

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Minutes

September 23, 2013, 1:00 pm CST

Walt Library, 6701 S. 14, Lincoln, NE 68512, Lincoln, NE, 68528

Opening Comments

1. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Attendance
Al	Berndt	NEMA	X
Mark	Conrey	Tri-County PET Region	X
Brenda	Decker	Chair	X
Roger	Foster	League of Municipalities	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	
Pete	Petersen	North Central PET Region	
Ray	Richards	Panhandle PET Region	
Jon	Rosenlund	South Central PET Region	X
Ray	Ryan	Southeast PET Region	X
Tom	Schwarten	NSP	X
Jayne	Scotfield	OCIO	X
Craig	Stover	Game and Parks	
David	Webb	NPPD	

Others in attendance: David Babcock, Howard Cofer, Dan Hiller, Mike Jeffres, Alisia LaMay, Bob Malquist, Matt Schnell, Kate Speck, Hayley Sutter, Michael Tarkildsen, Nikki Weber, and Bob Wilhelm

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 1:08 pm Central Standard Time. A quorum of members was present.

Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes

Jon Rosenlund made a motion to approve the June 24, 2013 meeting minutes pending the correction of NPPD as reporting for the Statewide Radio System. Pat Gerdes seconded the motion; the motion passed by roll call vote with Roger Foster abstaining and no dissensions.

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Discussion Items

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

The FirstNet Broadband Initiative is an initiative of the Obama Administration to create a public safety network nationwide and was passed by Congress as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. FirstNet is a nationwide broadband network that will connect first responders across the country. Land Mobile Radio Stations (LMRS) are not intended to be replaced, and audio technology will not be included. Seven billion dollars, funded through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), have been allocated for this network with \$121.5 million available to all states as noncompetitive planning grants. Specific State funding amounts were calculated by state population (75%) and land mass (25%), and the grant required a 20% State match.

Nebraska was initially slated to receive \$1,510,750 in federal funding with a state match of \$390,037 totaling \$1,937,037. However, due to sequestration, the grant total was reduced to \$1,510,750 in federal funding with a state in-kind match of \$377,688 funded through the OCIO, the State Patrol, Games and Parks Commission, and the State Fire Marshal, totaling \$1,888,438. Nebraska's grant award was announced on August 22, 2013; the grant is for three years and will end in July 2016.

The grant is separated into two phases: Phase I will focus on the creation of the governance process and awareness, while Phase II will focus on planning and data gathering. Phase I will end once the state's governance plans have been approved by FirstNet. To fulfill the governance requirement, Nebraska intends to create a Public Safety Broadband Working Group under the NPSCC with representation consisting of representation from local, state, and tribal entities. The grant proposed a working group consisting of four representatives from each county. The Chair asked for a discussion about whether that scenario was workable or if we needed to consider two groups – a smaller governance working group that represents the interests of the larger group representing every county. These subgroups should be representative of all public safety entities including, but not limited to, fire, law enforcement, medical, utilities, infrastructure and public safety vendors. After the discussion, the decision was that the Chair would come back to the group at the next meeting with a proposal for a smaller working group, as well as a larger group representing all 93 counties and the tribes.

The grant will provide education and outreach regarding the public safety broadband network (PSBN) with all entities involved in public safety. The grant deliverables include the need to prepare a comprehensive plan that will become part of the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) to address implementation of FirstNet and identify milestones to weigh the success of FirstNet in Nebraska.

Phase II, identifies the need for the state to undertake and complete data collection activities for use in the project. The grant provides funding for an individual to manage the entire FirstNet project, and for assistance with data collection and maintenance of a statewide database.

