

# Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

## Minutes

April 8, 2013, 10:00 am CST

Omaha Room, Country Inn & Suites/Beacon Hills, 5353 N 27, Lincoln, NE 68521

### Opening Comments

#### 1. Roll Call

| First Name | Last Name | Agency                   | Attendance |
|------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------|
| Al         | Berndt    | NEMA                     | X          |
| Dave       | Boeckner  | League of Municipalities | X          |
| Mark       | Conrey    | Tri-County PET Region    | X          |
| Brenda     | Decker    | Chair                    | X          |
| Kevin      | Garvin    | Northeast PET Region     | X          |
| Pat        | Gerdes    | Southwest PET Region     | X          |
| Lavon      | Heidemann | Lt. Governor             | X          |
| Tim        | Hofbauer  | East Central PET Region  | X          |
| Adam       | Matzner   | State Fire Marshal       | X          |
| Tom        | Nutt      | NACO                     | X          |
| Pete       | Petersen  | North Central PET Region | X          |
| Ray        | Richards  | Panhandle PET Region     | X          |
| Jon        | Rosenlund | South Central PET Region | X          |
| Ray        | Ryan      | Southeast PET Region     | X          |
| Tom        | Schwarten | NSP                      | X          |
| Jayne      | Scofield  | OCIO                     | X          |
| Craig      | Stover    | Game and Parks           |            |
| David      | Webb      | NPPD                     | X          |

#### 2. Open Meeting 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)

A copy of the Open Meeting Law Information was available in the meeting room.

#### 3. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Brenda Decker called the meeting to order at 10:07 am Central Standard Time. A quorum of members was present. Changes in membership include Kevin Garvin, who will be representing the Northeast PET Region, Lt. Governor Lavon Heidemann, and Brenda Decker, who chaired the meeting at the request of Lt Gov. Heidemann.

### Action Items

#### 1. Approval of Minutes

Jon Rosenlund made a motion to approve the minutes with the following addendums: 1) the Office of the CIO be removed as a support organization to NPSCC; 2) under the Sustainability of Communications report the following clarifying statement be added: 'Work with the OCIO is being done to evaluate whether the NRIN system can be operationally managed and monitored by the same technical operations group that manages the Statewide Radio System.' Jayne Scofield seconded the motion; the motion passed by roll call vote.

#### 2. Approval of Bylaws

Ray Richards made a motion to approve the bylaws with the following addendum: language is added to the bylaws in Article II, Section 7 – 'Council members will ensure appropriate representation from the sectors they represent will be added. NPSCC will provide guidance on recommendations that come from these working groups.' Pete Petersen seconded this motion; the motion passed by roll call vote.

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## Discussion Items

### **1. NPSCC representation for the Region VII Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) – Brenda Decker, OCIO**

Previous appointments to RECCWG include: Sue Krogman, NEMA (SWIC proxy); Lt. Col. Tom Schwarten, State Police; Al Berndt, State Emergency Management; Matt May, Local Emergency Management; Sheriff Neil Miller, Local Police and Sheriff; Mark Conrey, Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP); Pete Petersen, Local Government Official. The appointments were sent to FEMA Region VII. If necessary, the membership can be expanded.

### **2. State and local implementation of the FirstNet Broadband Initiative – Brenda Decker, OCIO**

The First Responder Network Authority (to be referred as FirstNet Broadband Initiative) is an initiative of the Obama Administration to create a public safety network nationwide and was passed by Congress as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. FirstNet is a nationwide broadband network that will connect first responders across the country; FirstNet is broadband only; Land Mobile Radio Stations (LMRS) are not intended to be replaced and audio technology will not be included.

Seven billion dollars, funded through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), have been allocated for this network with \$153 million available to all states as noncompetitive planning grants. Funding amounts were calculated by state population and land mass with a State match of 20% required. Nebraska is slated to receive \$1.5 million in federal funding with a state match of \$380,000 funded through the OCIO and State Patrol, totaling \$1.9 million.

The proposal for the state of Nebraska, as outlined in the grant application, is to create a work group under the authority of NPSCC; the work group shall include four representatives from each of the regions represented on NPSCC and representative from all sectors identified in the grant including, but not limited to, the tribes, local police, local fire, volunteer fire, EMS, public safety partners, utility partners, and the Public Service Commission. An individual will be hired to coordinate and facilitate meetings on behalf of the body. All documents have been submitted to the NTIA and approval is expected in 90 days; if approved, the grant will begin on July 1, 2013. A national meeting funded by this grant will be held in June; the grant will fund ten individuals from the state of Nebraska to attend this meeting. Brenda Decker will send each NPSCC member a copy of the grant application.

### **3. Expanded use of Paraclete Applications – Al Berndt, NEMA**

More than 20 counties have consolettes installed and operating, providing local interoperability on the SRS with the State Patrol. The Office of the CIO's Division of Communications trained dispatchers and sheriffs on the use of the consolettes at these locations; radios will be turned on as counties buy and install the equipment. The State Patrol will be moving off of low band this year and are exploring solutions to remedy their gaps in communication. The OCIO is working with Buffalo County to test their Paraclete and interoperability solutions; Buffalo County recently used a consolette to communicate with the State Patrol. A proof of concept demonstration will be held next week on the communication technologies of the interface of a handheld microphone with an iPhone and radio systems.

