

Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR) Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2009 – 1:00 PM
City Hall, Grand Island, NE

Opening comments

1. Roll Call

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

There were not enough members present to form a quorum so no actions were taken during the meeting. The group decided to proceed with informational presentations and discussions.

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. Meeting notes – May 29, 2009 meeting
 The meeting notes from the previous meeting were reviewed but no action was taken because there was not a quorum present

Information/Reports

1. Office of the Chief Information Office (OCIO) – Mike Jeffres
 Chair Pete Peterson reminded attendees of the request to the OCIO a list of decisions the Regions need to make related to the development of the Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network, including any equipment that must be procured by local entities.

Mr. Jeffres distributed several handouts to augment his presentation in response to Mr. Peterson's request. (Handouts are available for download at <http://www.homelandplanning.nebraska.edu/nebraskacouncil.php>)
 Mr. Jeffres told the group the development of statewide infrastructure involves local and state planning and networking. For example, the handout containing locations of

potential tower sites for the state system sets the stage for local/regional decisions related to which public safety answering points (PSAP's) will be connected or part of the system. The regional network is not defined by the state in the request for proposals (RFP) now underway to build the state infrastructure. As regions make their decisions, the successful vendor will be expected to integrate them in their scope of work. Because the RFP includes regional connectivity into the network, the regions will not have to do separate competitive bidding. The vendor is being asked to carefully detail how connectivity will be accomplished across the state. The state will need to know how many PSAPs need to be connected and regions should decide which PSAPs they want to connect to network eventually. If an agency is not connected to the system directly, it can connect through another agency via use of Paraclete. Everyone doesn't need to be connected directly to the network; they just need a pathway to the network. For this reason, not every county will need a Mutual Aid Base Station.

The use of the state infrastructure via the trunk system will need to be governed by shared standard operating procedures. Equipment (hardware) and software needed to operate on the system must be purchased and maintained by state and local governments. For example, hardware and software for **mutual aid** base stations are purchased and maintained by local government (VHF and UHF). In some situations there will be opportunities to share equipment. For example, local areas may be able to use the new state towers for mutual aid base stations, although the OCIO will coordinate the placement of all equipment.

Path profiles via path maps (indicating the line of sight needed to make a link between towers) have been included in the RFP. The map works out the technical details of how to expand the infrastructure. Path profiles are useful information for what we might turn over to a vendor, but does not include regional needs beyond what the state requires for its agencies. The value of the path maps to the regions is determined by how they may use it to understand how close it gets them to meeting their needs.

Mike Jeffres indicated that Regions will not be able to share antennas with state systems for mutual aid systems because of technical limitations. Regions will need to buy antennas based on their identified coverage needs and place them on towers that will support the load. The question was posed to Mr. Jeffres whether it would be advantageous for regions to hire an outside consultant to detail the technical considerations and needs of a region. He answered that it would not be advantageous because the consultant would need to know both region and state details. Mr. Jeffres was asked to provide more information and an enhanced list of questions that the Panhandle Region can answer and pass on to other regions as the state system development moves across the state and to the successful vendor charged with integrating regional decisions in the technical work plan.

A short discussion about costs associated with regional mutual base stations included information from the Southwest Region that two stations cost about \$34,000. Mr.

Jeffres encouraged NCOR to begin anticipating how the regional share of PSIC grant funds should be allocated in light of the clarification about what local governments must pay for. The state will coordinate overall development of the state network and is responsible for choosing and overseeing work of the chosen vendor. NCOR and NWIN groups will help guide the overall development of how interoperability is implemented beyond the technical aspects of the network.

Additional questions that regions must address related to technical development of the network include the following:

1. Where do the regions want/need VHF mutual aid base stations?
2. Where do the regions want/need UHF and/or 800 Mhz mutual aid base stations?
3. Which PSAPs want/need to be able to control the mutual aid base stations that the Region decides to install?
4. Which PSAPs want/need to also connect to the state network?
5. Are there locations, other than dispatch centers that local government wants/needs a network connection to?

Dave Webb from NPPD noted that there are funding opportunities currently available for public power districts related to planning for implementation of smart grid technology. The planning needed for this work will have implications for the state communications infrastructure and could build on the work already underway in this area.

2. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) – Al Berndt

Al Berndt reported that Nebraska has received information on the amount of funding that it will receive through the 2009 federal homeland security grant program. The award is expected sometime in the next 60 days. NEMA will have 45 additional days to distribute grant award announcements to the regions. The priority projects continue to include development of interoperable communications in Nebraska.

3. University of Nebraska Public Policy Center – Denise Bulling

Denise Bulling noted there have been requests to have NCOR meetings recorded or streamed for viewing over the internet. She reported it was technically feasible. No decision was made, but the general consensus from the group was that recording 3 hours meetings for later viewing was not the preferred route for getting information about the meetings to the public. Denise said that the same request will be made of the state NWIN group.

4. NCOR representatives to N-WIN

Tom Schwarten gave a brief report about proceedings from the last NWIN meeting. Notes from that meeting are posted on the OCIO website and at <http://www.homelandplanning.nebraska.edu/newireless.php>. The next meeting will take place Friday, June 26, 2009, at 10 AM, Game & Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE.

Follow Through/Old business

None

Discussion

1. Information and tools needed by Regions
Covered in OCIO report
2. Interoperable infrastructure planning Issues for Regions to address (facilitated)
Covered in OCIO report
3. Mutual aid base station equipment requirements
 - A discussion was held about potential requirements for mutual aid base stations to achieve standardization across the state. The following list was generated and will be sent to the OCIO for review and comment prior to the next meeting:
 - 100 watt continuous duty
 - All vhf frequencies available
 - Network interface availability
 - 7/8" line minimum
 - Antenna (DB 224 20 ft and DB420 20 ft; or 30 ft duplex antennae)
 - Counsel equipment that integrates the mutual aid frequencies into existing radio counsels or Paraclete system
4. **Next Meeting:** Finalize or adopt recommendations for mutual aid base stations; Discussion of coordination and expenditures related to infrastructure development – coordination of expenditures with grant funding; NCOR member reports; 2009 State Homeland Security Grant Projects

Comments

1. Member comments
 - a. Regarding 2009 grant funding, we should begin looking at projects put forth by regions to make sure that the money goes to the right place.
 - b. NCOR should provide leadership for decision making while still allowing regions to make decisions regarding whether or not to return the money to NEMA for statewide expenditures.
2. Public comments
 - a. None.

Next Meeting

July 31, 2009 at 1 PM at the Nebraska National Guard (Stark Conference Room), 1300 Military Road, Lincoln, NE. The meeting will follow the NWIN meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 3:49 PM