

Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR)
December 10, 2010 - 2:00 p.m.
Nebraska State Office Building – 301 Centennial Mall South, Room 227 – Lincoln

Opening comments

1. Roll Call, Open Meetings Law information

First	Last	Org	Attendance
Mark	Conrey	DouglasCo.911Center	x
Patrick	Foust	South.Sioux City/DakotaCo.EMA	x
Pat	Gerdes	Region 15 Emergency Management Agency	x
Jim	Gerweck	Richardson Co. Emerg. Management	x
Tim	Hofbauer	Columbus/Platte Co Emr. Management	x
Darrin	Lewis	Buffalo County Emergency Management	
Pete	Peterson	Keith County Emergency Management	x
Ray	Richards	Scottsbluff Co. 911 Director	x
Thomas	Schwarten	Nebraska State Patrol	x
Dave	Webb	NPPD	x

2. Open Meetings Law information – verification of public notice, availability of copy of law

3. Minutes – November 4, 2010 and November 5, 2010 meetings

Pat Foust made a motion to approve the Nov. 4 and Nov. 5, 2010 minutes. Ray Richards seconded the motion; the motion passes by consensus.

Discussion Items

1. Regional Interoperability Network Project Update

Mark Higgins, Communications Services Inc. (CSI): Discussions have been held to alleviate some costs. CSI has provided liability insurance for tower installation involving CSI technicians. CSI will work with NPPD on a short tower installation between Rushville and Clinton. Some remediation may need to be done at the Oshkosh and Lodgepole towers. NEMA has submitted the Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) forms, which should be filed by Dec. 17, 2010. CSI will supply a revised bill of materials based on the site visits. Ten tower studies remain and the roof assessments are nearly complete. The regional representatives can have access to the Google Earth file with coordinates for each tower site being considered, which is detailed and has zoom capability. It would be helpful if Emergency Managers outside the initial areas began to identify who owns the towers, who are the decision makers, whether the towers have obvious deficiencies, and what alternatives might be available as the NRIN moves eastward.

2. Mutual Aid Project Update

South Central, Pat Gerdes: Interop Solutions is working with Hal Bassett to set up the base station. They hope to have a prototype ready by Dec. 31, 2010. The prototype should be able to control the base station through an interface. The South Central region will work with Tom Monahan. Sue Krogman from NEMA is coordinating training efforts.

Tri-County, Mark Conrey: The next meeting will be held Jan. 11, 2011 to review the issues in interoperability. A small, scenario-based tabletop exercise will be held on Jan. 11, 2011. The system will have to be controlled at a local level, but state and local officials will need to have the same capabilities. Since the state patrol and the locals have p-25 systems, the dispatch console set-up will be reviewed.

3. Interop Solutions/Paraclete Project Update – Sue Krogman, NEMA
Sue Krogman, NEMA is overseeing the Paraclete project. A training cadre and a technician cadre have been established for Paraclete. Regional and individual issues with the Paraclete boxes are being resolved. A training manual has been prepared, and the training team has set up a schedule to have dispatchers, supervisors, and emergency managers trained by March 1, 2011. It was suggested that officer training be considered so officers can know when to use it. Interoperable communications need to be an “as needed” and “on demand” product for end users. Each region should conduct a needs review and identify who needs to talk to whom. .
4. TICP/SCIP Revision Project Update – Rod Hutt, NEMA
Four of the eight regions have turned in TICPs. A seminar was held in Grand Island where regions learned more about CASM and had time to work on individual TICPs. NEMA and the Public Policy Center are collaborating to include common language within the TICPs. The SCIP will be completed after the TICPs are completed and submitted.
5. SOP/MOU Development Project Update – Mark DeKraai, Public Policy Center
The draft Standard Operating Procedures were prepared for review. NCOR representatives should review the draft SOPs and send comments to Luke Bonkiewicz at the PPC. A new draft will be presented at the January meeting after regional input is added. NCOR representatives will share the draft SOPs with dispatch centers and other local users. Feedback should be submitted by Jan. 19, 2011.
6. Other Discussion Items
 - a. Sustainability – Pete Peterson, Chair & Mark Conrey, Tri-County
In the North Central region, discussion has begun on maintenance and upkeep of the towers and how ongoing costs will be paid. They have briefly discussed that some costs will have to be paid for by the local government. North Central is reducing the ongoing lease or utility costs by agreeing to install Pan-Zoom Tilt cameras to towers, installing generators, etc. The existing routers have good firewall capabilities. Ports are limited by the number of radios at a location. Additional switches can be provided for a nominal expense.

A governance structure in the region and around the state is needed to provide rules at different levels for NRIN. Mark Conrey developed a concept paper, which was distributed. The state is a peer region in developing a governance structure. Communications and Information Technology (IT) representatives need to be engaged in each region. It is important to also balance security to the network. NCOR representatives should identify IT and Communications representatives in their regions, including the 911 centers.
 - b. NCOR Representatives – Pete Peterson, Chair
The NCOR Membership will be reviewed prior to March 2011. This will be an agenda item for the January 2011 meeting.
 - c. Homeland Security Grant MOU – Pete Peterson, Chair
NEMA has awarded \$2.97M in 2010 Homeland Security Grant funds to NCOR’s use for the Microwave project. At the January meeting, NCOR will vote on whether to MOU the money back to spend on the Microwave project.
 - d. 2010 Annual report – Mark DeKraai, PPC

NCOR representatives should review the 2009 Annual Report and send suggestions, ideas, and comments for the 2010 report to Janell Walther, PPC by Jan. 19, 2010.

e. Narrowbanding – Pete Peterson, Chair

Mike Jeffres notified members of the FCC narrow-banding deadline. UHF Med Channels 1-10 must be narrow-banded. Some locations may have to change radios. Licensees cannot expand existing wideband licenses.

Action Items

Information/Reports

1. NEMA – Nikki Weber & Al Berndt

The 2007 Homeland Security Grant closes on Dec. 31, 2010. All equipment must be ordered and installed and pre-approved by EHP. Reimbursement must be submitted within 60 days. The 2008 Grant closes August 2011. The 2008 funds have a 25% planning requirement, which requires a plan to be in place. NEMA has two contractors that can assist with plan creation and implementation.

2. University of Nebraska PPC – Mark DeKraai

NEMA is documenting potential uses of NRIN which will be sent prior to the January meeting. An online bulletin board will be created as a place to share ideas, lessons learned, and working documents.

3. OCIO – Mike Jeffres

No additional update.

4. NCOR representatives to N-WIN

Tom Schwarten, Nebraska State Patrol: The State Patrol project is progressing. All of the state patrol user equipment and state fire marshal user equipment has been installed in all vehicles. Training is scheduled. Eastern Nebraska is nearly operational. The users group is reviewing the addition of radio users. The Wyoming state system was presented at the last NWIN meeting. Wyoming was funded and did not charge user fees. The next NWIN meeting will held Jan. 28, 2011. Another state will present at the Feb. 25, 2011 NWIN Meeting.

Comments

1. Member Comments

Dave Webb, NPPD: Any comments or questions regarding fee structures for the State Radio System use can be directed to Dave Webb.

Mark Conrey, Tri-County: There is a gap in reaching elected officials within regions. NCOR should consider how to reach elected officials.

2. Public comments

No public comments.

Next Meetings

The next NCOR Meeting will be held Jan. 28 at 10 AM.