

Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR)
Minutes
February 26, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.
Lancaster County Extension Office
444 Cherrycreek Rd – Lincoln, Nebraska

Opening comments

1. Roll Call

First	Last	Attendance
Mark	Conrey	x
Patrick	Foust	x
Pat	Gerdes	x
Jim	Gerweck	x
Tim	Hofbauer	x
Darrin	Lewis	
Pete	Peterson	x
Ray	Richards	x
Thomas	Schwarten	x
Dave	Webb	x

2. Open Meetings Law information – verification of public notice, availability of copy of law in the meeting location
3. Minutes – December 11, 2009 meeting
Pat Foust made a motion to accept the December 11, 2009 Minutes. Ray Richards seconded the motion; the motion is passed unanimously by all members present.

Action Items

1. NCOR Annual Report to Governor Heineman – Pete Peterson, Chair
Mark Conrey made a motion to accept the 2009 Annual Report as presented. Tim Hofbauer seconded the motion; the motion was passed unanimously by all members present.
2. Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (revised timeline)
A new RFP was released Feb. 12, 2010. A new timeline was presented with the contractor start date May 28, 2010. The oral interview process has been removed from the RFP. There will be a more concerted effort within the group in revising the evaluation tool. The answers to the questions will be published on state purchasing website by Feb. 26, 2010, but the corrected Attachment 7 will be released no later than March 5. All questions should be deferred to state purchasing.
- The regions will need to use future money to pay for the entire project. NEMA needs to establish their parameters for money and show the money that is available, working with NCOR to determine the priorities of implementation. The regions should gather tower information and reach regional conclusions. Each region will need to set a point of contact between the region and OCIO. Questions on Mutual Aid must be finalized.
3. Guidance to Regions on development and deployment of Regional Networks
NEMA will ask the regions for project tasks, milestones, and estimated costs to assess the status of the PSIC grant. The regions may need to MOU funds back to the state to spend the money on the regions' behalf. This will help with Investment Justifications and timelines for the \$8.5M PSIC Grant. Money has already been spent on PSAP Interoperability with the "black boxes." Regions require more information on specific requirements in order to estimate costs. Pam Kemper will send out the information on the

cost estimates for each region related to network development. The end goal is to share all the information with all the sheriffs, emergency managers, etc. within a week. Regions can share the information specs with their local dealers since the local

4. Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan 2010 Revision – Bob Willhelm, NEMA
The SCIP Meeting will be held March 22-23, 2010 in conjunction with the TICP Revisions and the COM-L Training. That revision process is being facilitated by DHS- Office of Emergency Communications.
5. 2010 Homeland Security Grant Investment Justifications – Denise Bulling, PPC
The Public Policy Center has been gathering information and priorities from each of the PET Regions to construct the Investment Justifications. The proposed Investment Justifications will be given to the regions to review on March 22, 2010, and another draft will be presented on March 29, 2010. The State Investment Justification Workshop will be held on April 6, 2010 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, NE. NCOR should voice their priorities through their regions. The 2009 Work Plans and cost estimates are due March 31, 2010.
6. Mutual Aid Plan – Pete Peterson, Chair

Background – Mike Jeffres

UHF Simplex is the way to start. Duplex is more complicated; repeated pairs, though not prohibited, add more complexity. Radios need to be programmed for both simplex and duplex in order to talk around. Users call direct: UTAC-1, UTAC-1-Direct. Once names are determined, radios can all be programmed. A repeater allows the user to move around between areas. The system is programmed on a single-tone in a simplex system.

Pat Gerdes – System in Phelps County

Phelps County has been running for a year. The County purchased the MTR2000 Motorola Repeater. They programmed the radios for simplex. However, Buffalo County had programs on repeaters, so the two counties could not communicate. Phelps County installed a 300 ft. dual-band antenna, and Buffalo County installed VHF Digital (as well as analog) Radios in sheriff's vehicles to communicate with the State Patrol. The radios can be patched through the console or through Paraclete. Phelps County will be adding additional receivers to the MTR2000 in order to receive even if the user is on a call.