FirstNet has submitted requests for information (RFI) to collect information on how to implement a nationwide network. Following the RFI process, FirstNet will produce a nationwide build-out plan and begin developing requests for proposals (RFP) to begin building the network. Following the selection of the successful responders

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to the RFPs, FirstNet will develop a plan for each state to build out and deploy FirstNet in the state. FirstNet will deliver the plan to the Governor of each state, triggering a statutory decision. The Governor will have 90 days to decide whether to opt-in or opt-out of FirstNet. A decision to opt-in constitutes the state's willingness to participate in FirstNet's public safety broadband network; a decision to opt-out means that the state will build its own PSBN. If a state decides to opt-out, the state plan must be approved by FirstNet as adhering to their operational requirements and the PSBN must be completed – bid, constructed, and ready for operation/maintenance – in 180 days.

Information/Reports

1. Region and State Reports

Each region submitted a written report; the following highlights from those reports (see appendix).

a. Panhandle Region – Ray Richards

No report, not in attendance.

b. Southwest Region – Pat Gerdes

The common use base station is connected to NRIN at Benkelman utilizing part of North Central's IP scheme. A tri-state functional communication exercise will be held on September 30 between Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska. The exercise will test the NRIN system to ensure all states can patch to each other through a gateway. NRIN is stopped at McCook with all equipment up to McCook working; only Dundy County is currently using the system. The console equipment for the McCook Police Department has arrived and is expected to be installed shortly. The Southwest Region requested funding for three additional consoles to bring for Furnas County, Dundy County and Perkins County onto the SRS.

c. North Central Region – Pete Petersen

No report, not in attendance.

d. South Central Region – Jon Rosenlund

Work continues on the NRIN towers; engineering details with local cell providers are being reviewed. All NET towers are ready pending a structural analysis. The OCIO is assisting the South Central Region in testing the SRS with the Paraclete systems in three counties this fall. The South Central Region will be purchasing consoles for six or seven counties.

e. East Central Region – Tim Hofbauer

Electrical work needs to be completed at the NRIN sites. Tower lease agreements with Viaero need to be made. Completion of the northwest section of the NRIN ring is stalled until sites in other regions are completed. An interlocal agreement with the OCIO to provide management and monitoring of the network has been signed. Seven counties (Polk, Platte, Butler, Merrick, Nance, Boone, and Saunders) are currently participating in the EC-911 Telephone Equipment Share project. A feasibility study and RFP process have been completed for the EC-911 project; signatures on the interlocal agreement and organization for the governance of the group are currently underway. Mutual Aid Base State equipment has been installed on the state-owned tower near Humphrey and the Saunders County owned tower near Prague; additional sites may be added in the western portion of the region. NRIN will connect the mutual aid base stations to the PSAP. Five computers were purchased for the counties that do not have direct connection to the Paraclete System. The Platte County console is operational; four to five additional counties are waiting for their console equipment to be installed.

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f. Southeast Region – Ray Ryan

Tower analysis and MOUs for the NRIN system are being received. Five towers have failed analysis including three that failed without modification; new tower sites will need to be identified to replace the failed tower sites. Sue Krogman and Ray Ryan are creating an informational presentation on NRIN that will be presented to each county. The OCIO performed the first weekly statewide test on the PSAPs with consolettes installed on September 18.

g. Northeast Region – Kevin Garvin

The Northeast Region is waiting on structural analysis for the NRIN towers; once the structural analysis is received, MOUs with tower owners will be signed. The SRS interoperability implementations have been put on hold until the SRS consolettes are received, programmed, and installed in the dispatch centers.

h. Tri-County Region – Mark Conrey

The previous issues with Iowa's implementation of Next Generation 911 have been resolved. Nebraska and Iowa have linked their central processing units equipment to create a redundant and resilient system. The 911 Regionalization project report has been submitted to the local decision-makers for consideration and final decision.

i. Statewide Radio System – NPPD

Upgrades for the SRS are underway and will be complete by October 4. Three projects for sites are underway: York, South Lincoln, and Benkelman. The tower in York is complete. Motorola is working on the final cost for the radio equipment; once the equipment is installed, the tower will be operating. The South Lincoln tower is up; equipment for the tower needs to be ordered from Motorola. The Nashville OPPD tower is a proposed additional new SRS site; the structural analysis for the Nashville site is currently underway. Two-thirds of Nebraska's counties will be participating in the PSAP plan – known as the Regional Operations Common (ROC) – by the end of the year: 21 counties are currently part of the PSAP plan and 40 counties are anticipated to join the plan by year's end.

