

NORTH CENTRAL PLANNING EXERCISE & TRAINING MEETING

November 4, 2016

Region 26 EOC Meeting Room – Taylor, NE

Present: \*Alma Beland-Region 26 Emergency Management, \*Doug Fox-Region 24 Emergency Management, Ashley Jeffres-Loup Basin Public Health, \*Linda Lewis-Region 26 Emergency Management, \*Mark Rempe-Custer County Emergency Management, Janell Walther-Public Policy Center, Sue Krogman-Nebraska Emergency Management, Ann Wurst-Region 26 Emergency Management. Via telephone conference – Heidi Hostert-North Central District Health Department \*Deb Hilker-Holt County Emergency Management. Via Zoom – Laurie Hood – Keith County Emergency Management.

\*Voting Members

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Alma Beland at 1:01pm. Ann Wurst taking minutes until Linda Lewis arrives.
2. There was no quorum at the time of this agenda item to approve past Meeting Minutes.
3. Old Business
  - a. Credentialing – no issues at this time except for more training.
  - b. THIRA/TEPW – Janell gave an update from the meeting and will send out the calendar. Resources – list of gaps for the core capabilities. Next year meeting may be a full two days and will try not to have it conflict with APCO/NENA. Sue Krogman wanted to know about scheduling multiple or single events when coming to Lincoln. The calendar still needs to be available online.
  - c. 2014 Grant – Fiscal Agent duties were transferred to Region 26 with balance of \$12.47 that was not spent and returned to NEMA. Jim Dunker gave the North Central PET Region two bags of generic lanyards to use.

2015 Grant - NRIN and CodeRED were paid out of this grant. There is \$20,045 remaining. Tower leases would be a part of this grant. Sue advised that tower repairs can be paid for with grant funds for the NRIN Project.

2016 Grant - \$201,000 awarded but nothing has been purchased or paid out on this grant.

- d. NRIN – Sue Krogman explained the small maps that were handed out. The current work on the areas labeled with a number “1” were discussed which included the Kearney to Gibbon’s water tower, where a piece was being installed today. Chadron to Nebraska City’s ring that will be tested, and then Governor or Lt. Governor will do a press release from Kearney, a “Golden Spike Moment”.

Another number “1” section discussed was the Albion to Humphrey. KUSO tower, which is owned by Mike Flood, a former Senator that owns radio towers, has agreed to let NRIN use any tower for free as long as he owns them.

The section labeled number "4" is a run to get into Taylor. If there are other options than what is on the map, crews can be sent up to do mapping and structure analysis to explore the options. Comstock and Mason City have towers that are not on the map that Custer County owns. They would need to go through inspection to see if 911 accessible. The inspection has two classes. Class I: The question is asked; "If this tower should fall over would ALL 911 cease to exist?" Because of all the redundancy in our systems, this would not be the case.

Class II: With microwave dishes on the tower, would the tower be able to withstand 90mph winds or ice hanging off the tower and equipment? The tower needs to be in top condition which means it can't move or sway since the frequency array has to get in the wave.

#### Other Structures in considerations:

- Nebraska Department of Roads towers failed as they were not intended to be used for these types of microwave dishes.
- The Industrial Wireless towers are very costly and would like to avoid them.
- US Cellular is costly as well.
- Wind Chargers would not make a good option as movement would be an issue and they were not designed to hang equipment.
- American Tower – A company that owns towers and leases space.

Deb Hilker talked about negotiations that were going on with O'Neill Courthouse and Verizon. Deb asked if bargaining chips could be used in negotiations with Verizon or any other company in this situation. Some ideas were a generator, grading the road leading to the tower, mowing and maintenance etc for prime space on their tower.

Sue handed out maps for specific areas requesting each emergency manager to look at the map and note any towers that could possibly be used but not noted. Please have back to Sue by mid-December.

Other discussion on maps included: The need for a tower from Taylor to Bassett, the ring that encompasses Cherry, Rock, Brown and Region 26 area needs to be split in two, therefore; towers are needed to accomplish this goal.

Alma requested to know the rent on the towers to see if it would be more cost effective to put up a tower of our own. Funding for a tower would be handled in this manner; one-third State, one-third North Central Region and one-third owner. Janell stated that extra funding for towers can be asked for in the Investment Justification (IJ) process since the projects are prioritized you can ask for more tower funds. Some things that are considered in the IJ process is if it's a high priority throughout the state, key people presenting at the Investment Justification meeting, the project should be included in the Regional THIRA, have a focus on Law Enforcement, target high core capabilities and needs to be on the calendar. Other key points in buying and owning a tower is that it would be a lifetime, LONGTERM situation, which Subject Expert Groups will be looking for. Making a list of how this will save money over the years would be helpful.