A smart phone application for building safety has been developed and is being utilized in the Mesa, Arizona school systems; this allows school teachers to interconnect through the application and connect through Paraclete to communicate with local law enforcement or building safety. Buffalo County is considering the use of this technology.

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NEMA is undergoing an Office of the Inspector General grant audit; changes in the grant process resulting from this audit include: immutable deadlines and heightened requirements for supportive documentation for all funding decisions.

## Information/Reports

### **1. Region and State Reports**

#### **a. Panhandle Region – Ray Richards**

The Panhandle Region has received permission from the State Patrol to access the Statewide Radio System; inadequate funding is inhibiting their ability to purchase the necessary equipment quoted at \$23,000. The State of Wyoming Communications Council has approved the installation of a WYOLINK console; the console will be installed next month. Once it is installed, the Panhandle Region will be able to communicate with any county in Wyoming. All microwave equipment part of the NRIN pilot program has been installed; the equipment is currently dormant as the region has nothing to patch to it.

Rescue Star 911 technology is no longer usable; there are no spare parts or technical support available; a new Zetron will be installed in its place. The Centrex Telephone System (administrative lines) used in the Region has reached its end of life also. Paraclete equipment was last in use on November 18, 2009; the system failed and was sent to the vendor for repairs and has not been reinstalled.

The Panhandle pays \$8,800 a year on two NRIN tower leases in Chadron from NPPD; PET funding supports these leases. The tower for Scottsbluff County is owned by the region. The Panhandle provided \$12,000 worth of equipment to the State Patrol and has interoperability with Troop E; seven trooper have equipment in their cars and at the troop headquarters. This equipment is in Troop E's Paraclete box, which is not in use.

#### **b. Southwest Region – Pat Gerdes**

NRIN equipment is currently installed and is operable in Grant, Imperial, Benkelman, Stratton, and Trenton. The McCook installation is on hold awaiting remediation on the McCook Public Power District tower; once this is remediated, equipment will be installed and McCook will be online. No infrastructure has been built east of McCook; conversations regarding building a tower around Cambridge Lake have begun between Pat Gerdes, NEMA and the OCIO. This tower is needed to connect with the KRVN link and the North Central and South Central regions. All MOU's and leases are in place for these sites to date.

Pat Gerdes completed Paraclete server updates in Perkins County and Dundy County. Hitchcock County has a server failure; it has been updated but will not be back online until April 16. The dispatch center and mobile trailer in McCook will be upgraded in mid-April. McCook PD moved to a new dispatch center and has restored their interoperability. The Nationwide Interoperable Frequency on VHF will be installed in Dundee County at the Benkelman water tower; NRIN will control this base station.

#### **c. North Central Region – Pete Petersen**

Western portions of the North Central region are included in the NRIN pilot project; the Eastern portions of the North Central region will be the last to be included in NRIN. The Eastern portion is in the planning stages and is gathering information for tower infrastructure. NRIN is built out and functioning in the Western portion of the Region. Seven Mutual Aid base stations are in operation in Valentine, Whitman, Mullen, Ord, Sargent, Ogallala and Arthur; the station in Arthur is not currently monitored. The Mutual Aid site at Ogallala has a Nationwide Law Enforcement Emergency Channel for connectivity into Colorado.

Tower owners and maintenance personnel need to be identified for all towers. NRIN is being used for main connectivity with Mullen and Whitman to control an analog repeater; plans are to expand this to Arthur

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County. The OCIO Network Services WAN Group is working with the North Central. Environmental monitoring equipment – including five cameras – has been installed at some sites; this is not yet connected to NRIN. Training of first responders and dispatchers continues to be a challenge; first responders and dispatchers need to be trained on using the Mutual Aid system and equipment in the dispatch centers.

## **d. South Central Region – Jon Rosenlund**

Work is continuing to ensure all MOUs are completed; the Minden water tower does not have an MOU, and has yet to appear on the City Council's agenda. Two sites have been identified to link Kearney County and Adams County; sites previously identified in Holstein and Axtell were not viable. These two sites will require some annual funding for the region to bear. The MOU between Dawson County and the KRVN tower is near completion; the PET region voted to use Homeland Security Region funds for tower leases. No connectivity plans have been established for the southern counties.

## **e. East Central Region – Tim Hofbauer**

Platte County is a pilot county for a consolette; one has been installed and tested at a cost of \$17,000. Columbus and Platte County dispatch has been in communication with Norfolk dispatch. More consolettes may be installed. Two Mutual Aid base stations have been installed; NRIN equipment needs to be installed. One more base station needs to be installed in the Northwestern portion of the region based on coverage maps. An East Central 9-1-1 group has been established to release an RFP for a regional 9-1-1 telephone system; proposals have been received and are being evaluation. Funding for this project will be requested at the Public Service Wireless Committee meeting in April. The regional 9-1-1 telephone system would install 9-1-1 telephone switches throughout the region and route the call data back to the PSAPs. Counties have indicated interest in this project. Most NRIN tower MOUs have been completed. NRIN will connect base stations and 9-1-1. The region has five Paraclete boxes – one is shut off – and is in the process of updating them.

