

Bylaws of the Nebraska Council of Regions

Article I. Name

The name of the Council is the Nebraska Council of Regions (hereinafter "NCOR"). NCOR shall report to the Lt. Governor as Nebraska Homeland Security Director and to the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group as established by Executive Order No. 08-04.

Article II. Purpose

NCOR is created to provide oversight and integration for the eight local public safety communications regions of Nebraska and to coordinate with the Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network. NCOR is responsible for developing and implementing the State Communications Interoperability Plan.

NCOR shall foster collaboration among stakeholders at the local, federal and state level. The Nebraska Council of Regions shall:

- Provide policy level direction and coordination related to the planning and decisions regarding regional integration with the Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network (N-WIN).
- Adopt bylaws for the operation of NCOR.
- Develop strategies and recommendations to improve operations of the Nebraska wireless communication network, including the use of new technology as it becomes available.
- Promote interoperability for public safety communications within Nebraska.
- Provide for the development of protocols, standard operating procedures and guidelines for use of the local Nebraska wireless communication network.
- Establish the terms of agreements and enter into agreements for public safety entities to operate with the Nebraska Wireless Interoperability Network (N-WIN), in conjunction with the Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO), when such arrangements are practical and in the best interests of the State and the regions.

NCOR shall prepare an annual report for the Governor and the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group. Such report shall contain a current assessment of the Nebraska Regional wireless communication networks, including recommendations regarding the further development and operation of the system.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. The ten-member Council shall be comprised of one member of each of the eight local communications regions, who shall be appointed by each region; one representative of the Nebraska Public Power District, who shall be appointed by the NPPD Chief Executive Officer; and one member of the Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network, who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Nebraska Wireless Interoperability Network.

Section 2. Representatives appointed by local regions to serve on NCOR shall serve for a term of two calendar years at a time.

Section 3. Representatives, in consultation with their regions, may resign their appointment. Regions may terminate the service of their appointee in accordance with region bylaws as appropriate. Resignation or termination requires written notice from either the member (in the case of resignation) or an authorized leader in the region (in the case of termination).

Section 4. Vacancies are filled by the region or organization represented by the individual leaving NCOR.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Candidates for the positions of chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be nominated by a voting member of NCOR and elected by 2/3 of the NCOR membership.

Section 2. The term of office for each position will be 18 months.

Section 3. Election may be by secret ballot or roll call vote as determined by 2/3 of the voting members.

Section 4. The chairperson shall open meetings at the appointed time, determine quorum present, announce proper sequence of business before the assembly, recognize members entitled to the floor, state and put to a vote all legitimate motions before the assembly, announce the results of each vote, protect the assembly from frivolous motions, expedite business while recognizing the rights and duties of members, decide all questions of order, authenticate his/her signature as necessary and adjourn the meeting.

Section 5. The vice-chairperson shall serve as meeting chair during the absence of the chairperson and perform other governance duties as assigned by the chairperson.

Section 6. NCOR will be administratively and technically supported by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency ("NEMA") and the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Article V. Voting

Section 1. Only appointed members of NCOR present in meetings either in-person or, as authorized, by videoconference have the right to vote on any question which has been moved, seconded and called for vote.

Section 2. Members may abstain from voting or vote aye or nay. All votes for action items will be recorded by roll call vote.

Section 3. A 2/3 majority of appointed members (7 of 10) is required for a motion to be pass.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. NCOR meetings will be conducted in accordance with provisions in the Nebraska “Open Meetings Law”, § 84-1408 through 84-1414.

Section 2. Agendas will be established 15 days prior to the meeting date when possible to allow regional representatives ample time to circulate action items among their stakeholders. Publication of agendas will follow guidelines set forth in the Open Meetings Law as referenced in Article VI, Section 1.

Section 3. NCOR will meet as often as needed to accomplish the goals set forth in Executive Order No. 08-04.

Section 4. A quorum for conducting business shall be 2/3 of the appointed membership (7 of 10 members).

Section 5. Public participants at NCOR meetings may speak on agenda items outside the public comment period when determined appropriate to assist in resolving the agenda item or when properly identified and recognized by the chairperson.

Section 6. Meeting notes will be provided to all NCOR members and posted according to the Open Meetings Law.

Article VII. Committees

NCOR may establish sub-committees and temporary working groups to address operating procedures and special projects.

Article VIII. Amendments of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of NCOR by an affirmative roll call vote of 2/3 of the membership (7 of 10 members), provided the amendment has been placed on the agenda as an action item.

Article IX. Adoption of Bylaws

Adopted by the Nebraska Council of Regions by affirmative roll call vote this 23 day of April, 2009:

By: _____ Harold “Pete” Peterson, Chairperson

By: _____ Ray Richards, Vice-chairperson