2. Statewide Communications Project Updates

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

The NRIN Governance group met to discuss NRIN system uses and how elected officials will understand its uses. NPPD is developing a marketing plan for NRIN that will include informational brochures and videos that can be directly distributed to elected officials. The governance group is also working to create a cost estimate and cost structure for the NRIN project.

b. Paraclete Project – Alicia LaMay

Updates to Paraclete are near complete with only the State Patrol and Panhandle left to update. Once updates are complete, the Paraclete boxes will have IPAWS capabilities. A live required weekly test (RWT) was carried out on September 4 for all emergency management professionals and broadcasters. It was a log and ignore test and did not go across the radio or television. This was a test of the functionality of Paraclete and to demonstrate to the locals the capabilities of Paraclete. A live required monthly test (RMT) was carried out on September 16. This was a statewide test that was broadcasts across the radio and television. The test was 82% successful; all issues involved EAS device settings. Since the tests, three counties have submitted applications for IPAWS message capabilities.

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Comments

1. Member comments

Members for the operational procedures for the common usages channels work group are needed.

Bob Wilhelm reported NRIN was working to build a tower in the Medicine Creek (Harry Strunk Lake) area; however, it is in the CIA flight path and must find an alternative site. The Southeast Region is waiting for MOUs to be signed and put together VHP information to move a donated cellular tower to a state Department of Roads lot.

2. Public comments

Kate Speck for Janell Walther: The SECC last met in August when they continued work on the State EAS Plan. They are working to coordinate this plan with the roll out of IPAWS alerts. On September 4, broadcasters, SECC members, and emergency managers viewed a demonstration of IPAWS CAP alerts at NEMA with Alisia LeMay. On September 17, the Required Monthly Test message was generated through IPAWS, originated at NEMA using Text To Speech capabilities. The committee has administered a survey to gather the success of the alert, but initial reactions are positive. The committee will meet next on December 5, 2013 in Omaha. Updates will be posted online at NE-EAS.org.

Kate Speck, Public Policy Center: The Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process is moving ahead; the Southeast will complete their THIRA in November and the Panhandle will complete theirs in early October. The ESF, SPR, and training, exercise, and planning workshop (TEPW) will be held on October 22-24. A threat assessment seminar hosted by the Great Plains chapter of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP) is being held on October 4 featuring James Cawood.

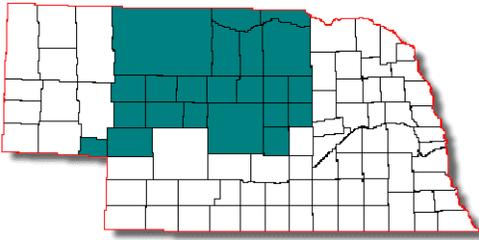
Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is anticipated to be in the November/December 2013 timeframe. An email will be sent with prospective dates. Jon Rosenlund made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Conrey seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

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Appendix: Regional Update Reports

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Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Planning-Exercising-Training Regions **North Central Region**

Report to Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council – June 24, 2013

Overview: The North Central Region is “split” with respect to the Nebraska Wireless Information Network (NRIN). The western counties are a part of the pilot project that is already operational; the eastern counties are in the planning stages for tower identification, structural integrity, Environmental-Historical Preservation acceptance, securing tower agreements and then building out of the network.

