

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Minutes

June 24, 2013, 10:00 am CST

Lancaster County Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Rd, Lincoln, NE, 68528

Opening Comments

1. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Attendance
Al	Berndt	NEMA	X
Dave	Boeckner	League of Municipalities	X
Mark	Conrey	Tri-County PET Region	X
Brenda	Decker	Chair	X
Kevin	Garvin	Northeast PET Region	X
Pat	Gerdes	Southwest PET Region	X
Lavon	Heidemann	Lt. Governor	X
Tim	Hofbauer	East Central PET Region	X
Adam	Matzner	State Fire Marshal	
Tom	Nutt	NACO	X
Pete	Petersen	North Central PET Region	X
Ray	Richards	Panhandle PET Region	
Jon	Rosenlund	South Central PET Region	
Ray	Ryan	Southeast PET Region	X
Tom	Schwarten	NSP	X
Jayne	Scofield	OCIO	X
Craig	Stover	Game and Parks	
David	Webb	NPPD	X

Others in attendance: David Babcock, Jim Bogner, Denise Bulling, Howard Cofer, Mark DeKraai, Paul Hammal, Dan Hiller, Mike Jeffres, Nicholas Kemnitz, Sue Krogman, Alisia LaMay, James Lundsted, Bob Malmquist, Kyle Otte, Kate Speck, Hayley Sutter, and Janell Walther

2. Open Meeting Law Information – verification of public notice, availability of copy of law in the meeting location – NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 THROUGH 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007)

A copy of the Open Meeting Law Information was available in the meeting room.

3. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Brenda Decker called the meeting to order at 10:03 am Central Standard Time. A quorum of members was present.

Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes

Pat Gerdes made a motion to approve the April 8 2013 meeting minutes. Tom Schwarten seconded the motion; the motion passed by roll call vote with no dissensions.

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2. Establish workgroup to explore operational procedures related to common usage channels

Brenda Decker asked that a working group be created to explore the operational procedures related to common usage channels; Pete Petersen and Tim Hofbauer would head this group. This group will begin their work by amending the draft Nebraska Statewide Interoperable Mutual Aid Standards and Operating Procedures document. The working group will consist of representatives from public safety organizations from across the state and will primarily work electronically through the use of video conferencing and email. Dave Boeckner made a motion to establish the Common Usage Channel Workgroup. Ray Ryan seconded the motion; the motion passed by roll call vote with no dissensions.

Discussion Items

1. Updates related to the FirstNet Broadband Initiative – Brenda Decker, OCIO

After two rounds of revisions, Nebraska was granted online submission access for the FirstNet Broadband Initiative Grant, funded through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. It is anticipated that the online submission access indicates that our revisions have been accepted. A second new development since the last NSPCC meeting is that due to sequestration, the grant has been reduced to around \$1.8 million, which includes a mandatory 20% state match. Nebraska's grant application outlined the creation of a subcommittee working under NPSCC. The subcommittee will consist of representatives from NPPD, State agencies, the Nebraska tribes, and up to four representatives from each county. This committee will focus on the deployment of FirstNet in the State of Nebraska. The federal announcement of award for the grant is anticipated around July 15. Once the federal announcement is made, the State will announce the process for representatives of the subcommittee to be identified or solicited to participate in the group. FirstNet has identified that the subcommittee will consist of representatives from law enforcement, fire and rescue, EMS, emergency managers, etc. The first meeting of this subcommittee is anticipated for early to mid-August in Lincoln.

Eight representatives from Nebraska participated in a FirstNet regional consultation workshop on May 21-22 in Denver, CO. Nebraska's representatives included: Dave Boeckner, Brenda Decker, Tim Hofbauer, Sue Krogman, Adam Matzner, Kyle Otte, Matt Schnell, and David Webb. The regional meeting included Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. Sessions dealt with a variety of topics, including: MOUs, public safety build-outs, working with the local entities, public-private partnerships, emergency management, sustainability, and rural plans. The workshops, organized by the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices, allowed for discussion between state representatives and two FirstNet board members on the challenges, solutions, and priority areas for FirstNet as the national plan is devised.

2. LR 244 (NE Public Safety Communications System Study)

Brenda Decker noted that Senator Heath Mello introduced LR 244. LR 244, a legislative resolution to initiate a joint study between the Appropriations Committee and the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee to study issues surrounding the Nebraska Public Safety Communication System. Full text of the resolution may be viewed online at: <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/103/PDF/Intro/LR244.pdf>

Information/Reports

1. Region and State Reports

Each region submitted a written report in addition to the following highlights from those reports.

a. Panhandle Region – Ray Richards

No verbal report.

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b. Southwest Region – Pat Gerdes

The common use base station in Dundy County is on the air at the tower site; however, the connection to NRIN has not been made yet and cannot be controlled from the dispatch center. The consolette for McCook Police Department has been ordered; once it is installed they will be interoperable with the Statewide Radio System. Progress on NRIN has halted at McCook; progress cannot continue until additional infrastructure is built or identified.

c. North Central Region – Pete Petersen

The North Central Region is preparing to install consolettes in all dispatch centers in the 22-county region. A current challenge with NRIN is deciphering between maintenance and warranty related issues; meetings with the contractor should solve this issue. The state of Colorado, particularly the Emergency Medical Services Association, is interested in retaining their Ultra High Frequency (UHF) analog system and establishing connectivity with Nebraska because many patients are transported across state lines.

