

Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR)
Agenda
May 29, 2009 – 10:00 AM
Law Enforcement Center, 2025 Avenue A, Kearney, NE

Opening comments – 10:10 AM

1. Roll Call

Name	Attendance
Harold "Pete" Peterson, Chair	x
Ray Richards, Scottsbluff, Vice Chair	x
Mark Conrey	x
Patrick Foust	x
Pat Gerdes	x
Jim Gerweck	x
Tim Hoffbauer	x
Darrin Lewis	x
Dave Webb	Absent
Tom Schwartzman	x

2. Open Meetings Law information – verification of public notice, availability of copy of law in the meeting location - NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 through 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007)
3. Minutes – April 23, 2009 meeting
 - a. Motion to Approve: Ray Richards; Second: Pat Foust

Name	Vote to Approve
Harold "Pete" Peterson, Chair	X
Ray Richards, Scottsbluff, Vice Chair	X
Mark Conrey	X
Patrick Foust	X
Pat Gerdes	X
Jim Gerweck	X
Tim Hoffbauer	X
Darrin Lewis	X
Dave Webb	Absent
Tom Schwartzman	X

Information/Reports

1. Office of the Chief Information Officer – Pam Kemper reporting
 An RFP (request for proposals) is being drafted for the network including towers and supporting systems. It is anticipated that once the RFP language is approved by state purchasing (by September 1) the contract will be awarded. The earliest award date would be the Fall 2009. The RFP statement of work (SOW) outlines the project for the wireless IP point to point network and will connect mutual aid systems and the statewide area systems. The state will be using an IP trunk system. Locals entities will need additional connectivity

so they can use a T1 line. The RFP will require the vendor to be more specific. Pam acknowledged that the system needs to be locally driven and agreed to take concerns voiced by NCOR members to Mike Jeffries for further clarification. These concerns were related to the current lack of specific information about the planned network build out.

2. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency – Bob Wilhelm reporting
NEMA recently received information that additional environmental review will be conducted on tower sites for the EPA. NCOR members expressed concern about the need for more information from the state regarding potential tower locations so local decision could be made. NEMA will be assessing all potential tower sites in preparation since we don't know yet which towers will be enhanced with PSIC funds. It was emphasized that coverage for mutual aid and location of base stations are regional decisions. The physical needs for base stations were discussed. It will be important for mutual aid public safety answering points to have equipment allowing it to steer TAC channels within the simplex environment of mutual aid.
3. University of Nebraska Public Policy Center – Denise Bulling reporting
 - a. No Update
4. NCOR representatives to N-WIN - Mark Conrey and Jim Gerweck.
Tom Schwartzman (Nebraska State Patrol) was introduced as the NCOR representative from the NWIN Group (Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network).
Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy encouraged the NCOR group to work in concert with NWIN and emphasized his desire for physical network development to move quickly.
Mark Conrey and Jim Gerweck shared highlights of the last NWIN meeting: The NWIN group made a decision that the Vice Chair would be appointed by the Lt. Governor on an ad hoc basis. This position could be one of the NCOR representatives or the current chair of NCOR. The Vice Chair would be limited to presiding over the meeting in a non-voting role. NCOR members attending NWIN had the impression that the State Agencies are committed to working with NCOR on interoperability.

Follow Through/Old business

1. Three copies of the bylaws presented to the Chair and Vice Chair for signature. The OCIO will retain the documents.

Action Items

1. Interoperable infrastructure planning Issues
Discussion from the group included expression of a number of concerns about the need for additional information to guide regional participation in development of the infrastructure needed for statewide interoperability. Specifically, NCOR members wanted to know how they could have input in the development of technical specifications for the RFP so it would reflect the needs of local areas and mutual aid systems. It would be helpful to know that timelines associated with the RFP so local/regional decisions can be linked to them.
 - Statement of Work (SOW) for the RFP
 - a. Pam Kemper indicated that a draft of SOW is available without a timeline attached. The timeline will be sent to NCOR members when it is available. Mike Jeffres will

review and submit the SOW to the state purchasing department who then finalizes and issues the RFP.

- b. NCOR members noted that the selected contractor should dedicate some time interfacing with local representatives to ensure interoperability with mutual aid systems. Darrin Lewis (South Central Region) told the group it may be important to have local technical expertise available to help identify appropriate tower sites. The group was unsure about how needed this would be if the SOW specified that the vendor provide sufficient technical details to assist local areas in their planning.
- c. Concurrent with the issuance of the SOW, it was recommended that Regions make decisions about what needs to be connected.
 - i. Regional decisions must be made about which public safety answering points (PSAP's) will be using the Paraclete system. It is anticipated that most PSAP's could use the internet for about two years prior to switching to the state intranet or network. If the PSAP in an area is not going to be connecting to the intranet there is no immediate need to install the Paraclete system.
 - ii. Key questions and decisions related to Mutual Aid Stations include the following
 1. Do all bands (VHF, UHF, 300) need to be available throughout the state and will the regions be responsible for this decision or will that decision be made by the OCIO?
 2. Who will control the bandwidth?
 3. Where is overlap needed and how will this be decided?
 4. What decisions need to be made about region to region connectivity?
 5. What is the estimate of costs related to sustaining mutual aid and participation in the statewide network?

