

# Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

## Minutes

August 27, 2014, 1:30 pm CST

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

### Opening Comments

#### 1. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Attendance
Mark	Conrey	Tri-County PET Region	X
Brenda	Decker	Chair	X
Roger	Foster	League of Municipalities	
Kevin	Garvin	Northeast PET Region	X
Pat	Gerdes	Southwest PET Region	
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	
Ray	Richards	Panhandle PET Region	X
Jon	Rosenlund	South Central PET Region	X
Ray	Ryan	Southeast PET Region	X
Howard	Cofer	Nebraska State Patrol (representing Tom Schwarten)	X
Jayne	Scofield	Office of the Chief Information Officer	
Craig	Stover	Game and Parks Department	
Bryan	Tuma	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	X
David	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District	X

*Others in attendance: David Babcock, Denise Bulling, Mark DeKraai, Brian Dixon, Sue Krogman, James Lundsted, Robert Malmquist, Jr, Mike Mattison, Matthew May, Mark Meints, John Moon III, Tom Perez, Matt Schnell, Hayley Sutter, Michael Terkildsen, Janell Walther, 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 1:30 pm Central Standard Time. A quorum of members was present.

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

Tim Hofbauer made a motion to approve the June 2, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ray Richards; the motion passed by roll call vote with no abstaining votes and no dissensions.

#### 5. **Review and Approval of NPSCC Annual Report**

Brenda Decker proposed the following amendments to the NPSCC annual report:

1. (Page 3 under 2013-2104 Milestones, first paragraph) Change the current wording from “The SRS, a VHF P25 digital trunked land mobile radio system, is a partnership between the State and Nebraska Public Power District and was installed in four phases. The system became operational when state agencies were able to move their daily operational traffic to the new radio system. The SRS is now working with local public safety agencies to join the system. The SRS Users Group (SUG) met monthly throughout the project’s development and implementation to discuss SRS status, resolve issues, and develop operational policies and procedures for SRS use.” to this wording “The SRS, a VHF P25 digital trunked land mobile radio system, is a partnership between the State and Nebraska

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Public Power District through an interlocal agreement which established three SRS groups: the System Administrative Group, the System Operations Group, and the System Users Group. The SRS was installed in four phases. The system became operational when state agencies were able to move their daily operational traffic to the system. The State Administrative Group is now working with local public safety agencies who want to join the system. The System Users Group (SUG) met monthly throughout the project's development and implementation to discuss SRS status, enhancements, and recommend operational policies and procedures for SRS use."

2. (Page 4, under Coordination with Components for Interoperable Communications, #2) Change the current wording from "A major focus of these efforts has been to achieve interoperability between local first responders and the Nebraska State Patrol. Equipment has been identified that will allow public safety answering points in Nebraska to communicate with the State Radio System. This equipment has been installed in most local sites and training provided for its use." to this wording "A major focus of these efforts has been to achieve interoperability between local first responders."
3. (Page 4, under Coordination with Components for Interoperable Communications, Paraclete) Add the number 3) to the paragraph about Paraclete and leave the wording as presented.
4. (Page 5, under Recommendations, the third bullet) Change the current wording from "55 consolettes have been installed and are operating in counties, providing local interoperability with the SRS system." to this wording "55 consolettes have been installed and are operating in local dispatch centers, providing local interoperability with the SRS users."
5. (Page 5, under Recommendations, the sixth bullet) Change the current wording from "Interoperability with the Statewide Radio System should continue to be encouraged between the SRS and local public safety entities." to this wording "Interoperability with the Statewide Radio System should continue to be encouraged between the SRS user agencies and local public safety entities."

Jon Rosenlund proposed the reference to the Nebraska State Patrol should remain in suggested change #2 as the Nebraska State Patrol is not a local first responder. Jon proposed the change should read "A major focus of these efforts has been to achieve interoperability between local first responders and the Nebraska State Patrol." The Council agreed with this change to the amended language.

Tom Nutt moved to approve the amended NPSCC annual report; Ray Ryan seconded this motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote with no members abstaining or dissenting.

## 6. Public Safety Communications Information and Reports

### a. Update on NRIN installment status – Sue Krogman, NEMA

Due to the cancellation of the contract with CSI, the project has been able to continue under a master service agreement under the OCIO's office with two Nebraska contractors who have Ceragon capabilities. The current focus has been on the East Central Region; it is 75% complete and multiple MOUs have been gathered. Once the East Central Region is completed, the contractors will move to other regions and will continue to work until the grant expires in February 2015. Once the grant has expired, a new RFP will be released to complete the project.

### b. Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) –Tim Hofbauer, East Central PET Region

The NRIN Governance group met on August 27. The group is in communication with the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) to help with the development of the interlocal agreement, marketing, and to possibly serve as the fiscal agent for NRIN once the interlocal agreement is created. The next NRIN meeting will be held on October 27 at 10:00 AM CST.