d. South Central Region – Jon Rosenlund reported by Pat Gerdes

By the end of July, all 15 counties in the South Central Region will be connected to common use base stations; currently, only two counties are not connected.

e. East Central Region – Tim Hofbauer

NRIN continues to be built out in the East Central Region; establishing electrical connections at the various sites has been a challenge. The East Central Region is looking to establish a contract with an electrician to remediate this issue. A request to purchase five consolettes has been submitted to NEMA; if approved the consolettes will be installed in five dispatch centers. Remaining consolettes will likely be purchased during a different grant year. Once NRIN is installed the common usages channels will be brought online

f. Southeast Region – Ray Ryan

The Southeast Region is continuing to establish MOUs for NRIN. Consolettes have been installed in all dispatch centers; regular testing plans between all the public safety answering points (PSAPs) are being developed to ensure functionality.

g. Northeast Region – Kevin Garvin

The Northeast Region is awaiting engineering reports from the NRIN system. Approval for two additional consolettes was recently received. Five of the 12 regional counties have consolettes installed.

h. Tri-County Region – Mark Conrey

Washington, Sarpy, and Douglas Counties are implementing the same computer-aided dispatch system. An agreement with OPPD is being negotiated to connect Dodge County with the regional microwave. Troop A continues to use the Orion System. The 911 Regionalization Study between Washington County, Sarpy County, and Douglas County is being submitted to elected officials to determine if the current 911 system will migrate to a regional 911 center.

Iowa's implementation of next generation 911 continues to be problematic as information cannot be transferred easily from Iowa to Nebraska. The state of Iowa, in the process of establishing next-generation 911 changed their network so it is received as IP and converted to analog. Calls can be transferred from Nebraska to Iowa on the analog system; however, location information cannot be sent from Iowa to Nebraska. The Public Service Commission agreed to continue payment for tandem to tandem transmission.

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i. Statewide Radio System – NPPD

Five sites are still in need of generators; three of the sites are scheduled to be completed in July and the agreements for the remaining sites are still being developed by the OCIO. Enhanced coverage is needed in York, Lincoln, and Benkelman. Tower planning has begun and FCC licensing for Benkelman has been filed; filing for Lincoln and York has begun.

2. Statewide Communications Project Updates

a. Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) – NEMA and NRIN Governance Report

The first NRIN Governance meeting was held on May 20 in Kearney, attended by representatives from many of the regions, NPPD, and the OCIO. Work on the NRIN project is finishing up in the Southwest Region; once this work is complete, three teams will simultaneously work on the Northeast, East Central, and Southeast Regions. Three towers – one in the Southwest Region and two in the Northeast Region – will need to be built, and a tower in Geneva may be moved to state property. Governance of the system will be difficult to establish until usage of the system increases and the capabilities of the system are better understood. The next meeting may be held at NPPD to meet with their marketing group to develop a marketing plan that will demonstrate usage scenarios and feature the areas currently using NRIN. Logistics for the next meeting have not been determined.

b. Paraclete Project – Alisia LaMay, NEMA

Updates to Paraclete are ongoing. The headquarters box for the Nebraska State Patrol was successfully updated and cleaned-up. During this update it was revealed that some of the batteries were failing. NEMA is working with the counties to replace all of the failed batteries. NEMA is creating a standard maintenance procedures guide for all of the boxes throughout the state. A Kenwood P25 has successfully been added for Statewide Radio System use in the NEMA Paraclete box and Buffalo County Paraclete box. Those interested in a demonstration of this functionality should contact either NEMA or the OCIO. DHS funding is available for purchase of both a consolette and/or a radio for a consolette box. Initial approval for the State Patrol's usage of IPAWS has been received. Work with the State Emergency Communications Committee has begun for the statewide required monthly test in November with IPAWS.

c. COM-L Regional Credentialing Workshop Report – Bob Eastwood reported by Sue Krogman

The state of Nebraska sent COM-L their credentialing plan; this plan was used during the credentialing workshop. Representative from Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri attended a workshop to discuss Nebraska's existing methodology to create a credentialing model that could be used in all four states. The methodology will recognize the communications leader (Comm-L), communications technician (Comm-T), and auxiliary communications. The approval process for the methodology first goes to the Nebraska Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) for approval; if approved, it will go before a peer review group; finally, it will go before the state review board.

Comments

1. Member comments

The annual NACO convention will be held in December in Omaha, Nebraska. Tom Nutt indicated that NACO would like to coordinate a member from the NPSCC to speak about FirstNet.

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With DHS funds, the North Central and Panhandle Region have contracted with the OCIO to provide configuration, management and monitoring for the NRIN system. Other counties looking to contract should consider the OCIO.

2. Public comments

The State Emergency Communication Committee (SECC) met last week. The SECC approved a statewide text-to-speech IPAWS test in September. Considerations are being made to include wireless emergency alerts (WEA) into the state emergency alert system plans. Representatives from cell phone companies are invited to serve on the committee; their participation will allow for their input as to how the WEA messages will go out to cell phones. The SECC recently learned the National Weather Service will not serve as a LP1 Monitoring Agency; the committee is looking to include a new LP1 Monitoring Agency in the state plan. Their next meeting is scheduled for August 15 in LaVista at the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Conference.

If separate entities will be using grant funds for the Statewide Radio System consoles, the EHP process must be submitted on each. If a historic building is not involved, the process takes about two weeks.

Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is anticipated to be in August 2013. An email will be sent with prospective dates. Dave Boeckner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ray Ryan seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am CST.