Accomplishments:

- Eastern Counties – Planning is mostly completed all necessary tower requirements for the build out of NRIN in this area.
- Consolettes – Consolettes for connectivity with the SRS are in place in Region 26 and at Ogallala (presently down for repair). The region has Homeland Security grant projects to place these in the remaining 5 dispatch centers in the region.
- Security/Weather Cameras
 - Cameras are in place and remotely viewable at Custer Public Power sites near Dunning, Merna and Mullen. The camera is installed and operational at Arnold but with present NRIN network configuration, it is not yet remotely viewable.
 - A local government purchased camera needs configured at a tower site north of Ogallala.
- Environmental Monitoring at various NRIN tower Sites
 - This equipment has all been installed and can be remotely contacted to get basic environmental information inside each NRIN site.
- Common Usage Channel Base Stations
 - 5 sites are now controlled through NRIN – Mullen, Whitman, Arthur, North Sterling (UHF) and Ogallala.
- County Repeater control
 - NRIN is now being used to control repeater sites at Mullen and Whitman. In the near future, a site north of Ogallala will also be controlled using NRIN and in partnership with the State, a local government repeater at the Arthur SRS site.

Near Future Hardware/Connectivity Projects:

- Final design of NRIN and then build out in eastern counties
- Discussion and Planning for use of NRIN to accommodate sharing of 911 telephone switches (similar project to the East Central region who is further along in that process)

Challenges:

- Clear definition of Maintenance vs. Warranty between the Contractor and the Customer(s)
- Development of Common Usage (Mutual Aid) channel protocol and usage
- Integration of Paraclete based on distances between dispatch centers and Paraclete installation sites
- Identification of local government personnel to be available to help troubleshoot hardware issues at NRIN sites – Identification of tower owner personnel to be available to allow access to sites when necessary
- Scheduling a “show and tell” day in Ogallala to demonstrate NRIN capabilities and operations
- Finalization of governance for NRIN

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NPSCC Regular Meeting Update: South Central Region September 23, 2013

Update on NRIN Towers:

- Grand Island: Information regarding the towers structure and current antennas has been provided to CSI in preparations for dish installation.
- Axtell: Kearney County is in negotiations with a tower vendor for dish placement.
- Holstein: Adams County is in negotiations with a tower vendor for dish placement.
- Dawson Co.: Dawson County is waiting for final engineering details to finalize the tower lease with KRVN.
- NET Towers: Final details are expected regarding an agreement with NET for tower space on the Atlanta NET Tower.

SRS – Paraclete Test

Working with the OCIO, three South Central Counties are planning to test an SRS radio in the Paraclete system. South Central Counties involved in this test are Hall, Buffalo and Phelps.

Regional Consollette Project

The SCPETR will utilize the 2011 SHSP to purchase a series of SRS consollettes for dispatch centers in the Region in order to provide interoperable communications with local agencies. Depending on the prices received by local vendors, between 6-7 consollettes may be purchased.

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Southwest Regional Update Information for NPSCC Meeting September 23, 2013

Completed Work:

NRIN Equipment is currently installed and is operable in Grant, Imperial, Benkelman, Stratton, Trenton & McCook. The Benkelman site is being used to control the recently installed VHF Interoperable Base Station and will be utilized during an functional exercise with Kansas and Colorado on the 30th of September. Furnas County equipment is being stored at the McCook Jail until a plan to get the system to Beaver City Dispatch is in place. All MOU's/leases are in place for these sites to date.

All of the Southwest Paraclete Server updates were completed and the new application is running at all dispatch centers.

Problems to be Resolved:

1. To complete the Southwest Region NRIN:
 - No infrastructure to bring Furnas County into the mix.

2. To connect with South Central Region:
 - Plans are in the works to possibly build a tower at the Cambridge Lake on Bureau of Reclamation land. Pat Gerdes & Mike Jeffres have had conversations on this and are working with BOR personnel on this issue. And getting the NEPA and EHP paperwork completed.

Interoperable Radio Frequencies:

- Dundy County, Perkins County and Furnas County have the VHF/UHF Base Stations installed and operable. The region hopes to get the other counties set up in the future.
- McCook Police Dept. SRS consolette is in the process of being installed and they will be requesting an orientation from the OCIO soon.
- The Southwest Region is hoping to use grant funds to install at least 3 more consolettes in the next grant period.