- Planning

- a. NCOR will put together a decision tree template to send out to the regions to assist in making decisions related to infrastructure development after all the decisions are clear and the SOW has been reviewed.
- b. NCOR Representatives asked for increased communications from the OCIO and NEMA related to infrastructure development, particularly related to the implementation of the PSIC grant. In particular they requested coverage maps, more technical information and timelines. Jim Gerweck and Darrin Lewis will assist in reviewing information from the OCIO prior to the next NCOR meeting to ensure that additional information can be requested in time for the meeting if needed.

NCOR broke for lunch from 12:00 to 1:12 PM

- 2. The Chair called the group to order and asked for a brief report from each member.

- Panhandle Region

Hal Bassett from Interop Solutions was working in the Panhandle two weeks ago installing equipment on towers and will be installing a Paraclete box this week. Since September the Panhandle Region has built 2 new towers. Of note, a design flaw was discovered in several tower generators. The radiators are too small so they shut down.

- North Central Region

Meetings are held quarterly when possible. The region is waiting on sufficient information to proceed with interoperability work. Of particular concern is the overlap this Region has with three of the six State Patrol troop areas. It is recommended that State Patrol troop area commanders be engaged fully in interoperability discussions with PET Regions.
- Northeast Region

The Northeast Region reported that their next meeting is June 4, 2009 and that they want to begin meeting monthly. They are also interested in receiving more information about closely Regions must follow state plans for Paraclete box placement. It is hoped that many of the Northeast questions concerning the state's plans will be answered at the upcoming meeting.
- Southwest Region

Some counties in the Southwest Region now have Paraclete with much of the training for its use begun. Furnace and Hays County are still waiting on new tower which should be completed in a week or so. Interop solutions cut the number of radios by half of what was used in building the system in CNRI. The system uses the same technology as a phone line (like a PBX).
- South Central Region

The Paraclete system in this region has been up and running for about 4 years. About 15 counties in the region have mutual aid base stations in place and have Mutual Aid frequencies in their radios.
- East Central Region

The East Central Region is meeting on a monthly basis. Knowing more about the Mutual Aid overlay will help in planning for interoperability.
- Southeast Region

The Southeast Region presented a working diagram of their planning conceptualization for PSAP connectivity to help all counties understand the issues associated with interoperability and the decisions that must be made. The region plans to work with the OCIO to ensure their understanding matches the state's plan. This is seen as a key part of making the regional efforts sustainable over time.
- Tri-County Region

Omaha/Douglas County is trying to build out their system with the assistance of funding from a bond issue and partnerships with OPPD and Washington County. Plans also call for Pottawatomie County in to be integrated into the system as well. Sarpy County has not yet decided if they will join the larger shared system. Tri-County discovered that one cannot marry dispatch channels. It was also noted that although they have benefited from previous funding (UASSI grant) that is facilitating the development of a microwave ring around the Tri-County Region (plus Pottawatomie Co.), there is still a great deal of work to do to achieve working interoperability.
- State Report

The development of interoperability infrastructure is planned in four phases. The first phase has begun and continues through the fall. Phase 2 begins Dec. 1 2009, Phase 3 begins June 1 2010 and phase 4 begins Dec 1 2010. Key to use of the system will be development of shared protocols. The state must also consider how state agencies and others gain access to the built out state communications network. The state will hold

the frequency licenses and most likely enter into memorandums of understanding (MOU) with other operators. Rates for using the NWIN have not been set but it is anticipated that they will be set by the OCIO. The state has completed initial fleet-mapping plan done with regard to the talk groups and will be using 6 zones to match 6 troop areas. Certain talk groups are encrypted and other channels will not be.

3. Mutual aid base station equipment requirements

The final draft of the Mutual Aid plan is posted on the OCIO website.

http://its.ne.gov/network_serv/wireless/pdf/Nebraska_SIEC_Mutual_Aid_Plan_040420_08.pdf and here : http://its.ne.gov/network_serv/wireless/homeland.html

The FCC will regulate the channels. There will be a calling channel and several tactical channels. The dispatcher must have the ability to answer the call channel and transfer to a tactical channel. Base station equipment should include UHF, VHF and 800, particularly if a dispatch center does not include Paraclete. Mutual Aid should be a standing agenda item, both equipment and SOPs.

4. SCIP update planning and NCOR's role

DHS required each state to do a State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). Nebraska completed it in 2007 must update it regularly. The state recently invited people to come to Lincoln to assist with the last update. The final update is being done through NEMA. The SCIP plan was distributed to NCOR for review. Suggested changes should be sent to Bob Eastwood at NEMA. The final draft will be available for review by August 2009. Each regional plan should be updated within the next two years. If you have revisions, you can send them to Bob now. The state now has a contract for use of the NET Planner software which will allow updating as needed in the future.

5. Prioritization of major activities and assignment of work projects (carryover from 4/23/2009 – will carry over again next month)

Discussion Items

1. Member comments

a. CASM and CASM training

- i. Technical assistance and training are being scheduled by NEMA. Regions should notify NEMA or the OCIO if they have additional people in their areas that need CASM training. Mike Jeffres controls CASM access. Bob will distribute an overview of the CASM study at a later NCOR meeting.

2. Public comments –

- a. Nikki Weber noted that grant deadlines have now been placed on the homeland planning website calendar (<http://www.homelandplanning.nebraska.edu>).
- b. EnVisage workshops on target capability assessments are scheduled for the state and in three regions. Dates are posted on the homeland planning website

Next Meeting: Monday, June 22, 2009, 1:00 PM Grand Island, City Hall

2:49 PM: Meeting adjourned.