

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2018, 10:00 AM CST

Law Enforcement Training Academy

Library Room

3600 N. Academy Road

Grand Island, NE 68801

Opening Comments

1. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Attendance
Mike	Foley	Lt. Governor	
Phil	Brazelton	Tri-County PET Region	X
Roger	Foster	League of Municipalities	
Kevin	Garvin	Northeast PET Region	X
Ike	Brown	Southwest PET Region	X
Tim	Hofbauer	East Central PET Region	X
Adam	Matzner	State Fire Marshal	
Tom	Nutt	Nebraska Association of County Officials	
Mark	Rempe	North Central PET Region	X
Ray	Richards	Panhandle PET Region	
Jon	Rosenlund	South Central PET Region	X
Ray	Ryan	Southeast PET Region	X
Kevin	Ryan	Nebraska State Patrol	X
Jayne	Scofield	Office of the Chief Information Officer	
Craig Designee: Jeff	Stover Clauson	Game and Parks Department	X
Bryan	Tuma	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	X
David Designee: Matt	Webb Schnell	Nebraska Public Power District	X

Others in attendance: James Lundsted, Bob Wilhelm, Vanessa Zobeck, Chip Volcek, Mike Jeffries, Sue Krogman, Troy Harris, Rod Ziegler, Pam Kemper, Mark DeKraai, Quinn Lewandowski

2. Welcome, Introductions, and Open Meeting Law Information

Bryan Tuma, called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM Central Standard Time. Mr. Tuma 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. Approval of Minutes

Ike Brown made a motion to approve the November 2, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mark Rempe; the motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstaining votes and no dissenting votes.

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4. Review and Recommendations of Projects for Investment Justification (IJ)

This year, the regions have submitted \$2,047,469 covering 20 communications projects for funding consideration from the Homeland Security grant. The Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council (NPSCC) is the communications Subject Matter Expert (SME) group for these projects. Historically, communications projects receive \$1.127 million from the grant but guidance regarding potential funding has not been received yet for this year. For the purpose of this meeting, the council will operate from the premise that the amount received last year will again be granted this year. Project scoring was completed ahead of this meeting based on three questions:

- This project will greatly improve Nebraska's preparedness
- This project is realistic and feasible
- Prioritize projects by High Priority, Low Priority, or Do Not Fund

The scores were then averaged and compiled for review. The authors of the projects provide a brief description of the project for the Council. The Council reviews the projects to determine if project funding can be funded in full, reduced, or not funded. Once each SME group makes recommendations, the proposals are reviewed by the Homeland Security Senior Advisory Council (SAC). Finally, the project recommendations are reviewed and final determinations are made by the Homeland Security Policy Group (HSPG).

After review of all projects, the Council determined to place priority on NRIN Buildout in order to finish the project by August 2020; the NRIN buildout will require the same funding amount the following grant year to complete the buildout. The next priority is for NRIN management, monitoring, maintenance, tower leases, and tower construction. Duplicative projects, and projects with other available funding sources are proposed as do not fund.

Statewide NRIN (Build out): The Statewide NRIN Buildout project is requesting \$500,000 to complete the network build out. The Northeast Region is the main area in need of buildout; the other regions are complete or near completion. NRIN buildout needs to be completed by August 2020; this grant year and next grant year are the final funding opportunities to complete the build out. Sue Krogman estimates \$750,000 in additional funds will complete the build out. One of the projects this year is in the Southwest section of Holt County to connect the North Central region to the rest of the state. Ike Brown suggested dividing the full remaining amount by the two remaining grant years and proposing that amount to the SAC. The NRIN representative attending SAC and HSPG will inform the Council that this amount cannot be reduced or the buildout is in jeopardy of completion. The Council proposed reducing funding for this project to \$375,000.

NRIN Statewide Maintenance/Monitoring: The NRIN Board is requesting \$222,000 to cover statewide monitoring and maintenance agreements, equipment upgrades, and training to keep NRIN operational. In the past, each region budgeted and requested funds for maintenance and management; consolidating these services into one SLA will ensure a consistent statewide approach. Chip Volcek with the NRIN Board suggested reducing the project funds to \$200,000 because there are funds left from the previous grant year, which can be used to supplement the 2018 grant award. The Council recommended reducing funding for this project to \$200,000.

