

Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR)
Minutes
April 28, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.
Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department Training Center
3140 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

Opening comments

1. Roll Call

First	Last	Organization	Attendance
Pat	Gerdes	Phelps County Emergency Management	x
Mark	Conrey	Douglas County 911 Center	x
Patrick	Foust	South Sioux City/Dakota County Emergency Management	x
Jim	Gerweck	Richardson County Emergency Management	x
Tim	Hofbauer	Columbus/Platte County Emergency Management	x
Larry	Thoren	Buffalo County Emergency Management	x
Pete	Peterson	Keith County Emergency Management	x
Ray	Richards	Scottsbluff County 911 Director	x
Thomas	Schwarten	Nebraska State Patrol	x
Dave	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District	absent

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

3. Approval of Minutes –Ray Richards made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2011 meeting. Larry Thorne seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Action Items

1. Emergency Alert System – State Emergency Communications Committee – Public/Private Partnership: Jim Skinner, Chair of State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC)

Jim Skinner introduced the 8-member State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC). The members are volunteers whose memberships are currently part of their jobs. The FCC calls for every state to have a subcommittee for State Emergency Communications Committee. It is also a possibility that the governor could pass a “must carry” law which would require all broadcasters to broadcast serious warnings. SECC brings broadcasters and cable together to create an effective system for emergency personnel to access communications systems in times of emergency. SECC would like to become a subcommittee of NCOR to ensure coordination with Nebraska’s interoperable communications network and to help SECC in its goals of effective broadcasting during emergencies and eventually developing local communications committees. NEMA supports NCOR adopting SECC as a subcommittee.

Ray Richards made a motion to recognize the SECC as a subcommittee of NCOR as based on the SECC Charter and accompanying FCC Guidelines for SECCs. Jim Gerweck seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Ray Richards offered to take the position as the appointee to the SECC committee meetings. Larry Thoren made a motion to appoint Ray Richards to serve on the SECC as an NCOR Representative. Patrick Foust seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

2. Technical Specifications for Mutual Aid Base Stations: Pete Peterson, Chair

New antennas are now **recommended** for Mutual Aid Base stations. The new antennas are more expensive, but may clear up any interference sites are experiencing. Passive inter-modulation (PIM) antennas are being used on the state system. The council was generally interested in getting more detailed information on the different antenna options and feels that some expert advice may be necessary. Pam Kemper agreed to provide information. The antenna options will be reviewed and proposed for a vote at the next NCOR Meeting.

Discussion Items

1. Governance/Network Subcommittee Report: Tim Hofbauer, Columbus/Platte Emergency Management

The committee considered the issue of a possible state statute and what impact that would have on planning. NPPD lawyers are reviewing the issue. In the meantime, the committee is considering inter-local agreements for tower governance and maintenance. Regions may have to develop an agreement with NPPD for the use of the towers, but not all regions were created with inter-local agreements. Another option is to run agreements through a county government as fiscal agent for the region.

2. Regional Interoperability Network Project Update: Mike Higgins, CSI; Al Berndt, NEMA

CSI continued weekly meetings with NCOR members and most of the site visits are complete. The Southeast kickoff meeting was held two weeks ago. The Northeast kickoff meeting will be held next week. A meeting was held to provide regions with an update on the project including: the use of towers in various locations; keeping channels open; assets that may be affected; use of fiber optic communications; and the continued use of microwave in areas. There will be challenges in reaching some areas in the Northeast and Southeast regions. The status of the tower sites throughout the state and agreement status around the state was shared. Pete Peterson, chair of NCOR, signed a letter to the state stating that the design of the system is working as expected. The regions of NCOR need to sign off on this design in order to initiate construction. The next step is for NCOR Members to decide what the testing criteria will be to show that the pilot ring works.

Jim Gerweck made motion to grant permission to NEMA, OCIO, and CSI to approve the design of the system and initiate construction. Ray Richards seconded the motion. The motion passes by consensus.

3. Mutual Aid Project Update: Pat Gerdes, Region 15 Emergency Management Agency

Some modifications were made to the original Mutual Aid plan. The use Public safety Answering Point (PSAP) consoles instead of Paraclete will be considered in the South Central Region. South Central Region voted to proceed with the plan to get 1-80 corridor covered by the Mutual Aid Base Stations. A plan was prepared to get 7 of the 15 counties with operational Mutual Aid Base Station coverage. Mike Jeffres of OCIO reviewed and approved the plan. Lincoln County sent a letter asking NEMA for \$32,000 to get Lincoln County on board with the Mutual Aid plan. Raven did come up with a box that will work with the Paraclete. Interop Solutions received the box and will begin testing. Since the Mutual Aid plan was approved by OCIO, an equipment list would be helpful for the other regions for budget purposes. Pam Kemper will speak to Mike Jeffres about the creation of an equipment list.

