

**Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR)**

**Minutes**

**November 5, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Buffalo County Emergency Operations Center – 1512 Central Ave – Kearney NE**

**Opening comments**

**1. Roll Call (Webb Absent)**

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	x
Pete	Peterson	Keith County Emergency Management	x
Ray	Richards	Scottsbluff Co. 911 Director	x
Thomas	Schwarten	Nebraska State Patrol	x
Dave	Webb	NPPD	absent

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

**3. Minutes – October 1, 2010 meeting**

Ray Richards made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2010 meeting. Pat Gerdes seconded the motion; the motion passed by voice vote.

**Discussion Items**

**1. Regional Interoperability Network Project**

**a. Status**

**i. CSI – Mark Higgins**

Mark Higgins passed out a map of current towers and their status. They had to make changes due to towers that would not pass engineering assessment. There were a couple of towers that could be modified. The Chadron NET tower needed new guy wires and the Lodge Pole NPPD tower required some work. The remediation was part of the engineering assessment. All engineering assessments are on MOAT. Mark Higgins passed out a spreadsheet detailing the status of each site. Only 5 towers met the 5 ohm status standard.

Some tower locations (e.g., Kimball site) cannot be remediated. Many of these towers are old and hollow walled with lots of equipment already on them. If some of the equipment currently not in use can be removed we may be able to use them. The desire is to not build new towers. Concrete elevators and railroad towers may be an alternative to building new towers. The idea of using railroad towers was received warmly by their legislative liaison.

The new design in Kimball uses an 80 foot railroad tower and grain elevators from Sidney to Kimball. There is some difficulty north of Ogallala; the Arthur tower could not be remediated. Instead, we took equipment off the McPherson tower and made it half as tall and it passed. There was no problem putting a dish on the North Platte tower. There are no results available yet on the Broken Bow towers. The Thedford tower did not pass inspection and was not able to be remediated. We will need to use the carrier tower in Thedford.

CSI is putting together a list for Pete Peterson and Ray Richards of what they need to move forward. CSI expects to have this complete in the next 2-3 weeks. At that time we should be ready to order equipment and file Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Reviews (EHP).

Decisions need to be made regarding whether the region or individual counties need to enter into agreements with tower owners and elevators. Railroads have said they want to cooperate – NEMA will initially negotiate with them. NEMA will also negotiate with elevators until specific fees are discussed. Two corporations own most of elevators. Then counties need to carve out homeland security funds to pay for costs. NEMA will start negotiations and then involve locals. Costs are estimated at about \$1100 per month per dish per tower. By end of next week NEMA and CSI will compile a list of tasks that Regions need to do quickly. They will identify rental rates and contacts, towers and the required heights of antennas; then the regions will work out the details.

The next step will then be to move to other regions – South West and then South Central.

**b. Awarity/MOAT**

All engineering assessments are on MOAT

**2. Mutual Aid Project**

**Pete Peterson, Chair**

One region had its Mutual Aid plan approved and another region is in the process of developing its Mutual Aid plan

**South Central Region – Pat Gerdes**

The pilot project will start with Buffalo County. The OCIO and NEMA have approved the start up in Buffalo County and then will move out to other parts of region. Phelps and Dawson Counties are likely to be next. An extension may be requested to ensure PSIC funding is available for the project.

**Tri – County – Mark Conrey**

Tri-County held a meeting last week of all public agencies to discuss examples of mutual aid that all could support. There were concerns in the eastern side of the Region about communicating with the Iowa State Patrol. This will require developing VHF on the east side of tri-county. On the western side of the region they plan to work on 800 tach channels. The major success of the meeting was that people agreed on the need for mutual aid radio communication. Once Tri-County identifies gaps in communication it will develop an equipment request.

The question was raised about what entity will hold licenses for the point to point system. It needs to be a government entity. It would be better to have Regions hold the license rather than counties. Those with interlocal agreements can enter agreements by regions. Counties bond together by MOUs cannot enter into an agreement as a region, but they could have one county enter into agreement on their behalf. Darin Lewis made a motion to recommend that Regions work toward use of interlocal agreements but in the mean time, those that do not have interlocals should designate a single county to be the license holder. Pat Gerdes seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**3. Interop Solutions/Paraclete Project: Al Berndt - NEMA**

Paul Peterson, a fire chief from North Platte reported that Paraclete is not working in his area and believes the system is not reliable enough to be used for emergencies. Al Berndt reported that NEMA has done in-depth analysis of Paraclete and is taking a leadership role in setting up training. The NEMA Training Division has two people dedicated to working with Interop Solutions to do training at 3 levels – dispatcher, advanced dispatcher, and supervisor. Curriculums have been developed and are now being refined. NEMA is working with Interop Solutions to fix the problems with Paraclete. NEMA and Interop Solutions are working on developing printed user manuals and having a help desk. By the first of year will there will be a tangible product that will roll out. Interop Solutions has been responsive in moving in this direction. General discussion led to a conclusion that locals should decide how they will use Paraclete.