Holt Tower (NRIN): This North Central region project was requested and not funded in the 2017 grant year. This tower will connect the North Central region to the rest of the statewide NRIN system; Rock

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County will submit a funding request in the 2019 grant cycle. The \$58,000 requested is a third of the funds required to build the tower. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

NRIN (Tower rent/operating) East Central: The East Central region is requesting \$59,400 to cover tower rent and equipment replacement costs for NRIN. Tim Hofbauer stated that these funds can be cut in half to \$29,200 if the NRIN statewide maintenance and monitoring project is fully funded. The Council recommended reducing this project to \$29,200 under the assumption that the NRIN statewide maintenance and monitoring project is fully funded.

NRIN Sustainment (tower costs) Panhandle: The Panhandle region is requesting \$39,900 to cover a tower build, leases, and electricity costs. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

SE Tower Lease: The Southeast region is requesting \$6,500 to cover an NRIN tower lease. The council recommended fully funding this project.

NC tower lease NRIN: The North Central region is requesting \$47,595.55 to cover NRIN tower leases. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

SW NRIN buildout, tower rent, Monitoring and maintenance: The Southwest region is requesting \$50,000 to cover equipment replacement, tower leases, finish their build out, and electricity to the towers. The NRIN board budgeted \$10,000 per region to assist with monitoring and maintenance. Ike Brown stated that \$5,000 be removed from this project if the NRIN Statewide Maintenance and Monitoring project is fully funded. The Council recommended reducing this project to \$45,000 under the assumption that the NRIN statewide maintenance and monitoring project is fully funded.

SE Maintenance/Monitoring (NRIN): The Southeast region is requesting \$5,200 to cover the maintenance of existing towers. This project is duplicative if the NRIN Statewide Maintenance and Monitoring project is fully funded. The Council recommended not funding this project if the NRIN statewide monitoring and maintenance project is fully funded.

NE NRIN storage, tower rent, maintenance and monitoring: The Northeast region is requesting \$39,600 to cover equipment storage, maintenance and monitoring, and electricity for the NRIN towers. Kevin Garvin estimated that \$4,800 can be removed if the NRIN Statewide Maintenance and Monitoring project is fully funded. The Council recommended funding this project at \$34,800 under the assumption that the NRIN statewide maintenance and monitoring project is fully funded.

Southeast generators: The Southeast region is requesting \$11,100 to cover tower site generators in Seward County and Cass County. The Council recommended not funding this project.

Panhandle Cheyenne co radio tower: The Panhandle region is requesting \$12,870 to cover the cost of a radio tower. The Council recommended not funding this project; it is not an NRIN priority.

Morrill county tower lighting panhandle: The Panhandle region is requesting \$22,667 to cover the cost of tower lighting for Morrill County. The Council recommended not funding this project; it is not an NRIN priority.

Panhandle mobile repeater: The Panhandle region is requesting \$17,200 to cover the cost of a mobile repeater. The Council recommended not funding this project; it is not an NRIN priority.

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Tri-County wide area network microwave: The Tri-County region is requesting \$874, 587 to cover the replacement of 56 radios that are at end of life. Phil Brazelton suggested reducing this project funding to \$660,874 and Tri-County will perform the radio installations themselves. After discussion about NRIN use and capabilities, Phil Brazelton stated that Tri-County is willing to connect the Orion ring to the NRIN ring in order to reduce costs of projects and increase usage of NRIN. Tri-County will also pay for the Blair Waterworks NRIN tower install. Given the increased functionality that Tri-County would gain from the NRIN collaboration, Phil suggested that this project funding could be split into two grant years, therefore reducing the amount to \$330,437. The Council recommended funding for this project at \$330,437.

Southeast radio: The Southeast region is requesting \$4,100 to cover a new radio on SRS system. This radio will be a backup for the consolette to communicate with other dispatch centers if phone lines go down. The Council recommended not funding this project and noted that this request can be fulfilled by applying for a free radio through the State Patrol SRS program; application inquiry can be sent to Pam Kemper at pam.kemper@nebraska.gov

Tenable Security Center Platform Tri-County: The Tri-County region is requesting \$30,000 to cover a tenable security center platform. Phil Brazelton considers this project a low priority. Cybersecurity projects should first complete a needs assessment and then an audit prior to requesting equipment or software. The Council recommended not funding this project; it is not an NRIN.

