMA supplied support through the MERS (Mobile Emergency Response System) team. Meaning, there were four different teams supporting the state. FirstNet did fly their Aerostat and Verizon brought a tethered kite for first responders. The kite received a waiver from the FAA/FCC so the kite could fly after dark. One lesson learned was that carriers were willing to offer inter-carrier roaming on demand. Lastly, the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) is a 141-site. They lost one tower physically along with other sites. The Aerostat and drone helped provide data search and voice for the community.

Question: How long can the Tethered-Kite, drone, stay alive?

Answer: With proper support/maintenance, it can run for two weeks since it depends on power on the ground.

## 8. Next meeting – Wednesday, December 16th, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

The next meeting will be in person and Sue will send an invitation.

## 9. Adjourn

Lt. Governor Mike Foley adjourned the meeting at 11:18 AM CDT.

\*Denotes Action Item

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
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