

East Central Region Governance Meeting

September 4th , 2014

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Agenda

Location: Map Room – Platte Co. Courthouse (basement), 2610 14th Street, Columbus, NE

Chair: Bob Carey, *Polk County* Sheriffs Office

Co-Chair: Terry Miller, *Saunders County*

Secretary/Treasurer: Tim Hofbauer, *Platte County*

- i. **Review of the Open Meeting Law** – The open Meetings law was referred to as posted at the meeting.
- ii. **Roll Call of Counties Present** – Platte, Saunders, Colfax, Region 44, Butler, Dodge, Howard,
 - a. **Not Present:** Polk
- iii. **Approve July 2014 Governance Board Minutes**
 - a. Motion to approve the Minutes of the July 2014 Governing Board meeting was made by Colfax County and Seconded by Howard County. Motion approved unanimously.
- iv. **Public Health Report**
 - a. **Four Corners District** – Laura reports the first West Nile case to this district; FC is planning a TTX with hospitals and long term care facilities for March 2015; CMS requirements will be focusing on long term care and hospital facilities and will involve more Emergency Management functions. MRS will be involved as well.
 - b. **Three Rivers** - A reminder that this is National Preparedness Month; some confirmed cases of West Nile Virus; Brenda is new to Three Rivers and will head up the ERC
 - c. **East Central** – (Boone Colfax, Nance & Boone Counties) No human cases of West Nile cases as yet; 9 Rabies exposures for animals – no human exposure; one Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever case; outbreak in long term care facility is declining.
- v. **Red Cross Report**
 - a. Susan Epps – Columbus office is moving on September 15, 2014; Tina Labalarte, Regional CEO has resigned and the process of reorganizing; In January, Nebraska and Kansas will be merging and Nebraska will lead the region.
- vi. **Regional Incident Support Team**
 - a. **Review of SOP and Interlocal Agreement (may be moved to after meeting)**
 - i. Tim distributes documents; Tom has spent quite a bit of time putting together an SOP and guidelines/interlocal agreements. Tim invites all interested parties to attend the meeting following the Governance Board meeting.
 - b. **Accountability – Dodge County Exercise – September 11, 2014**
 - i. September 11, 2014 is the Dodge County exercise and the RIST has been asked to provide support at this event. Tim will bring the Rapid Tag System and he asks for volunteers to attend.
 - c. **N –RAT** - Deanna Beckman has stepped back from the leadership of this team and Tim has taken the leadership responsibility. This allows for additional revision in policies and procedures to operate at a regional level first. Tim will bring in training to use hardware and equipment. Regions will need to adopt the guidelines in order to operate effectively.

Discussion - Rapid Tag System – There are 2 levels of ID's. 1 - Identification of the person and role, and 2 - Credentials. Currently the state policy group has not formed a policy for adding the information for credentials. Criteria for Incident Commander Credential also need to be developed, however Federal credentials would suffice in the absence of state qualification.

- vii. **2014 HSG Work plan status.**

- a. Tim has received notice from Nikki at NEMA that the AEL's needed to be added to the Work Plan. He has completed this and approval is expected soon and the funding for projects will follow.
- b. 2013 Grant – Tim needs to check on the status of projects and will enter in projects to NEMA prior to the January 31 grant deadline.
- c. Dodge has applied and was awarded EMPG funds. Bill notes that he keeps a list of projects ready for possible funding. Match funds are needed with EMPG funds.

viii. Regional Projects

a. NRIN

i. NRIN Contractor update

- 1. Cornerstone Tower was approved for the work on the Saunders County Wahoo water tower. This is in process and Terry is in contact with them.

ii. Tower lease/agreements

- 1. Connections for the following are complete: Columbus, Butler, and Polk. Merrick and Nance are almost connected. There is a website that has the capacity to see the actual connections. Fullerton to the dispatch center is not yet aligned. Tim has contacted Randy from Midland Telecom regarding the connections to use the tower in Howard County to do the structural assessment.
- 2. Tom (Region 44) reports that the approval for the tower from city, county and the FAA has been received.

iii. System Build Out

- 1. Colfax County – approval to use the grain elevator in Schuyler has been received. The EHPG is complete and the structural mapping needs to be complete.

b. EC-911

i. Update from facilitated Communications Meeting.