Cybersecurity Audit Tri-County: The Tri-County region is requesting \$15,000 to cover a cybersecurity audit. Phil Brazelton said this project takes priority over the tenable security center platform because the audit should be completed prior to purchasing items but a needs assessment should be completed prior to the audit. The Council recommended not funding this project, it is not an NRIN priority and requires a needs assessment prior to funding.

NRIN Board Travel: The Panhandle region is requesting \$26,250 to cover travel costs to the NRIN Board meetings held in Kearney. This amount covers the travel costs for the next three years. The Council recommended not funding this project because the NRIN buildout and sustainability projects are higher priority.

DAL foundation seminar panhandle: The Panhandle region is requesting \$5,500 to cover a DAL foundation seminar. The Council recommended not funding this project and believe that this project should be reviewed by the Planning, Training, and Exercise (PET) SME group.

Tim Hofbauer made a motion to approve the proposed communication investment justification projects with revisions as noted above and for the total amount of \$1,176,195. The motion was seconded by Phil Brazelton; the motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstaining votes and no dissenting votes.

5. Public Safety Communications Information and Reports

a. PEP Plan – Bryan Tuma

The Primary Entry Point (PEP) plan (also known as the 2018 Nebraska EAS Plan) was reviewed by the Lt. Governor and he recommended to move forward. Rod Ziegler indicated the Federal

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Communications Commission (FCC) mandates that each state of a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) has a plan followed by broadcasters and cable companies so federal and state alerts can be propagated. Every Emergency Alert System (EAS) participant has to have two separate sources to receive federal emergency alerts. For the first time, Nebraska has two sources, so the PEP plan can be submitted to the FCC. The FCC approved Sirius XM as a monitoring source for the plan. Compliance steps will be initiated within 30-90 days of NPSCC approving the EAS plan.

b. Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) – Sue Krogman, Tim Hofbauer/Jon Rosenlund

The NRIN Board is meeting tomorrow and on a monthly basis to continue working on a sustainability plan including potential income sources, cost reductions, and user approvals. The Board is developing a price point for NRIN users and will work with NPPD to utilize their expertise on usage rates. On this public safety information network that includes only government partners, all data is secure and users will not have access to the information outside the network. NRIN is an intranet for the counties, regions, and state agencies to share public safety data and information. Potential users submit an application to the NRIN Board, which are vetted through OCIO for technical feasibility. The NRIN Board has obtained a statewide maintenance agreement with Platte Valley for time and materials, which covers preventative maintenance and equipment replacement. Each region will have a point of contact for communication regarding equipment issues. A contact list for each tower site and a troubleshooting flow chart is being created for users and will be available online. Equipment replacement is the largest cost for NRIN and is an unknown factor so estimating costs are challenging. Ceragon, a current provider of some NRIN equipment, will meet with the Board in April or May to discuss upgrades and equipment buy-back options.

c. FirstNet Report – Bob Wilhelm, AT&T, FirstNet Representatives

AT&T was selected as the FirstNet partner to complete buildout across the country. The State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP), awarded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, ended the fourth grant year on February 28th and helped fund regional education. SLIGP 2.0 started March 1st but \$500,000 of 1.0 funds were de-obligated to help fund the 2.0 grant. There may be an additional \$300,000 de-obligated in 2.0. SLIGP 2.0 will provide around \$700,000 to cover outreach, education, governance group travel expenses, and logistics. There are two AT&T representatives; one working out of Denver and the other in Omaha. These representatives met with the FirstNet workgroup on February 15th to determine an implementation timeline and structure. The workgroup is developing an application process, operation details, user education, policies and procedures. There is some concern around FirstNet becoming competition to SRS, which would diminish interoperability between dispatch centers. Ike Brown recommends that the responsibilities of the working group include creating a governance structure in partnership with AT&T. Bryan Tuma agrees and that the workgroup needs to have heavy user representation. FirstNet will be heavily integrated into radio systems. NEMA does not have expertise or funds to support this but suggested that the Public Service Commission (PSC) may be able to support FirstNet and NextGen911. This topic should be discussed with state leaders in the next few months prior to the biennial budget development to determine who is responsible for operations of FirstNet. Bryan Tuma may suggest to Lt. Governor the idea of creating body which may require legislation or appointment by the Governor. If the PSC supports operations, that would also require legislation. Ike Brown suggested holding stakeholder meetings over the next nine months to determine who can support the various FirstNet functions. NPSCC will engage the broadband group for combined meeting to discuss possible options. Terminals may be ready in about 18 months but buildout has a 5-year term. Agencies need to start looking at budgeting for terminals.