Facilitated Discussion – Denise Bulling

VHF Coverage. VHF is already set to be simplex. This helps it set to the call channel. By consensus it is decided that VHF should be simplex. Mutual Aid channels will be simplex on VHF (non-repeated).

UHF Coverage. A UCALL channel will be installed in the base station, and a second receiver will be set to the UCALL channel. Then UTAC3 will be a repeated channel, which will require a separate box. One more antenna will be required in those places that have UHF. Space is an issue for deciding on optional equipment in the base stations. With the exception of UTAC3, all UHF base stations will be simplex. UHF

base stations must be planned for coverage along Interstate 80 throughout Nebraska, all areas south of the Interstate and in areas where UHF is of predominant use.

Coverage Issues. It is in the regions' best interest to co-locate the Mutual Aid Base Stations wherever possible. Mutual Aid will need to have VHF coverage statewide. UHF will be available along Interstate 80 and south of I-80. Individual UHF equipment will be installed as necessary where areas are currently using UHF.

800 Coverage. Kansas currently has 800MHz coverage in which Nebraska will need to communicate. Scottsbluff County currently has 800 Digital coverage. The 800MHz base stations must be planned for coverage along Interstate 80 throughout Nebraska and in areas where 800 is of predominant use. It is not cost-effective to install VHF in every vehicle. Users will be interoperable through Paraclete or through a cache of radios.

Equipment Location. NEMA and OCIO will provide coverage maps to NCOR to examine in conjunction with the data system.

Equipment Specs.

- Each station will require an internet-based tone remote control Ethernet box. One options is a Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) card to interface with the system. Base Stations must have voiceover network capability to access Ethernet.
- Base Stations either need to have multiple receivers or a separate base just for the calling channel. A separate receiver in an MTR2000 is about \$2500. Base Stations need the ability to access virtual private network, and base stations should have a dedicated receiver for the call in channels. One box with call-in channel programmed per band is required in each Mutual Aid Base Station.
- A combiner is required to have up to six channels on one antenna.
- Across the state, NCOR assumes 100W continuous duty base stations on a 150 Foot tower.
- Each region would feed into the existing infrastructure in order to interface into dispatch center console, rather than only through Paraclete. Each base station must interface with the existing dispatch consoles.
- Mutual Aid base stations will have to connect to at least one local dispatch center and the state patrol dispatch center serving that troop area.
- The antenna needs to be a gain antenna, commercial grade.

Information/Reports

1. NEMA – No Update.
2. University of Nebraska PPC – Denise Bulling, PPC
The Planning Academy will be held April 7, 2010 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, NE. An alternate day to be decided will be available in the West.
3. OCIO – No Update.
4. NCOR representatives to N-WIN
 - a. Joint Operational Subcommittee

Discussion Items

No Items.

Comments

1. Member comments

Al Berndt, Bob Wilhelm, Dan Hiller, and Rod Hutt gave a presentation on the data system and Mutual Aid Base Station system to the Public Power Districts, which received a positive response.

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission has preliminary meetings, and the full group will meet in early March to decide whether NCOR's networking project falls underneath their agency for reporting purposes. The NITC is also available to provide assistance.

An Airplane Search and Rescue Service in Wichita would like to present to NCOR on the search and rescue. Pete Peterson will refer to Pat Gerdes for NAEM.

Standard Operating Procedures must go to the local level to coordinate with user groups. SOPs will serve as an agenda item at the next NCOR Meeting.

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010, Phase One was initiated when State Patrol Troop B went to the new radio system. The new radio system is very well received. Phase 2 begins Wednesday, March 3, 2010 in North Platte.

2. Public comments - None

Next Meeting

March 25, 2010, 10 AM, Lincoln.

Agenda items should include Low Band, SOPs, Broadband regional point of contact, and Guidance to the regions.