

# Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

## Minutes

June 2, 2014, 10:00 am CST

Bennett Martin Library, 136 S. 14 Street, Lincoln, NE, 68508

### Opening Comments

#### 1. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Attendance
Al	Berndt	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	X
Mark	Conrey	Tri-County PET Region	
Brenda	Decker	Chair	X
Roger	Foster	League of Municipalities	
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	Nebraska Association of County Officials	X
Pete	Peterson	North Central PET Region	X
Ray	Richards	Panhandle PET Region	
Jon	Rosenlund	South Central PET Region	X
Ray	Ryan	Southeast PET Region	X
Tom	Schwarten	Nebraska State Patrol	X
Jayne	Scofield	Office of the Chief Information Officer	X
Craig	Stover	Game and Parks Department	
David	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District	X

*Others in attendance: David Babcock, Denise Bulling, Howard Cofer, Mark DeKraai, Jim Heine, Dan Hiller, Pam Kemper, Alisia LaMay, Robert Malmquist, Matthew May, Mark Meints, Kyle Ott, Tom Perez, Matt Schnell, Kate Speck, Hayley Sutter, Janell Walther, Nikki Weber, and Bob Wilhelm*

#### 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)**

#### 3. **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Brenda Decker called the meeting to order at 10:14 am Central Standard Time. A quorum of members was present.

#### 4. **Approval of Minutes**

Tom Nutt made a motion to approve the January 27, 2014 meeting minutes. Adam Matzner seconded the motion; the motion passed by roll call vote with Kevin Garvin, Pat Gerdes, Jon Rosenlund, and Jayne Scofield abstaining and no dissensions.

#### 5. **Public Safety Communications Information and Reports**

##### a. **Update on NRIN installment status – Brenda Decker, OCIO**

The State of Nebraska has suspended the contract with CSI; effective June 16, the contract will be cancelled. Maintenance and repair contracts with CSI will also be cancelled. NEMA has completed an inventory of all purchased and uninstalled equipment. A statement of work will be issued in the East Central Region to select a contractor under short bid status to complete installation in the East

# Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

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Central Region. NEMA and the OCIO will collaborate to finish the remainder of the NRIN project and will ask the regions to provide a prioritization of the work. The project was intended to be completed by August; however, NEMA has sent a request to the Department of Homeland Security for an extension on the grant funding to allow for additional time to complete the project.

**b. Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) – Pete Peterson, North Central PET Region and Tim Hofbauer, East Central PET Region**

The NRIN Governance group was informed the CSI contract was cancelled during their last meeting. The next NRIN Governance meeting is scheduled for July 24 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**c. Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Working Group report – Bob Wilhelm, OCIO**

The first Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Working Group meeting was held on May 19 at the Lancaster County Health Department. The Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Working Group Charter approved by the NPSCC during the January meeting was presented. The Working Group proposed two changes to the Charter: 1) in Section 6.1 change the number of members from 15 to 18 and 2) in Section 6.2.1.14 change “Tribal representative” to “a representative from each of Nebraska’s four tribes, the Omaha Sioux, the Ponca, the Santee Sioux and the Winnebago.” These changes will appear as an action item on the agenda of the next Nebraska Public Safety Communications meeting. The remainder of the Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Working Group meeting was dedicated to discussion about the consultation pack that was received from FirstNet on April 30. A checklist included in the consultation pack must be completed and submitted before FirstNet will schedule the pre-consultation meetings. Completion of the checklist is expected in June. The pre-consultation meeting will likely be a full day workshop. A data survey tool is being sent to Counties to assess their use of broadband services to help FirstNet determine Nebraska’s planned coverage. Neil Miller was elected as chair and Tom Cassidy was elected vice-chair of the Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Working Group. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

**d. State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) – Janell Walther, Public Policy Center**

The SECC met on May 29, 2014; the next meeting is scheduled for August 21 at 1:00 PM at the Douglas County Civic Center. The FCC’s request for feedback on Spanish and multi-language EAS Alerts was discussed at the May meeting. The SECC does not have an official position at this time, but the Nebraska Broadcasters Association supports the National Alliance of State Broadcasting Associations in asking the FCC questions regarding the proposed mandate. A proposed revision to the State Emergency Alert System Plan will be made at the August meeting. The SECC will submit a request to the FCC for a tornado EAS waiver for March 25, 2015 to broadcast a test of the tornado EAS alert during Severe Weather Awareness Week. A national EAS test is anticipated before the end of the year, though no date is set.

