

NORTH CENTRAL PLANNING EXERCISE & TRAINING MEETING

Friday, September 8, 2017

Region 26 EOC Meeting Room – Taylor, NE

Present: *Alma Beland-Region 26 Emergency Management, *Mark Rempe-Custer County Emergency Management, *Deb Hilker-Holt County Emergency Management, Ashley Jeffres-Loup Basin Public Health Department, Quinn Lewandowski-Public Policy Center, Glen May-Rock County Deputy Emergency Manager, *Linda Lewis-Region 26 Emergency Management, Sergeant Bob Rose- Nebraska State Patrol, Kelly Allen-National Weather Service North Platte, Merci Suarez-Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Walter Kirkland-Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

Via Zoom: Gary Weaver-Cherry County Emergency Management, Sue Krogman, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. *Depicts Voting Members

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mark Rempe at 10:02am. The “Open Meetings Act” was brought to everyone’s attention.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: No Quorum
3. Old Business
 - a. Grant Status Review
 1. 2015: Alma updated us on the 2015 grant stating there is \$2,807.97 under Tower Leases and \$6379.89 in uncommitted funds. There is an agreement with NRIN to send \$1,000 back for making an informational video for local stakeholders. This grant ends August 2018.
 2. 2016: Alma gave an update on the 2016 grant. Ag Training has \$38,000. CERT training classes need to be scheduled to get these funds used. There will be no changes allowed on this grant like others in the past.
 3. 2017 Grant has not been awarded yet.
 - b. NRIN – Sue Krogman gave an update on the progress of the NRIN Project. Looking at the link between Broken Bow and Taylor for a Regional PSAP back up. The Comstock tower cannot be used unless remediation is done which is a possibility with NRIN project paying for the work. The Dunning tower that has been talked about in the past would not be a good option.

Towers being looked at for Holt County include tower in the Madison and Humphrey area and then a shot to Neligh & O’Neill. In a couple of months what is stored in Norfolk will start to be hung on towers. Deb needs to get MOU’s in place.

Deb also needs to find out if a tower can be built in Holt County; the county doesn’t have to own the land but can make a deal with the land owner like a cut in taxes.

Another tower will need to be built in either Southeast Rock or Southwest Holt or better yet Northwest Loup. Sue would like to meet with the North Central Region along with Chad Boshart in Spring 2018 to get ready for the IJ workshop. At this time she’d like to finalize the possibilities for existing towers or for new structures to be able to complete the NRIN project for our area.

When the system is functional it will carry information the fastest route. For example, Broken Bow (CPPD) to Comstock to Taylor to Anselmo (CPPD) then Dunning (CPPD), this will have high speed capability because it’s circling on a small ring.

The equipment in Ericson storage will be divided into each appropriate area. Sue will bring a crew in to move the equipment.

Sue has the breakdowns on what is on each tower for the County Boards showing what needs to be insured.

Some of the things that need to be worked out yet are the cost to use the system and what towers in Cherry County need insured by Cherry County. A path is needed from Norden to Valentine, co-locating with the State Radio System is a possibility. Sue will get Gary Weaver a breakdown on replacement values.

At the last NRIN meeting it was discussed who can use the system, the cost for the user, and a comparison on what 911 trunk lines are costing since this may take the place of these trunk lines creating a huge savings. This project has to be done by August 2019.

Sue also mentioned FirstNet and that the state of Nebraska has opted in. This would be for cellular usage. Since AT&T is not predominant in the state they are looking into other ways to communicate across the state without using roaming or building new towers.

- c. TICP Progress on Update - Linda will find out if it's mandatory to put Mutual Aid channels in and if the TICP is a document that can be viewed by the public.
- d. CodeRED – Jim Ericson was asked if we would be able to see who has signed up so it can be reviewed in case someone from out of area has accidentally signed up in the wrong place. Another issue was OnSolve and that it may create a problem with our users when they see “Brought to You by OnSolve” and was wondering if that could be changed; finally the question was asked if it would be possible to do Mutual Aid calling for each other's area.

ORION was mentioned as a tool that would have been beneficial to assess damages in the recent disasters in our area. Merci was asked if this could be included in a grant. She found out that as long as it's within the Grant Performance Timeline, however if it was not included then would not be eligible.

