

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Minutes

January 27, 2014, 1:00 pm CST

Bennett Martin Library, 136 S. 14 Street, Lincoln, NE, 68508

Opening Comments

1. Roll Call

| First Name | Last Name | Agency | Attendance |
|------------|-----------|--|------------|
| Al | Berndt | Nebraska Emergency Management Agency | X |
| Mark | Conrey | Tri-County Planning, Exercise, Training (PET) Region | |
| Brenda | Decker | Chair | X |
| Roger | Foster | League of Municipalities | |
| Kevin | Garvin | Northeast PET Region | |
| Pat | Gerdes | Southwest PET Region | |
| Lavon | Heidemann | Lt. Governor | X |
| Tim | Hofbauer | East Central PET Region | X |
| Adam | Matzner | State Fire Marshal | X |
| Tom | Nutt | Nebraska Association of County Officials | X |
| Pete | Petersen | North Central PET Region | |
| Ray | Richards | Panhandle PET Region | X |
| Jon | Rosenlund | South Central PET Region | |
| Ray | Ryan | Southeast PET Region | X |
| Tom | Schwarten | Nebraska State Patrol | X |
| Jayne | Scotfield | Office of the Chief Information Officer | |
| Craig | Stover | Game and Parks Department | |
| David | Webb | Nebraska Public Power District | X |

Others in attendance: David Babcock, Denise Bulling, Howard Cofer, Mark DeKraai, Mike Jeffres, Pam Kemper, Tony Kosiba, Sue Krogman, Alisia LaMay, Logan Lueking, James Lundsted, Kyle Otte, Matt Schnell, Kate Speck, Hayley Sutter, Bob Wilhelm, and Dwight Winingier

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 1:07 pm Central Standard Time. A quorum of members was present.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Tim Hofbauer made a motion to approve the September 25, 2013 meeting minutes. Dave Webb seconded the motion; the motion passed by roll call vote with Ray Ryan abstaining and no dissensions.

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5. Public Safety Communications Information and Reports

a. State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) – Janell Walther

The SECC meet on December 12, 2013. The 2014 calendar for required monthly tests was set during this meeting; the required monthly tests will be on the third Tuesday of each month, alternating between 10:00 AM and 11:00 PM. A working group is revising the Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan to be consistent with the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) and work in conjunction with the existing America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) plan and the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) plan; the EAS Plan will not include the Wireless Emergency Alert plans. The new plan will be presented at the next SECC meeting on March 19, 2014 at 1:00 PM in Grand Island, Nebraska.

b. Statewide Radio System – David Webb and Matt Schnell

Three new radio sites are underway for York, South Lincoln, and Benkelman. Motorola will begin installation at these sites on March 3, 2014; installation is projected to be complete during the first two weeks of April and sites are scheduled to be online by April 15, 2014. The York tower site will provide the opportunity to move the Giltner antenna system back to the Southwest leg to improve coverage in the Hastings and Grand Island areas. If the South Lincoln tower provides enough coverage in the Sterling area, the Sterling tower may be move into Pawnee County to deal with coverage issues in that area. The Nashville OPPD tower did not pass the structural analysis for use by the Statewide Radio System; progress on this tower site has been put on hold until a solution for remediation on the tower or a different tower location is identified. The Elgin Radio site has experienced tower issues; a new antenna system will be installed in the spring and should improve coverage in the Neligh area. An Omni antenna system will be installed at the Harington tower site to improve coverage.

c. Regional Updates

See appendix. No addition updates made.

d. Nebraska Regional Interoperability network (NRIN) – Tim Hofbauer and Sue Krogman

A current map for the NRIN project was made available. NRIN continues to explore cost efficient rental agreements with county and city owned towers; a tower in Geneva was donated to NRIN and is being moved to the Auburn area. Some towers have failed structural analysis; however, installation continues with the eastern portion of the state progressing rapidly. NEMA has been working with the contractor and has a maintenance contract for the first three regions; a copy of the contract will be distributed by the end of January 2014.

A continuing issue with NRIN is community awareness. NRIN will be presenting a 45 minute question and answer session at the County Board Workshop in February in Kearney, Nebraska. This will focus on NRIN functionality, local expectations, and how the governance operates. Promotional materials are being developed to assist in marketing NRIN across the state. Each region has been asked to submit either their known or estimated costs for NRIN; total cost for each public-safety answering points (PSAP), if divided equally, is estimated to be between \$2,300 and \$3,000 annually. Homeland Security funds will be used for costs associated with

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management, monitoring, and upkeep of NRIN while they are available; when these funds are depleted, each PSAP will be asked to financially contribute to NRIN.

e. Paraclete Project – Alisia LaMay

Paraclete boxes are being moved from counties that do not or cannot use their box, to counties that can and will use them. Three counties have released their boxes to Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA); new placements for these boxes have already been arranged. The East Central has purchased computers for the counties in their region who do not have Paraclete boxes; these computers will allow the counties to utilize Paraclete and IPAWS via the internet. Four counties have applied for and been granted IPAWS compliance; NEMA and the State Patrol are also authorized users of IPAWS. Three additional counties are in the process of gaining access to the system.

f. Common Usage Operational Procedures Workgroup Update/Membership – Tim Hofbauer

No update.

6. Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Planning Project Update

Nebraska was awarded \$1,510,750 in federal funding for FirstNet with a state in-kind match of \$377,688, totaling \$1,888,438. The first phase of the grant focuses on planning, outreach, education, and the identification of stakeholders. The grant is a three-year and will end on July 31, 2016. FirstNet is a federal program and does not mandate individual participation through the purchase of services or equipment from FirstNet.

a. Update from December 18-19 Public Safety Broadband Workshop – Bob Wilhelm

A Public Safety Broadband workshop was held on December 18-19, 2013 in Kearney, Nebraska. 120 people attended the two half-day sessions. At that session, Jim Lundsted and representatives from the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) presented a session on broadband and the implementation of FirstNet in Nebraska, including county level maps of FirstNet's expected coverage based on current infrastructure. Additionally, the first responders were organized into six break-out sessions at the workshop based on their discipline to identify coverage needs, users and use of the broadband network, and their priorities.

b. Membership on NPSCC Public Safety Broadband Working Group – Bob Wilhelm

Representation on the proposed working group will be determined by the associations represented at the Public Safety Broadband Workshop. From a solicitation to the associations, six individuals have already been recommended for membership on the working group: Jon Borton, Nebraska Hospital Association; Scott Cordes, Municipal Fire Chiefs Association; Kyle Otte, Nebraska State Patrol; Julie Ryder, Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials and National Emergency Number Association; Bill Lundy, Nebraska State Volunteer Fire Fighters Association; and Dave Webb, Nebraska Public Power District. A representative from the Tribes is being sought. A webpage hosted on the Office of the Chief Information Officer's website has been developed; the webpage includes resources and information regarding the broadband initiative. The State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) website provides grant information.

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c. Proposed Charter for NPSCC Public Safety Broadband Working Group – Bob Wilhelm

All decisions regarding the broadband public safety project will ultimately be made by the Governor. The NPSCC was made an official council under the Homeland Security Policy Group (HSPG) during the last HSPG meeting on January 23, 2014. The charter is for a working group focusing on the governance of Nebraska's broadband public safety project and will advise the Governor on the implementation. The working group will be comprised of a maximum of 15 members; no federal agencies are included in the proposed membership. The working group will be responsible for establishing MOUs, participating in consultation meetings with FirstNet, establishing a plan, and engaging in outreach with all partners. During a discussion of possible alternations to the membership of the makeup of the working group, Brenda Decker proposed the charter be accepted as presented with the understanding it can be amended in the future. Al Berndt made a motion to accept the charter as presented. Ray Richards seconded this motion; the motion was passed by roll call vote with no dissents or abstaining votes.

7. Member Comments

Brenda Decker has been asked to provide an update on the communications projects to the HSPG; material from the NPSCC will be used in the writing of the report. The report will be shared with members of the NPSCC prior to its release to the HSPG.

8. Public Comments

No public comments.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NPSCC is yet to be determined; however, it will likely be in April or May 2014.

10. Adjourn

Tom Nutt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Webb seconded the motion; the motion was passed by consensus. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM CST.

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Appendix: Reports

SECC Update

The Statewide Emergency Communications Committee met on December 12. At the meeting, they set the 2014 calendar for the Required Monthly Tests, which will be the same dates and times as 2013 – on the 3rd Tuesdays of each month alternating between 10 AM and 11 PM.

The EAS Plan is being reformatted to match the SEOP plan and work in conjunction with the exiting IPAWS and AMBER Plans. The EAS plan will not include Wireless Emergency Alert plans. A small working group is revising the plan to present at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be March 19th at 1:00 PM in Grand Island.

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Statewide Radio System – NPPD

The 7.13 upgrades to the SRS were completed October 4. Three new radio site projects are underway for York, South Lincoln, and Benkelman. Final tower and building work is underway for the three sites and needs to be completed by March 1, 2014. Motorola will start field installation at all three sites March 3rd. Site turn up and system checkout is scheduled for the first two weeks of April with sites scheduled to be online April 15th. The Nashville OPPD tower did not pass the structural analysis for use by the State Radio system. The Nashville site installation has been put on hold until we find a solution for remediation on the tower or find a different tower location. Nebraska's counties continue to be added to the PSAP plan – known as the Regional Operations Common (ROC). Over two thirds of the counties are part of the plan.

Beyond the three new sites, other system changes are moving forward to provide better radio coverage in certain identified locations throughout the state. The antenna system at the Elgin Radio site will be changed out this spring to an array designed to deal with tower shadowing at that site. This should help the Neligh area. An omni antenna system will be replacing a directional system at Hartington to help coverage to the west of Hartington, again a spring project. The (new) York site will provide the opportunity to move the Giltner antenna system back to the Southwest leg of the tower and should provide better coverage in the Hastings area and west of Grand Island. The (new) South Lincoln site may provide enough coverage to the south to move a site into the Pawnee County area to deal with coverage issues in that area.

One additional voice channel has been added at the Lincoln and Giltner sites. The additional channels were added before the end of 2103.

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Southwest Regional Update Information for NPSCC Meeting January 27, 2014

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 VHF Interoperable Base Station using service from the North Central Region at this time. 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.

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:
 - No infrastructure in place to connect the 2 regions
 - Plans were in place to possibly build a tower between McCook and Lexington, however I received a message from Mike Jeffres with OCIO that we were to stand down on that effort as someone else was working an alternative

Interoperable Radio Frequencies/SRS:

- Dundy County (VHF Only), 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 installed and training has occurred. Dundy County SRS EHP is completed and quotes are in for the installation of a consolette in Benkelman. Beaver City (Furnas) and Grant (Perkins) are compiling their paperwork currently for their installations.
- It is the intent of the region to finish off the remaining 2 dispatch centers with future funds

Other:

- Yuma Co. Colorado is giving Dundy County a programmed 800 MHz radio to install in their console for connectivity to Kansas and Colorado via the 8TAC channels. Dundy Co. will absorb the installation expenses. This was a weakness found in the tri-state exercise held recently where Dundy County could not actively play along due to failure in the Colorado patching and there being no 800 MHz equipment available to Dundy County.