

Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR)

Minutes

FRIDAY – May 27, 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	absent
Jim	Gerweck	Richardson County Emergency Management	x
Tim	Hofbauer	Columbus/Platte County Emergency Management	x
Larry	Thoren	Buffalo County Emergency Management	absent
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	x

2. **Opening Meeting 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 April 28, 2011 meeting. Pat Gerdes seconded the motion; the motion is passed by consensus.

Discussion Items

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

The subcommittee did not meet last month. The Subcommittee will work on the governance of NRIN next month by revisiting the proposed governance structure from January. There are a number of locations where Wireless Solutions could use existing NPPD towers but this requires clarification on any governance issues with NPPD. A meeting is scheduled to meet with the new CEO of NPPD, and the legal team to clarify these issues.

2. **Regional Interoperability Network Project Update- Rod Hutt, NEMA; Mark Higgins, CSI, Inc.**

The plan for the Panhandle and North Central Regions has been approved by NEMA and the OCIO, and Mark Higgins of CSI will order equipment. The shelters will go out to bid in the next few days. The tower mapping, structural analysis, and ground testing is proceeding in the various regions. Each region had a kick-off meeting. CSI is working with NCOR and regional representatives to get tower agreements in place. The equipment order is almost ready, and Wireless Solutions will move forward with the licensing to determine which sub-band needs to be ordered.

NEMA is assisting with tower leases and MOUs. Next, NEMA will work with the Southwest and South Central regions. NEMA will be visiting each region. The pilot regions have taken time to set up, but have been a great learning process. As a reminder, insurance companies may not insure tower agreements unless a county is the agreement holder because they do not insure regions, only the counties within the regions. Pete Peterson will try to get an estimate for insurance per site costs for the group. A next step is to create testing criteria; Mark Higgins of CSI has been working on this and will send out a draft of testing criteria in the near future.

Additional issues were discussed related to NRIN:

- Tim Hofbauer suggested a sustainability cost of \$2,000 per county per year to replace equipment as necessary.
- Lease agreements are allowable expenditures under the State Homeland Security Grant Program.
- The governance subcommittee will need to make some decisions about who will monitor the system.

Each region will need to decide what the connection to NRIN will plug into at the local level.

3. Mutual Aid Project Update- Bob Eastwood, NEMA; Mike Jeffres, OCIO

Mutual aid frequencies are available for programming into radios. Training will continue to educate radio users on radio programming with each new radio. It is also important to ensure dispatchers are using common nomenclature when they program their channels or they will be unable to correctly transition between channels. The committee suggests including an article on VTAC channels in the next newsletter and in Beacon. It is also important to get tech service stations around the state added to the newsletter subscription list to help inform them about these issues. A handout was provided concerning antennas for the project. PIM antennas will lower interference, but they are needed primarily where VHF combiners are in use. Intermodulation studies can be done on the towers to indicate the likelihood of interference. Each region should begin to review their antennas; they should have a PIM antenna wherever they have VHF combiners. Rod Hutt, NEMA, is working on a statewide MOU that can be used to clarify some of the issues surrounding Paraclete licensing. All fixed locations will be licensed separately and all mobile radios will be licensed separately.

South Central Pilot Project – Pat Gerdes

The project was submitted for Environmental and Historical Preservation (EHP) approval several weeks ago. The project will move forward after receiving EHP approval. NEMA provided MOU money with the region for the project.

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

Paraclete training is continuing throughout the state. NEMA has added two new people to the training group. Questions about Paraclete can be sent to Sue Krogman, and she will ensure those get to the proper people as soon as possible. The Department of Roads is hosting a Paraclete workshop next week.

5. TICP/SCIP Revision Project Update- Bob Eastwood, NEMA

There will be a SCIP workshop on 6/22 and a National Emergency Communication Plan (ECP) Goal 2 workshop on 6/23 at the Country Inn & Suites in Lincoln, NE. The goal is to have a couple people attend from each region. Contact Bob Eastwood with registration and logistical questions. The SCIP workshop will look at adding new technology items to the SCIP.

6. NECP Goal 2 (Workshop June 23?)- Jim Lundsted, Region VII Coordinator OEC

The local responders need to be informed on the seriousness of Nebraska complying with Goal 2 in the next 120 days. Goal 2 requires 75% of jurisdictions to achieve communications operability within one hour for routine events involving multiple agencies. Compliance with Goal 2 is a requirement for maintaining homeland security grant funds. Reporting must be done by each county unless the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) notifies FEMA that reporting will be done by region.

Mark Conrey made a motion that the state appoint a SWIC (Statewide Interoperability Coordinator), an individual who will serve as the single point of contact responsible for managing the communications interoperability for the state of Nebraska, in all its facets. Jim Gerweck seconded the motion; the motion passed with Tom Schwarten & Dave Webb abstaining:

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

7. Narrowbanding- Pete Peterson, Keith County Emergency Management; Mike Jeffres, OCIO

All counties are required to comply with narrow banding requirements by December 2012. Some counties in the state have made substantial progress in transitioning, while others have not started making the transition. Agencies that do not meet the deadline face the loss of communication capabilities. The Office of Emergency Communications has a spreadsheet tool available online at Publicsafetytools.info to help determine who uses which frequencies in each area, including which have been narrow banded.

8. Southeast Region – MOU 2008 Grant Funds to NCOR for NRIN Project- Nikki Weber

The East Central and Southeast Regions have unused '08 funds that were being saved for projects that are unlikely to be completed by the August 31, 2011 end date for that grant. They would like to instead use these funds for mutual aid projects. Grant extensions are granted on an individual basis, and there must be solid justification as to why they are necessary.

Information/Reports

1. NEMA- Nikki Weber

The 2007 grant closes the end of June. Nikki sent out an email asking that if regions have left over money and what will be done with the funds or if the funding should be reallocated.

2. University of Nebraska Public Policy Center- Janell Walther

The 2011 Investment Justification (IJ) guidance for the Homeland Security grant came out. The drafts created at the IJ workshop in April are available online for review and comments (homelandplanning.nebraska.edu). These will be transitioned to the 2011 format and will be sent to NEMA for approval and submission, then reposted on the website. The next draft of the newsletter is available for comments. Please continue to forward the newsletter on to anyone you think would find it useful or let Janell know directly if you would like someone to be added to the subscription list. Kate hosted an Interoperability Webinar for local officials. The next webinar will be for emergency responders and is scheduled for July 26th at 12pm. The final webinar in this series will be held in September for all interested parties to discuss where the build out is at then. The Public Policy Center is looking for other ways to reach local officials including attending some of their meetings in the future.

Mark DeKraai & Janell Walther went to the **State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC)** meeting and helped them put together procedures for the committee. They are hoping to complete the Nebraska Emergency Alert System Plan by end of October. The next SECC meeting is June 16, 2011.

3. OCIO- no report

4. NCOR representatives to N-WIN: Mark Conrey

N-WIN will be voting on the approval of additional definitions for their procedures and funding model. Please direct comments and suggestions to your representatives. The state users' group has been functioning well and has been helpful in governance and getting talk groups set up.

Comments

1. Member comments

2. Public comments

Jim Lundsted: The state users' group could be a great forum to discuss narrowbanding and properly naming channels. We can expect to receive good information and lessons from the Joplin tornado. They had lots of fiber channels and the storm crippled public channels. Trunked systems survived and much work is still being done to coordinate communications for the many activities needed to help in the aftermath.

Next Meeting - Friday, June 24, 2011, 10:00AM, Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department.