- e. Review of the Five Year Calendar-There was a concern that the exercises that the North Central Region had completed were not getting credit at NEMA. Alma checked with Dave Reisen at NEMA which he informed her of the following; to be a recognized exercise there are three things that must be completed; an Evaluation of the Exercise, an After Action Report and an Improvement Plan. These can be very simple and generalized. For EMPG grant purposes a sign-in sheet, certificates and appropriate documents for each area need to be available for review at the grant audit. Dave mentioned using the Executive Summary on HSEEP. Exercise goals are to test policies and procedures and plans already in place, not to create new ones. As stated, “Exercise to test the plan not to create the plan”.
- f. Deuel County Officially leaving – tabled due to lack of quorum.
- g. Other Old Business – Deb Hilker reported that she had an E101 class in Atkinson and was well attended. NEMA would have liked to see these classes be more of a regional effort but was explained to NEMA that our Region is so spread out that it would not be feasible. Deb made a power point that addresses the basic responsibilities of the elected official and NEMA presents pertinent information. She will share her power point with those that are interested.

4. New Business

- a. LEDRS Report – This was a conference for Veterinarians and Emergency Managers. They discussed confinement operations and wanting to make emergency plans and have the veterinarians assist them. A gentleman from UNL and the Veterinarian Association would like to bring training out to Nebraska responders reference livestock trailers and the weak points that could be used as an exit for the livestock in case of an accident. They would also like to educate responders on how animals may react to Red Flashing

Lights or the sounds heard in responding to an accident. Liability issues would also be discussed and what the responder needs to do in the situation where livestock need to be euthanized.

- b. Credentialing Issues-NEMA is looking into the way Midwest Card has set up the Apps. If any USERS would like to practice on the APP's it's very important that only use TEST sites. Dave will come to the November meeting to talk more about credentialing.
- c. NPSCC-Nebraska Public Safety Commission Council – It was reported that the Governor has signed Nebraska in to FirstNet. No other report on this item.
- d. Kelly Allen-NWS-North Platte – Kelly gave us a report as we viewed video and pictures of the August 19, 2017 storm that produced several small tornadoes in Loup County and moved on into Custer County. She also reported that as of October 1, 2017 they will no longer issue Freezing Rain and Blizzard watches, these will now be included in the detailed message of Winter Weather.

Vice Chairman Mark Rempe suspended the meeting for lunch at 11:40AM.

Vice Chairman Mark Rempe reconvened the meeting at 12:44pm.

- e. August Disasters-Kelly covered most of this subject in her report. One thing that Mark Rempe wanted to note is that if it's a single county with damages that the threshold changes for the State Emergency Fund. He experienced this with the August flooding in Custer County.
 - f. Other New Business-No other new business
5. Public Health Report – Ashley Jeffres with Loup Basin Public Health reported that public health will not fund mosquito spray for control but they do have wipes that are for the taking. She also reported that Nebraska is at risk for losing our Health Coalition because there have not been enough disasters to justify their existence. Lastly she reported on a Mental Health Training on September 19, 2017 at O'Neill that would be beneficial to attend.
6. Public Policy Report – Quinn Lewandowski with the PPC reported that the State THIRA and preparation for the TEPW would be Thursday, October 26, 2017 from 8am to 5pm in Lincoln exact location to be determined. The TEPW would then be held Friday, October 27, 2017 from 8:30am to 12:00pm. Lodging is on your own however EMPG can be used.
- The North Central PET Region THIRA workshop scheduled for September 22, 2017 had too many conflicts so it was decided to change it to Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 10am at Region 26 EOC in Taylor, Nebraska. Quinn will facilitate the meeting and we will focus on approximately 16 Core Capabilities. Quinn will email a template to send out to those we would like to invite.
- Quinn also reported that NEMA now is password protected and that requests to have access needs to be sent to Logan Lueking.
7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:36pm. Next Regular meeting will be November 3, 2017 at 10am at Region 26 EOC in Taylor, Nebraska.

Submitted by
Linda Lewis
Secretary

Board Chairman

Date