

Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR)
Minutes
FRIDAY – July 22, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.
Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department Training Center

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	Hastings Police Department	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

- 1. Open Meetings Law information-** verification of public notice, availability of copy of law
- 2. Approval of Minutes—**Larry Thoren made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2011 meeting. Pat Gerdes seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus (Dave Webb absent; Ray Richards abstained).

Discussion Items

- 1. Governance/Network Subcommittee Report: Tim Hofbauer, Columbus/Platte Emergency Management**
 Tim Hofbauer, Denise Bulling, Matt Schnell, Mark Conrey, Pat Gerdes, Mark DeKraai, and Pete Peterson participated in a conference call to create the agenda for the next NRIN meeting. The meeting will be held August 11th at the Public Policy Center and will last all day. The agenda is available, and all are welcome to attend. The first half of the day will focus on governance and the second half will focus on technical issues, with a review at the end. Some individuals who would be help include NACO MIPs people, legal representation (such as county attorneys), OCIO and NEMA representatives, NCOR representatives, any regional tech people, NPPD representatives. Ray & Tim will attempt to bring legal representatives from their regions. It may be good to ask Larry Dix or John Edwards. The goal is to come out of this meeting with a fairly cohesive interlocal agreement.
- 2. Regional Interoperability Network Project Update: Rod Hutt, NEMA**
 The equipment has been ordered for the pilot region and should start showing up at CSI, Omaha, and the various locations in the Panhandle and North Central. The goal is to begin construction in August and then have the bulk of the build out occur between the end of August and September. Ray Richards & Pete Peterson note that these dates need to be shared as soon as possible as they may interfere with harvest and county fairs. Only a few agreements are left to be finalized in the pilot regions. In the Southwest Region the tower mapping and structural analyses have been completed. Larry is working to get sample MOUs out to tower owners in his region and Rod is creating a narrative to hand these individuals so they understand what NRIN is. Mark Higgins is getting tower specifications and is working with the Southeast Region on identifying their towers. Jim Gerweck needs to contact the owners of the towers to let them know they will start getting calls from tower mapping people. Towers in Southeast are fairly certain. In the East Central Mark Higgins is working with Tim Hofbauer to find towers and is making progress finding alternative towers. The Northeast has had the preliminary meeting and Pat and Kevin are working with NEMA and CSI to locate towers. Mark Conrey is ready to work with CSI in the Tri-County area. The upcoming NRIN meeting is expected to be a good venue to discuss how the equipment will be used. Half of a region has not been started yet but the plan is to start scheduling there.
- 3. Mutual Aid Project Update: NEMA; Mike Jeffres, OCIO**
 Lincoln County some testing for interop trunking consoles versus a consolette so they can determine which is the more effective system; Mike has not heard anything from Raven for months.

Pete- Three dispatch centers in Buffalo County, Keith County, and Region 26 are the pilot projects to enable local dispatch centers to talk on the state radio system. This would give them access to interoperability talk groups as needed. The two main questions are what specific equipment is needed at each dispatch center and what patching solution will be used? A Raven switch is one option, but a solution is not ready yet. However, this will not stop the project because while patching is desired it is not necessary for the system to operate.

A console trunking system will be tested in Keith County first as they submitted their grant request earliest. Pete Peterson notes that it was fairly inexpensive equipment and will share the language he used in his grant proposal as it was accepted quickly. Mark Conrey is concerned that this pilot is moving in a different direction than what NCOR is doing. A concern was raised that finding interoperable solutions quickly is essential because lives may be put in danger if first responders cannot communicate.

Pat Gerdes brought up the issue of channel names in the past week. Jim Lundsted notes that there are standard channel names at the national level. While locals are allowed to use different channel names other states and state or federal agencies will use the nationally approved names so it is recommended that Nebraska also use these channel names when reprogramming to avoid confusion in the future.

Larry Thoren made a motion that NCOR recommend to the SWIC the adoption of the nationally recognized names for the mutual aid frequencies. Jim Gerweck seconded the motion; the motion was approved by consensus (Dave Webb absent).

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

After last month's flood efforts the training team is now back on track and three teams will be training. An invitation was sent out to NCOR members to attend the training event at NEMA next week. Individuals who will work with equipment or EOC management can attend, each day covers different topics. NEMA can pay for lodging and mileage,

5. TICP/SCIP Revision Project Update- NEMA is waiting for the final initiatives from the Department of Homeland Security.

6. NECP Goal 2 Compliance: Sue Krogman, NEMA

Nebraska is at 20% for Goal 2; thank you for helping make this happen. Nebraska is meeting the averages for other states in completion. The average input time is just 15 minutes. Please call Sue if you want her to assist. There have been a couple counties that have done the exercise part and preliminary reporting part, and it looks really good.

7. Narrowbanding: Jim Lundsted, FEMA

The Public Safety Tool online is a great way to view how your region is progressing with narrowbanding. While you can't always see who has switched over it is a good indication of what areas have made progress. If you see one of your areas struggling please reach out and see if they are aware of the deadlines and whether they need help. It is important to prioritize your groups to get the bigger ones completed first. Open communication with your locals is important to ensure people do not have hard feelings when channels have to be reprogrammed. A public notice was posted on the waiver process for those who do not think they will narrowband by the deadline. The process is very difficult and takes one full year to complete so this still needs to be started as soon as possible.

8. SECC Update: Janell Walther, PPC

The committee met yesterday and is continuing to work on the state emergency alert plan, which they hope to have it ready by Oct. 1st. The next meeting is August 17th, and they hope to have a draft ready at that time. The committee is working on the designation of what channels have to carry emergency messages. Currently the emergency alert system regions are different from NCOR (PET) regions. The new plan will consider making these the same.

Information/Reports

1. NEMA- No additional report.

2. University of Nebraska PPC: Janell Walther

An Interoperability Webinar will be held for First Responders on July 26th at 12pm and again on August 8th at 5:30 PM. Please encourage the first responders in your region and county to attend.

The Public Policy Center hosted a meeting with NEMA, OCIO, and the Lt. Governor to discuss his role as the SWIC. NEMA will coordinate Goal 2 completion and OCIO will handle narrowbanding. Monthly meetings with the Lt. Governor will be held to ensure communication between agencies. The Lt. Governor plans to take a more active role as SWIC and has ideas about how he would like to proceed in the future.

We've been putting together checklists for PET regions to use for mutual aid, NECP goal 2, NRIN, and Mutual Aid Interoperability.

3. **OCIO**-No additional report.

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

NWIN is getting ready to solidify the process for people to join NWIN. Once it is approved it will be made available for groups to decide if they want to apply. Lincoln County and LES have already been accepted.

Comments

1. **Member comments:**

Jim Gerwerk reminds the group that it is important to stay focused on the goal of this group: to allow people to communicate.

2. **Public comments:**

Next Meeting –

The Lt. Governor would like to hold a joint meeting between NCOR & NWIN to discuss his new role as SWIC for the State of Nebraska. Please hold August 26th on your calendars until a meeting time is confirmed. NCOR is still interested in holding a separate meeting this day to continuing discussing current issues.