**4. TICP/SCIP Revision Project: Rod Hutt, NEMA**

The CASM/ TICP workshop was conducted Oct. 5-6, 2010 in Grand Island, NE. Regional representatives brought information to enter into the TICP. OCIO provided IDs and Passwords for the CASM Accounts. TICP updates are due by Nov 15; NEMA will add standard verbiage to the TICPs. NEMA will review within 30 days and return them to the Regions with suggested inclusions/revisions.

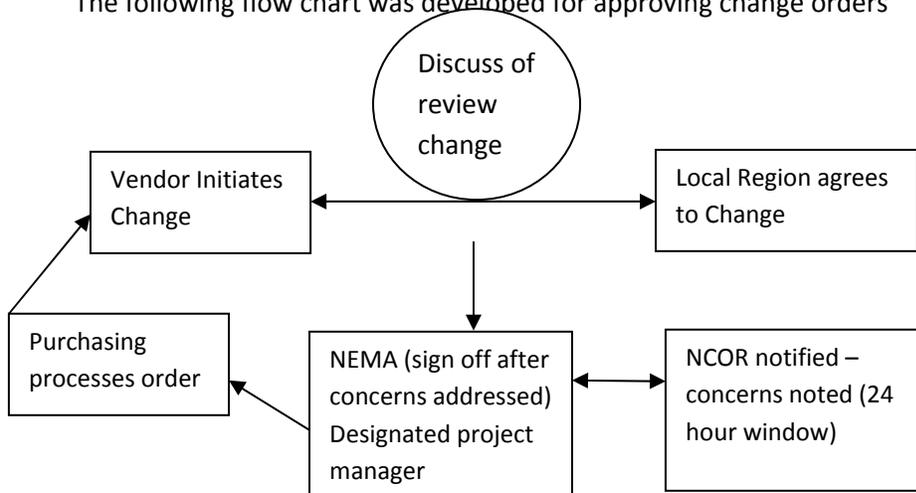
**5. SOP/MOU Development Project: Denise Bulling, PPC and Pete Peterson, Chair**

A day-long Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Planning Workshop was held November 4-5, 2010 to review the draft SOPs. The Public Policy Center facilitated the discussion. Previous work on SOPs was included in the draft SOPs. We looked at three areas – Mutual aid, NRIN, and Paraclete. And agreed upon a process to develop them so they will be ready for approval at March NCOR meeting. There was also discussion about project sustainability resulting in a plan to move forward.

A flow chart was revised to further clarify roles and responsibilities among the N-WIN Council, NCOR, and state agencies. Jim Gerwick made a motion to approve changes made by NCOR at the workshop and to forward these to the N-WIN Council. The motion was seconded by Darwin Lewis. The Motion passed by voice vote.

**Action Items**

The following flow chart was developed for approving change orders



Ray Richards made a motion to accept the flow chart for approving change orders, Pat Gerdes seconded the motion; the motion passed by voice vote.

## **Information/Reports**

### **1. NEMA – Bob Wilhelm**

- a. There will be a video conference with Wyoming on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the N-WIN meeting and NCOR members are invited to participate since it is an open meeting. The meeting will be held at the NET building on North 33<sup>rd</sup> Street in Lincoln from 9:30 to 12:30

### **2. University of Nebraska PPC - Denise Bulling**

- a. There were many activities and due dates developed during the Workshop and NCOR meeting over the last couple days. The PPC will compile the dates agreed to and get out to everyone through the meeting minutes, putting them on the web site calendar, and asking NEMA to put on their web site.

### **3. OCIO**

- a. No additional update.

### **4. NCOR representatives to N-WIN**

- a. No additional update.

## **Comments**

### **1. Member comments**

- a. None

### **2. Public comments**

- a. None

## **Next Meeting**

December 10, 2010, after NACO in Lincoln 1:00 PM; Bob Wilhelm will check on potential meeting locations.