In the Tri-County Region, Mark Conrey met with Motorola and Raven who proposed the solution of tying multiple affected lines together, which may allow different groups to communicate without creating additional costs. The use of three tie lines should link communications systems across neighboring areas. Raven sent two boxes to Motorola for testing.

4. Interop Solutions/Paraclete Project Update: Sue Krogman, NEMA

New individuals have been added to the training cadre. Training will occur in Wayne, West Point, and Broken Bow next week and in Albion in three weeks. The project is on schedule to set up the Paraclete boxes by the end

of June 2011. All first round trainings is nearly done. After the first round is complete, any regions that would like additional training should contact Sue Krogman to arrange further training events. NEMA will continue to support these training efforts.

5. TICP/SCIP Revision Project Update: Sue Krogman, NEMA, read Bob Eastwood's written report

TCIPs are being incorporated as single pages into local emergency operations plans during routine revisions of plans. There will be a SCIP workshop in Lincoln in the third week of June. Bob Eastwood will send information about the upcoming workshop.

6. Information sharing with local government officials about ongoing NCOR projects: Kate Speck, Public Policy Center

One webinar was held in March. The next webinar will be May 5th from 12-1pm CDT. A letter that invites interested parties to attend and explains why attendance is important was emailed. The letter discusses the project's history, what local officials need to know, and invites local officials to attend and to ask questions about how the project will impact them. The next two webinars are tentatively scheduled for July 26th (for first responders) and September 28th (as a wrap up to summarize the project and allow everyone to hear about progress). One frequent question is about sustainability costs and the responsibility of counties. Cost information will be documented from the pilot projects as they are built out.

7. Implications of NECP Goal 2/OEC Technical Assistance: Jim Lundsted, Region VII Coordinator OEC

Jim Lundsted presented on the National Emergency Communication Plan (NECP) Goal 2. Webinars are available online for more information on this objective. NECP's goal is to build capability and capacity, national assessments, and target resources (funding, tech assistance, training). The first goal of this project has been completed, but the most critical for Nebraska is Goal 2. Goal 3 will be discussed next year. Goal 2 requires the regions to select an incident involving multiple entities and communications that occurred in that area and for the region then to describe how primary operating communications are handled throughout the incident. Performance data will be required. A webinar is available to learn more about this Goal and Mr. Lundsted can present on this topic. There is a web-based tool and a call-in option to submit this information that will go to each state's Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) to be incorporated into the state plan. Capability data will also be collected which allows for self-assessment in five categories (governance, standard operating procedures, technology, training and exercises, and usage). Scores will not be made public. Point of Contacts (POCs) can attend the webinar begin data entry.

The resources and presentation from Jim Lundsted will be available on the Homeland Planning website: homelandplanning.nebraska.edu. Publicsafetytools.info is a good source for public safety technology assistance tools.

Information/Reports

1. NEMA- Nicky Weber

A letter was sent regarding unspent dollars from the 2007 grant, which must be paid soon. Currently, there are five regions with a little under \$5,000 left in their accounts. The region can spend this money or MOU it back to the state if they would like to see it reallocated for future projects. The 2008 grant closes August 30 2011; and many regions have contractors in place to meet requirements. Each region should continue to allocate their grant dollars.

2. University of Nebraska Public Policy Center- Denise Bulling, Janell Walther

A draft of the next Nebraska Interoperability Newsletter is available for review today. The newsletter focuses on the ways we are trying to communicate out to other local officials, including webinars and the 2011 Investment Justification workshop.

The Investment Justification (IJ) handout summarizes what the IJs look like for 2011. The IJ drafts are posted on the homeland planning website, where people can view and comment on each IJ (what's missing, what needs to be added or changed). Once DHS guidelines are released, the IJs will be migrated into appropriate format and will be submitted by NEMA. The final copies will be reposted on the website.

3. OCIO: Pam Kemper

For the Statewide Radio System, some sites are still losing communications during severe storms. OCIO is working with Motorola on grounding issues and what steps to take if that does not fix the problem. The Hartington site is shut down until FCC license is received. Humphrey, Osceola, Kimball, Franklin, and Superior are on hold because of incorrect frequencies on equipment. Elgin site lease has been executed, work will begin there. OCIO will meet with Motorola on May 25-27 to talk about the coverage study. OCIO has funding for a control mobile command center, which can work anywhere it's taken.

4. NCOR representatives to N-WIN: Tom Schwarten

A draft model for subscription fees was presented by Jane Scofield of OCIO. Owen has asked that NCOR members review the draft model before the next NWIN meeting.

Comments

- 1. Member comments** - None
- 2. Public comments**

LB 573 is on consent calendar for the legislature and should be debated this morning. The bill involves local Emergency Managers and the state and will affect the state plan.

Next meeting –May 27th, 10:00am, Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department.