- 1. Todd reports that many activities are going on in the background. The barriers include the progress of NRIN and communications with providers. There are 3 different LATA areas in East Central Windstream and CenturyLink are not working together across specific borders. Special trunks may need to be used. A phone meeting is scheduled for 9/6/14. Public Service Commission is watching the process.
- 2. Once Saunders County is complete with testing more will be complete. There may be additional requirements for Saunders County to finish prior to completion.
- 3. One tower that needs to be connected - Cedar Bluffs/Nextel. Contact has been made with and SPA who owns the tower. The equipment on there is not being charged now. The plan is to have the county contact SPA regarding tower usage. This will eventually go to Hooper and Snyder to tie in to the Northeast Region to make the ring.

ii. Facilitated Communications Meeting

- 1. The meeting was held on September 2, 2014. The Platte City County team has discussed merging the dispatch center. The PPC facilitated the meeting to assist the group to decide next moves. As the existing equipment sunsets, county and city will purchase similar radio equipment to facilitate continued operations. Interlocal agreements will be developed to work toward interoperable communications. The plan is to present to the County Board and the City Council for the plan. Tim will cost out the project.

ix. Regional Planning/Training

a. Regional Planning/Training in East Central – Subcommittee Report

i. The committee brings the regional planning document for review.

- 1. Basic Railroad 101(3 hours) put on by Union Pacific – safety, hazardous materials etc. several options were discussed. Colfax County asks for input. Law enforcement and fire personnel are targeted for this training. Announcement for the course were requested to advertise the training. A

venue will need to be selected. North Bend has a viable facility that could be used for the training. Michelle will work with Bill from Dodge County to schedule North Bend venue. Michelle asks that others contact her regarding scheduling venues.

2. Crisis Management in Schools, all hazards safety & security training will be researched. Kate will get information to Michelle on the agenda and costs.
 3. Functional Exercise – PR to counties on NRIN operations. There are promotional materials developed and there are questions about the usefulness. There is a group that is struggling to address this very issue. It was decided to call this Interoperable Communications.
 - a. One idea was to develop shared GIS resources to use for databases.
 - b. Testing for V-TAC Channels
 - c. CERT training – Ryan Lowery from NEMA may be able to assist in presenting to the counties on the viability of CERT regionally.
 - d. Social Media PIO Training (Facebook and Twitter) – this was presented at the NAEM conference and additional training would be beneficial. This is something that the Regional Support Management Team can work on as a project and it would serve as a current information messenger as a disaster unfolds.
 - i. Primary social media needs to be set up ahead of time and someone needs to be assigned during a disaster to monitor the information feeds. Lessons learned from a disaster would be a helpful workshop.
 - e. Full Scale Regional Exercise - Medical Response System is required to do full scale exercises and partnering with them would be a benefit for this in the exercise schedule. Local responders do better with a table top exercise. Michelle will remove this from the calendar as a regional exercise and the focus will on this at the local level instead. This also needs to be tracked through this committee.
 - f. Outside Training - Chuck Chase of NEMA is working with Michelle to address the following:
 - i. Local Volunteer & Donations Management
 - ii. Debris Management
 - iii. Basic PIO Class
 - iv. Senior Officials training is being planned by NEMA (a 312 course will be held October 22, 2014 at Union College in Lincoln). A Kearney location is also planned.
 - v. Bill discusses the possibility of building a plan around the professional development requirements.
 - vi. NACO conference would be an ideal way to bring education to elected officials to meet the needs of getting them trained efficiently. Clerks are a target audience as well.
- b. **Regional/Local Exercises** (see discussion above)
- c. **Regional/Local Training** (see discussion above)
- x. **Update on NEMA and NPSCC Meetings**
- a. **NEMA Update**
 - i. October 21 – 22, is the date scheduled for the state SPR, TEPW and THIRA meeting.
 - ii. Counties need to make sure all of their SOP plans in and updated.
- xi. **Public Comment** – No public comment
- xii. **Upcoming meetings**

- a. **East Central Governance** - October 2, 2014
- b. **State SPR, TEPW, and THIRA** October 21 – 22, 2014