## **f. Southeast Region – Ray Ryan**

Most NRIN equipment has arrived and will be installed pending the completion of all MOUs. Challenges include: determining tower usage; identifying maintenance personnel to complete routine upgrades and identifying funding to pay for maintenance; and, securing the equipment from hackers and viruses.

## **g. Northeast Region – Kevin Garvin**

NRIN is in its infancy. In the coming weeks, CSI will be conducting surveys to identify tower gaps. Tower owners are willing to sign MOUs pending the completion of structural analyses. Paraclete is not being widely used, partly due to IP and connectivity issues. Nine of the 12 counties have installed base stations for the common usage channels. One dispatch center is connected to the Statewide Radio System using their consolette

## **h. Tri-County Region – Mark Conrey**

No report.

## **2. Statewide Communications Project Updates**

### **a. Statewide Radio System – Jayne Scofield, OCIO**

Final Coverage results have been received and accepted. According to the RFP, results needed to be better than 95%; the results exceeded this requirement. The results have been shared with all state agency users. Work is continuing on ticket resolution. All network circuits are being tested to ensure they are passing all standards established by Motorola.

### **b. Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) – Sue Krogman, NEMA and Tim Hofbauer, East Central Region**

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NRIN is nearing completion in the Panhandle and Southwest regions and work has begun in the South Central region; the contractor will divide into three teams once the eastern portion of the state is reached allowing for the East Central, Southeast, and Northeast Regions to be simultaneously built up. Under this project 210 EHPs have been completed, 25% of the construction completed, and 80% of the materials have been ordered and received. Engineering assessments have been completed in the East Central region; grounding assessments are nearing completion in the Central, Southwestern and Southeast parts of the state. Project completion dates range between 6 months and two years with 18 months being the target date.

Work with the Public Policy Center has begun to establish a NRIN Governance Group. The first meeting of the group working on governance issues will be held on April 18, 2013 in Kearney, Nebraska. The committee will focus on NRIN governance, determine the cost to maintain, operate, and monitor the system, the promotion of NRIN, and focus on sustainability and funding opportunities.

**c. Common Usage Channels Project – Pete Petersen, North Central Region**

A statewide group should be convened to review the operational procedures of the Common Usage Channels Project to determine which channels should be used for incident command, staging, etc.; NCOR decided to follow the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG), which dictates there is only a PL tone on transmitted frequencies. Methods and regulations of communication need be pre-established; this includes training, planning and technology. Local communication centers should work with the State Patrol, local fire departments, and local police departments to establish these methods and regulations; it is recommended the 205 be utilized in this planning. The State Patrol, local law enforcement, local fire department, dispatchers, and the NPPD should be trained in the Common Usage Channels.

**d. Paraclete Project – Alisia LaMay, NEMA**

All counties with Paraclete boxes have received technical training; Lancaster County is the only exception. Sufficient financial and human capital necessary to sustain the Paraclete boxes continues to be challenge. Any counties experiencing technical problems with their Paraclete box should contact Alisia LaMay.

Pat Gerdes, Nick Kemnitz, Tim Hofbauer and four NEMA personnel have begun the Asterisk Upgrades, which will bring Paraclete to 8.0 and include IPAWS. 19 boxes have been updated, including NEMAs Paraclete box. Once all boxes have been updated to 8.0, NEMA will be the replication server for the state, eliminating the need for Interop-Solutions.

**e. IPAWS/CMAS - Alisia LaMay, NEMA**

Currently, only one county is able to send a message through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and the state. NEMA will receive all applications for IPAWS and will ensure all information is included.

Work with GETIC is being completed to finalize testing of the server in Washington, DC. GETIC will be presenting their findings once they are finalized; Alisia will send a notice when the logistics of this presentation are decided. NEMA has been working with the FCCC for a statewide test for WEA messages and EIS messages through IPAWS.

## **Comments**

**1. Member comments**

No comments.

**2. Public comments**

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Jim Bogner – the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator for the state of Iowa and regional coordinator for Region VII – wishes to reestablish contact with this council and Nebraska. Regionally, he would like to offer combined training; a communications unit leader course was previously held in Council Bluffs and was open to both Iowa and Nebraska. A workshop will be offered on May 21 in Des Moines to establish standards for communications unit leaders and communications unit technicians; Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa are invited. Brenda Decker will disseminate information regarding this workshop to all members of the council. The State Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) workshop will be held on April 9-10, 2013; this planning workshop will discuss broadband and create 6-month, 3-year, and 5-year plans for broadband. The next planning workshop will be held in 2015.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be targeted for before June. An email will be sent with prospective dates.