NORTHEAST NEBRASKA REGIONAL MEETING

Wayne, Nebraska

June 4, 2009

The Northeast Nebraska Regional meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairman Kevin Garvin. Minutes of the previous meeting had been e-mailed to members prior to this meeting and copies were also available at this meeting. Legal notice of this meeting was posted and published in the Norfolk Daily News. The open meeting laws were made available. Roll call showed that Antelope County was absent; Bill Pook was present for Burt County; Kevin Garvin was present for Cedar County; Brad Boyum was present for Cuming County; Pat Foust was present for Dakota County; Dixon County was absent; Laura Hintz was present for Knox County; Madison County was absent; Pierce County was absent; Sanford Goshorn was present for Stanton County; Thurston County was absent and LeRoy Janssen was present for Wayne County. Bruce Blatchford for Dixon County arrived at 9:10 a.m.; Faythe Petersen for Antelope, Madison and Pierce Counties arrived at 9:15 a.m. At various times during the meeting Nicole Carlson, John Adams and Bernie Henke from Stanton County; Deanna Beckman from Dakota County; Cyndi Koeppe and Jason Olesen from Dixon County; Kim Schulz from the Health Department; Pat Gerdes from CNRI/South Central Region and Bob Wilhelm, Bob Eastwood and Dan Hiller from NEMA were present.

Pat Foust made a motion to approve the minutes as sent out. Bill Pook seconded the motion. Vote by consensus ayes all, nays none, motion carried.

Mark DeKraai from the Public Policy Center spoke on the new planning site for Nebraska Homeland Security and Interoperable Communications that has been set up. Features of the site are there is a calendar for the regions to use to show exercises, meetings or anything of interest to the rest of the state; the opportunity to post regional meeting minutes and agendas. The website is as follows: <http://homelandplanning.unl.edu/index.php>

Proposed changes to the bylaws were handed out. These changes clarify job descriptions; who keeps the agenda and interim county/region representatives. Members were to take the handouts home and review them before our next meeting. A copy is also attached to these minutes.

Bill Pook reported that he had sent out prior to this meeting an announcement form that can be tailored to each county’s needs to be sent to local officials about the regional TTX. He advised that this exercise promises to be interesting. We should have a minimum of 50 people attending, at least 1 board member and 2 representatives from the larger communities in our counties. The Em’s will serve as controllers or evaluators. Each county needs to send out their own invitations. The TTX will be held at the Life Long Learning Center on August 6th starting at 6:30 p.m. This exercise will last 90 minutes. EM’s need to be at the Center by 6:00 p.m.

Faythe Petersen and Deanna Beckman reported on the exercise with the 72nd Civil Support Team in Norfolk on Sept. 1st at 4:30 p.m. The exercise planning is still in progress. Regional EM’s will serve as evaluators. The goal is to answer questions about activating the CST and is to determine if elected offices know what they are doing. The new Norfolk city administrator is a certified emergency manager. Faythe Petersen will keep us up to date on the exercise.

Pat Foust our NCOR representative has kept the group posted by e-mail on the main points from the last meeting in Kearney. Bill Pook asked if NCOR would consider telecasting their meetings so interested parties could watch them.

 Bob Wilhelm from NEMA advised they were just there to answer any questions they could about Inter-Op Communications. Most of the Panhandle will be on line this month, the Southwest region next month and the Sandhills will go on line sometime around August. This is being paid for with PSIC funding with the balance coming out of the FY07 Regional grant money. The Department of Commerce is also requiring environment studies on the PSIC towers. Dan Hiller reported on the NetPlanner. As soon as they (NEMA) have had their training the program will be rolled out to the counties. They will come out to do the training. Bill Pook asked what could go on the NetPlanner. Dan Hiller advised all plans, not just LEOPs can go on it. The public can not access NetPlanner.

The group took a break at 10:07 a.m. and reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

Hal Bassett from Inter-Op Solutions explained how the sites for the black boxes were selected. The sites selected are Center (Knox County) South Sioux City (Dakota County) West Point (Cuming County) Pender (Thurston County) and Hartington (Cedar County). He also advised that the contract includes 2 years of internet costs. This system will also be VIOP connected. We will be able to run mutual aid channels with Paraclete. This system has a way the dispatchers can talk or text other dispatchers without using the radio or phone. NSP and G&P will be VHF digital with portables being 700/800. The Nebraska Department of Roads will still use low band. The counties will have to enter into a maintenance agreement after 5 years at a cost of $5,000.00 a year or turn the maintenance over to a local radio shop. This is basic Kenwood equipment. The technical support stays with Inter-Op. During the first five years they will touch each box once a year. The software is owned by the state. Hal Bassett advised it would be cheaper to deal with the local radio shops then to have Inter-Op take over after the 5 year maintenance agreement has expired.

The group broke for lunch at 11:22 a.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m. Bruce Blatchford and Cyndi Koeppe from Dixon County left at 12:15 p.m.

Pat Gerdes explained how the system has worked in his region, what worked and what didn’t. His presentation ended with him making a call to the Holdrege dispatcher from his computer over her radio using the Paraclete system.

The group took a break at 1:44 p.m. and reconvened at 1:55 p.m.

Upon reconvening discussion was held on what decision we need to make before the next meeting. How many boxes do we need; where are they to go; identify potential locations; how much money do we have to use; the cost will be between $244,000.00 & $246,000.00 for 5 boxes. Brad Boyum made a motion to accept the five sites determined by Inter-Op Solutions for the black boxes to be paid for out of PSIC and FY07 grant money and use the balance of the grant money for predetermined local projects. Bill Pook amended the motion to accept the five sites pending acceptance by the proposed host counties. Sanford Goshorn seconded the amended motion. Jason Olesen asked for discussion as to who was responsible for maintaining the boxes and providing training. Each county will maintain the black boxes and will provide the training for the employees. Chairman Garvin called for a roll call vote: Antelope County-Faythe Petersen YES; Burt County-Bill Pook YES; Cedar County-Kevin Garvin YES; Cuming County-Brad Boyum YES; Dakota County-Pat Foust YES; Dixon County absent & not voting; Knox County-Laura Hintz YES; Madison County-Faythe Petersen YES; Pierce County-Faythe Petersen YES; Stanton County-Sanford Goshorn YES; Thurston County absent & not voting; Wayne County-LeRoy Janssen YES. Before the next meeting the proposed site counties need to get tentative approval from their county boards.

Our next meeting falls on the day of our TTX. Bill Pook suggested meeting before the exercise, break for lunch and then go to the exercise. **The August 6th meeting will be at TJ’s Sport Bar 715 Country Club Road in Norfolk at 4:30 p.m.**

Bill Pook will get a current quote on his tower under the FY07 grant by the next meeting.

LeRoy Janssen has been appointed to fill the emergency manager position in Wayne County and presented the Chairman with his appointment letter.

Dan Hiller advised the group that we need to start talking about our projects for the FY09 grant. The guidelines are the same as the FY08 grant.

Pat Foust suggested we need to meet monthly instead of bi-monthly. We are starting to make progress and we need to keep it going. Pat Foust made a motion to hold our regional meetings the first Thursday of every month. Bill Pook seconded the motion. Vote by consensus ayes all, nays none, motion carried. **The next meeting will be July 2 at 9 a.m. at the LEC in South Sioux City.**

Brad Boyum made a motion to adjourn. Sanford Goshorn seconded the motion. Vote by consensus ayes all, nays none, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Hintz, Secretary