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NextGen911 will have six or seven regions after regionalization in an effort to consolidate costs and implementation for this service. NPSCC is responsible for ESINET coordination. Bryan Tuma and Bob Wilhelm will collaborate to schedule a meeting between NPSCC and the FirstNet Workgroup.

a. Statewide Radio System (SRS) Report – Pam Kemper and Mike Jeffres

The Statewide Radio System (SRS) was built by the State Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) in partnership with the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). It is a P25 (public safety standard) VHF digital trunked land mobile system. It operates on a closed, secure network built just for the SRS traffic. No other traffic is allowed on it. It has two main cores connected to all the sites including dispatch sites that network their dispatch consoles into it. This gives them the capability to dispatch for each other which complements NG911 operations. If you take each other's 911 calls, you also need to be able to dispatch help to those calls. The SRS provides that capability. The SRS cores are geographically separated with one in Lincoln and one in Kearney. They operate with DSR (dynamic system resilience.) If the main core at Lincoln gets disconnected from the network or fails, the Kearney core automatically takes over with no manual intervention. The cores are redundant within themselves. Each has dual processors. The system is updated every other year with firmware and software. If needed for the operation of the updated firmware and software, equipment is also replaced. The SRS is available to all federal, state, local public safety agencies and public utilities operating in the State of Nebraska for a nominal monthly user fee. The system started with 51 tower sites across the state to provide 95% coverage or better. The system was designed to be able to add talk channels and sites to increase capacity and coverage as needed. There are now 61 sites including the Hebron site that will become active in April. There is also a mobile site. The system provides shared talk groups, The Region Operations Common (ROC) talk groups, for interoperability between users and dispatch centers. Dispatch centers can install a radio connected to the SRS. The cost for the radio and installation averages \$10,000. There is no monthly user fee for dispatch centers to use the ROC talk groups. All dispatch centers in the state have them except two: Box Butte and Sheridan Counties. The ROC talk groups are tested weekly with all dispatch centers to make sure they are working and their personnel maintain an awareness of them. Nebraska's SRS ISSI (Inter RF Subsystem Interoperability) capability will be tested with Missouri's for intersystem interoperability.

b. State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) Report – Rod Zeigler

Rod Zeigler with the SECC requested the NPSCC approve the 2018 Nebraska EAS plan. The plan was endorsed by the Lt. Governor. Bryan Tuma entertained a motion to accept the 2018 Nebraska State EAS Plan as presented.

i. *2018 Nebraska State EAS Plan Approval

Ike Brown made a motion to approve the 2018 Nebraska State EAS Plan. The motion was seconded by Kevin Garvin; the motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstaining votes and no dissenting votes. With the NPSCC approval of this plan, the Nebraska State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) will require all Nebraska EAS participants to be in compliance with the 2018 Nebraska State EAS Plan before Sept. 1st, 2018.

5. Member Comments

Jon Rosenlund with Hall County is having a ground breaking ceremony for the new Emergency Operations Center today at 1pm.

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6. Public Comments

Jim Lundstedt stated that governance remains a challenge in all states regarding FirstNet and NextGen911 public safety programs and alignment with statewide interoperability. There is a tendency to seek consolidation of the new ecosystem to save on costs and streamline operations. There are many adjacent states using these systems and feedback regarding redundancy of these systems is encouraging. An incident response plan regarding Cybersecurity for public agencies should be prioritized by state agencies.

7. Next Meeting

Bob Wilhelm and Bryan Tuma will coordinate to schedule a NPSCC and FirstNet Workgroup meeting regarding how to coexist in the new ecosystem and outline operation responsibilities.

8. Adjourn

Kevin Garvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ike Brown; the motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17PM CST.

Acronym	Meaning
CASM	Communications Assets Survey and Mapping
DAS	Distributed Antenna System
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
PEP	Primary Entry Point
PET	Planning, Exercise, and Training

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RFP	Request for proposals
ROC	Regional Operations Common
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SLIGP	State and Local Implementation Grant Program
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