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

The Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network 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 tribal council appointed representative from each of Nebraska’s four tribes, the Omaha Sioux, the Ponca, the Santee Sioux and the Winnebago.”

Ray Ryan made a motion to approve the changes to the charter as presented; Kevin Garvin seconded this motion. The motion passed by roll call vote with no abstaining or dissenting votes.

The initial consultation between FirstNet and the State of Nebraska is believed to be the catalyst for determining the functions and coverage of FirstNet in Nebraska. Nebraska identified the end of October or the beginning of November as preferred dates for the consultation; however, it has been implied the meeting will not occur until early 2015. Maryland was the first state to have their consultation; they had 24 executive state representatives in attendance at their meeting and recommend future states include more representatives. Nebraska’s consultation meeting will be open to the public and letters have been sent out to each of the 93 counties inviting them to identify representatives to be included when the meeting is scheduled. An estimated 85 counties have already selected their representative to attend the meeting. NACO is interested in presentation at the FirstNet consultation meeting. Bob Wilhelm is doing a 45 minute presentation on FirstNet at the Police Officer’s Association of Nebraska/Nebraska Sheriff’s Association Conference in Kearney, NE on October 8, 2014.

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

The SECC met on Thursday, August 21. The EAS Plan working group (Alisia LaMay, NEMA; Lt. Carla Schreiber, Nebraska State Patrol; and Rod Ziegler, KRVN Radio) presented a proposed revision to the EAS Plan that was discussed. Changes will be made and it may be up for SECC approval at the next meeting on November 13, 2014 in Lincoln. The SECC is also working on updating the list of Local Primary Stations in accordance with FCC requirements. At the next meeting, the committee will review their charter and policies to ensure that all are up to date. Two members have been nominated to serve as chair this year, and they will be voted on at the next meeting in November.

Two issues were presented for question: 1) As a subcommittee of the NPSCC, should the SECC be subject to Open Meetings Law? And 2) As a subcommittee of the NPSCC, when the EAS Plan is approved by the SECC, what will be the approval process? How far in advance should the plan be circulated to the NPSCC? Who will need to sign the EAS plan prior to its being sent to the FCC for approval?

Brenda Decker will contact the OCIO legal department to determine if the SECC is subject to open meeting laws and provide Alisia with a response. The EAS Plan should be submitted to the NPSCC after approved by the SECC for consideration and approval.

**e. Statewide Radio System – Matt Schnell, NPPD and David Webb, NPPD**

The York, Cheney, and Benkelman sites are operational. The Cheney site will cover Lincoln and to the south of Lincoln very well. The OCIO is in the process of completing coverage studies; York and Cheney have been done and Benkelman is will be done in September. The improvement of network conditions continues to be a focus area, especially at sites that have connection issues; this is being mediated by adding a second connector and upgrading equipment. The OCIO and NPPD are getting ready for the 7.15 upgrade, scheduled for May-June 2015. Gage County has come on the

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system and is using it. Motorola is almost done programming the Emergency Portable Tower; the tower can be used to enhance communication methods during a disaster response.

**f. Regional updates**

Douglas County is working on a bond issue to upgrade to their radio system; the bond would implement an IP simulcast and TDMA implementation on some of their channels. The TDMA would have some impact, but can be managed through fleet mapping. The users are in the process of trying to purchase new subscribers and GPS for their portable radios. A contract has been signed and a purchase order has been implemented for text-to-911; Douglas County expects to have the capability to do text-to-911 in the next 60 days.

**g. Paraclete project – Alisia LaMay, NEMA**

No report.

**h. Common Usage Operational Procedures Workgroup update/membership –Tim Hofbauer, East Central PET Region**

No update.

**7. Member Comments**

No member comment

**8. Public Comments**

The State’s Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Analysis Workshop (THIRA), State Preparedness Report Workshop (SPR), and Training Exercise, & Planning Workshop (TEPW) will be held on October 21-22 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**9. Next Meeting**

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

**10. Adjourn**

Jon Rosenlund made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded David Webb; the motion passed by consensus. The meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm CST.

Acronym	Meaning
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EAS	Emergency Alert System
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
IP	Internet Protocol address
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 Regional Interoperability Network
OCIO	Office of the Chief Information Officer
PET	Planning, Exercise, and Training
RFP	Request for proposals
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee

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SPR	State Preparedness Report
SRS	Statewide Radio System
SUG	Statewide Radio System Users Group
TDMA	Time division multiple access
TEPW	Training, Exercise, & Planning Workshop
THIRA	Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
UHF	Ultra high frequency
VHF	Very high frequency

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