

**Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR)**  
**July 27, 2012, 10:00 AM**  
**Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department Training Center**  
**3140 N Street, Lincoln, NE**

Opening Comments

1. Roll Call, Open Meetings Law Information.
  - a. Introduction of new NCOR member Dan Lynch, Kearney Police Chief from the South Central region.

First	Last	Organization	Attendance
Mark	Conrey	Tri-County Region	X
Patrick	Foust	Northeast Region	
Pat	Gerdes	Southwest Region	X
Jim	Gerweck	Southeast Region	X
Tim	Hofbauer	East Central Region	X
Pete	Peterson	North Central Region	X
Ray	Richards	Panhandle Region	
Dan	Lynch	South Central Region	X
Thomas	Schwarten	Nebraska State Patrol	X
Dave	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District	X

2. Approval of Minutes – June 29, 2012 Meeting

Jim Gerweck made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on June 29, 2012. Pat Gerdes seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Discussion Items

1. Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Project Update – Pete Peterson, Tim Hofbauer

The NRIN technical subcommittee and representatives from NEMA, OCIO, CSI and NPPD met yesterday to work through a variety of issues related to the NRIN project. Equipment has been ordered for the Southwest region. Pat Gerdes said that shipments of equipment are arriving daily. Mark Higgins from CSI is planning to visit Pat's region next week. During the meeting, a discussion was held regarding the progress of the NRIN project and how CSI is planning to move the project forward. Rings will continue to be built where sites and equipment are ready to avoid an interruption of progress. CSI will work more closely with the regions so they can stay informed of the status of their sites and continue to make progress. Regional representatives will be informed by CSI as to what type of tower and equipment will be needed in their area so they can begin to have discussions regarding lease agreements and MOUs.

Allowable uses for the NRIN system will need to be determined soon to accommodate potential ties to the system in the North Central Region. NEMA would like NCOR to discuss using federal grant funding to build one or two towers that are necessary to keep the project moving. The NRIN committee will meet this afternoon to discuss governance of the system; membership on the board, technical, operational and fiscal issues, etc.

Jim Gerweck made a motion to approve building new towers using federal grant funds to keep the NRIN project moving forward. Pat Gerdes seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

2. Update of Meetings with NPPD and OCIO for NRIN Monitoring and Management – Tim Hofbauer  
Testing of the pilot region is complete. Mutual aid and common base stations in the area can now use the microwaves to connect dispatch centers. Pete said that a hop and an additional end point is being added to the existing ring and they are already seeing the benefits of the system. The subcommittee identified the need for access to the completed ring. The OCIO is working with CSI to gain access to the system. There is a need to establish environmental monitoring before this is done. Priority and quality of service issues will also need to be discussed as they relate to governance of the system. Pete asked for feedback from the NCOR members on suggested uses for the NRIN to address in greater detail at the subcommittee meetings.
3. Common Usage Channel Project Update (NCOR Reps) –  
There haven't been any new sites added since the last meeting. Some sites will go live in Tim's region within the next few weeks. Common usage channels are being programmed into each area to respond to the wildfires in the state. Pete noted that anyone interested in learning more about how this system was used to respond to the fires should contact the Fire Chief in Mullen, NE.
4. Interop Solutions/Paraclete Project Update – No report.
5. Sustainability of Projects – No report.
6. NCOR Technical Committee (NCOR Reps – Tim Hofbauer, Mark Conrey, Pat Gerdes, Pete Peterson)  
The NRIN Technical Subcommittee met on June 29, 2012, following the NCOR meeting to set discussion topics for future workshops and planning meetings for the NRIN system. The next meeting will be held following today's NCOR meeting.
7. SECC Update – Janell Walther  
The Emergency Alert System (EAS) plan was approved by NEMA and sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC is expected to approve the EAS plan. The SECC discussed bringing in wireless representatives for information sharing for relevant future planning. Tim received a call from someone who asked if he wanted to be able to send emergency messaging from his EOC and issue alerts. NEMA and the SECC have discussed authorization processes for issuing alerts. Currently, alerts are issued through the National Weather Service. Software and processes for IPAWS emergency alerting have not specifically determined at this time. There is a FEMA Independent Study Course that covers emergency messaging that people may want to take a look at. The next SECC meeting is August 15, 2012 at 1:00pm CST at NETV. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. \*Update: Location changed to Cornhusker Hotel.

#### Information/Reports (not covered during other items)

1. NEMA – No report.

2. University of Nebraska PPC – Denise Bulling

The status of the Executive Order remains unknown. The PPC continues to support and work with the PET regions. Janell is working on a redesign for the homeland planning website. It will continue to have the basic organizational layout but we want to focus more on the four areas of the interoperable communications project. The goal is for the new design to be easier to use and more informative for the user.

3. OCIO – Pete Peterson

The technical subcommittee committee met with Jayne Scofield and other OCIO network and technical people. Everyone agreed that very good technical support is being offered by the OCIO on this project. Matt Schnell from NPPD has also been very helpful. Tim reported that based on the information received from the OCIO, some of the routers have been changed. By the August or September NCOR meeting, it will be possible to show how part of the system is working.

### Comments

1. Member Comments –

Mark Conrey reported that testing in the Tri-County region of three different systems using an IP connection between dispatch centers went well. The Raven Box is still undergoing testing. Pete expressed the need for people who manage 911 centers to have additional training to understand their current system's relationship with NRIN.

Jim Lundsted from the Office of Emergency Communications noted that a letter was sent to Sue Krogman (NEMA) asking the SWIC office to identify the state's technical assistance needs related to communications. Sue has until August 31, 2012 to submit recommendations. The technical assistance must fit within the items in the catalog published on the federal website.

An all hazards technical training course will be held September 10-14, 2012. Please contact Bob Eastwood if you are interested in attending. This training is specifically for the hands on technician. Interop 101 will be conducted at the APCO Conference in early October. Kansas has three vacancies for their upcoming COMMT training on August 27-31, 2012 in Saline County. Lodging will be paid by FEMA.

The regional communications working group will hold a meeting in mid-August in Kansas City. If any of the NCOR members would like to serve on the open committee, please feel free to sign up. This is a good opportunity to meet and interact with peers from another state.

Mark Conrey asked what the status of the State Emergency Communications Plan. Forty-two states have completed this so far. Contact will be made with representatives from NEMA and the SWIC to set up organizational meetings to identify state assets. State, local and tribal leadership have also been contacted to participate.

2. Public Comments –

The next meeting will be held on Friday, August 31, 2012 at 10:00am CST at the Lancaster County Health Department, 3140 N Street in Lincoln, NE.