Issues on insurance for the NRIN equipment within the North Central Region:

-North Central Region cannot insure equipment

-Who is insuring the equipment on Greeley Tower – agreement at the time was for one of the counties in the East Central Region would since that was who it was installed for, until further progress was made to benefit North Central Region counties.

-Keith County has been paying for insurance which may come to a halt. Sue needs a list of tower sites that Keith County is paying insurance. Sue will also get a list of towers allocated for the North Central Region and split between agencies and counties.

-Equipment for Region 24 and Holt County is in a building which a Wheeler County board member offered rent free to store this equipment. The equipment is not insured, so Sue will get a list of equipment to Doug.

-There is grant money set aside for deductibles on towers on NRIN.

-NIRMA has been invited to the NPSCC & NRIN meetings to bring them on board with the NRIN project and eventually hopefully they will be willing to insure the system as a whole. The request has been made to NACO to become the fiscal agent of NRIN so financial business can be conducted.

There is a need to appoint a representative from the North Central Region to the Nebraska Public Safety Communication Council. (NPSCC)

Doug Fox moved, seconded by Deb Hilker to nominate Mark Rempe as primary representative with Alma Beland as secondary representative to NPSCC. All voted aye, motion carried. Janell will have Quinn send materials.

The NRIN Governance Board which Kevin Hood serves on can make their own decisions but if something comes up that is above their capability they would come to the NPSCC to assist.

Janell reported that the NRIN Board has created a working group. This group's goal is to focus on quality and marketing. They will be creating a short video for county boards to express the relevance of the NRIN project to the local county level. The following is a list of insightful suggestions to include in the video.

-Explain that NRIN is not First Net, SRS nor Next Gen 911

-SRS requires a buy-in to use, Next Gen 911 has asked to use the NRIN system, First-net is still a work in progress and will be a cellular phone for emergency services only.

-Include who owns NRIN, that it is not a State System but a Statewide System.

-NRIN offers connectivity across the state and is being used for multiple things like dispatch, monitoring mutual aid base stations, and the courtrooms would be able to do online arraignments just to name a few things that would be available to do.

-NRIN has the goal to connect all Nebraska together. They have built the train tracks and encourage agencies now to utilize a piece of the track where it will benefit them the most.

The process to make this video is to first go through the bidding process, ask each Region to support it with about \$1,000 each.

- e. Other Old Business – Question to Laurie Hood about who all were voting members for their area. She will look into it and report back. During the meeting Laurie was able to find that the local EM's which were the sheriffs of each county were the appointed person to represent that county on the North Central Region Board. There were no signatures from this 2008-2009 document.
4. New Business
- a. Perkins County, a member of the Southwest Region, expressed a desire to be a member of the NCR since Keith County is now dispatching for them and would like the continuity. Howard County, part of the East Central Region has also expressed a desire to be a part of NCR. The board decided to table until next meeting due to the uncertainty of the Southwest Region's future because of changes in that area. Janell will talk with Kate who is the Southwest Regions Public Policy representative before any decision is made on adding counties which according to Nikki and NEMA we are able to do.
  - b. CodeRED/IPAWS – Troy from NEMA was not able to attend but is the person to talk to from NEMA about the IPAWS process. Each entity (County, City and Region) needs to apply for their own Collaborative Operating Group (COG), even if CodeRED is being used. The State has an agreement with Alert Sense which would be the company used for IPAWS which is free for our use. When you apply it has to be designated who in your COG will be appointed to sending out the messages, which they will have had to complete IS 248 & 247a, sign off on paperwork and provide a list of counties that would be affected. When a message goes out it first goes to FEMA for approval then to NEMA and back to us. Sue gave us the paper work for an example of what Keith County did to apply.
  - c. Health Department – Heidi with RROMRS reported that they hired a fulltime person for the Med Reserve Corp. The Health Department is also trying to put together a 300-400 class which would be a 2 day class during the week mid to late January and would be public health geared. The Center for Disease Preparedness is also working on 100-200 & 700 but not all would work for fire departments because they are geared to public health. She also brought to our attention the Planning Section training on Dec 6-9 which she provided information that will be sent out with the minutes.
  - d. The next meeting was discussed that NEMA and PPC would be more available to come to these meetings if they started at 10:00am, have a working lunch or have on the agenda at what time we would be breaking for lunch so the people coming in by phone would know and plan accordingly.
5. Chairman Alma Beland adjourned the meeting at 4:05PM. Next Regular Meeting will be Friday, January 13, 2017, Region 26 EOC at 10:00am.

Submitted by  
Linda Lewis  
Recorder