**e. Statewide Radio System – Jayne Scofield, OCIO and David Webb, NPPD**

The York, Nebraska site was turned up on Wednesday, May 28 and was put on the air on Thursday, May 29. A cursory coverage check was completed on the York tower; however, a complete coverage check needs to be completed. If the complete coverage check indicates coverage to Giltner, then the Giltner antenna system will be moved back to the Southwest side of the NET Tower, which should clear issues in Hastings and Grand Island. The Cheney site was turned up on Friday, May 30 and should be up for use; the site does not have as many users as expected and will be tested to ensure it is operating properly. If coverage at the Cheney site is good the Sterling tower site may be moved

# Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

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closer to Pawnee County. The Benkelman site will be up in the next two weeks. Some antenna change outs and repositioning have occurred in the Northeast portion of the State; one site will be changed back as the original change did not have the intended affect. The area on Highway 20 around Plainview will be reevaluated for alternatives. The version 7.13 upgrades are complete and Motorola has fixed any issues that occurred during or due to the upgrade; the spares still need to be upgraded. NPPD and the OCIO met with Motorola to discuss final system acceptance and what needs to be completed before final system acceptance was granted; the rapid tower bouncing issue and other issues still need to be resolved. An agreement was signed with Gage County Emergency Management to join the state radio system with 25 users. Three-quarters of the dispatch centers in the state have been trained in connecting with the State Radio System; training for the remaining dispatch centers is expected by the end of the year.

## **f. Regional updates**

Several counties in the Southeast Region are exploring the option of a shared 911 switch, similar to the work being done currently in the East Central Region.

East Central Region: The 911 project is on hold due to NRIN; however, equipment has been ordered. The base of the water tower in Columbus and a communications building by the water tower in Saunders County have been chosen for the switch locations; NRIN consolidates at these two locations allowing a multi-path ring and ensuring reliability. Seven counties are participating in the East Central 911.

North Central Region: NRIN is substantially complete and has worked without fail for nearly a year; however, it does not have many users yet. A base station in Broken Bow is being shared. The consolettes in the North Central Region are fully operational.

Southwest Region: Dundy County-Benkelman consolette will be installed in the next week. The Furnas County equipment will be shipped by June 6. Buffalo County, Dawson County, Kearney County, Phelps County, Harlan County, and Furnas County are discussing sharing a 911 switch.

South Central: NEMA staff is assisting the South Central Region to better identify pathways for the NRIN project, including a possible new route from KRVN through Buffalo County along Highway 30 and paths in the southern counties. There is some concern regarding county participation and tower leases. CROC testing and trainings have been held throughout the region. Path testing in Grand Island with the State Patrol was conducted; the testing was unsuccessful and patching for analog, UHF, or VHF to the CROC is not anticipated in the near future. In accordance, agencies in the South Central Region need radios so incident commanders and on-duty sergeants can talk directly to the CROC. Pat Gerdes suggested using analog channels and patching into the SRS to prevent delays.

## **g. Paraclete project – NEMA**

Windows update issues are being resolved. State Patrol has completed all necessary repairs and replacements for their boxes. NEMA is providing technical trainings across the state for local communication directors, IT staff, and radio shops so they can sustain the boxes themselves.

# Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

## **h. Common Usage Operational Procedures Workgroup update/membership – Pete Peterson, North Central PET Region and Tim Hofbauer, East Central PET Region**

NACO has decided to set standards for dispatch centers; currently only operational procedures have been developed. The State Dispatchers Group meeting was scheduled for September 2013 to discuss standards for dispatch centers and operational procedures for calls for service; however, the meeting was postponed and has yet to be rescheduled. A Common Channel Policy was previously approved by NCOR; the policy could assist the development of the new standards and operational procedures policy. There has been no update to the use of Common Usage channels programmed into the SRS equipment.

## **6. Member Comments**

Tom Nutt commented the Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Working Group meeting was well run and was impressed with the presentation offered at the meeting.

## **7. Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the NPSCC is yet to be determined; however, it will likely be in August 2014.

## **9. Adjourn**

Jon Rosenlund made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adam Matzner seconded the motion; the motion was passed by consensus. The meeting adjourned at 11:04 am CST.

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EAS	Emergency Alert System
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
NACO	Nebraska Association of County Officials
NCOR	Nebraska Council of Regions
NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NPPD	Nebraska Public Power District
NPSCC	Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council
NRIN	Nebraska
OCIO	Office of the Chief Information Officer
PET	Planning, Exercise, and Training
RFP	Request for proposals
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
SRS	Statewide Radio System
UHF	Ultra high frequency
VHF	Very high frequency