

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2017, 1:00 PM CDT

Southeast Community College Room V-109

8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68520

Opening Comments

1. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Attendance
Mike	Foley	Lt. Governor	
Phil	Brazelton	Tri-County PET Region	X
Roger	Foster	League of Municipalities	
Kevin	Garvin	Northeast PET Region	X
Ike	Brown	Southwest PET Region	X
Tim	Hofbauer	East Central PET Region	X
Adam	Matzner	State Fire Marshal	
Tom	Nutt	Nebraska Association of County Officials	X
Mark	Rempe	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	Nebraska State Patrol	X
Jayne	Scofield	Office of the Chief Information Officer, Chair	
Ed	Toner	Office of the Chief Information Officer	X
Craig	Stover	Game and Parks Department	
Bryan	Tuma	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	X
David	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District	X

Others in attendance: Jim Heine, David Sankey, Sue Krogman, Lynn Eifert, Mark DeKraai, Pam Kemper, Nikki Weber, Matthew May, James Lundsted, Bob Wilhelm, Julie Mayers, Dan Hiller, Troy Harris, Quinn Levandowski, Lon Renner, Vanessa Zobeck, Denise Bulling, Janell Walther

2. Welcome, Introductions, and Open Meeting Law Information

Bryan Tuma, called the meeting to order at 13:02 PM Central Daylight Time. Mr. Tuma verified public notice and availability of copy of law in the meeting location – NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 THROUGH 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007)

3. Approval of Minutes

Ray Richards made a motion to approve the October 5, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Schwarten; the motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstaining votes and no dissensions.

4. Review and Recommendations – Communications Investment Justification Projects

Mark DeKraai shared the results of the online survey for prioritizing the Communications Investment Justification for the 2017 State Homeland Security Grant Program application (document attached to these minutes). There were 22 projects submitted to the communications group, with one project added for consideration after the survey was complete. This online survey rank is a starting point for the NPSCC review and prioritization.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Discussion detail related to prioritization of projects:

- i. **Panhandle PET Region Mobile Command Equipment & Supplies** –The Planning, Exercise, and Training (PET) SME group met yesterday, 3/13/2017, and discussed the details of this project; it is to fund the mobile command, equipment, and supplies for the Panhandle PET Region. The PET Group asked that it be considered as a Communications Project. Jon Rosenlund proposed this project not be prioritized for funding under Communications. There were no dissensions to this suggestion.
- ii. **Southeast PET Region project for NRIN monitoring** may be duplicative if the Statewide NRIN project receives a high priority. A suggestion was made not to prioritize this for funding since there is already a project being considered for Statewide NRIN monitoring. There was consensus for this suggestion.
- iii. Tim Hofbauer suggested high priority for the **Statewide NRIN SLA** project. The purpose for the SLA is to minimize potential operational problems by centralizing management and monitoring of the system. There was no dissension to his suggestion.
- iv. Tim Hofbauer suggested high priority for the **NRIN Statewide** project. This funding will complete the initial build out of the system and expand availability to all areas of the state. There was no dissension to Mr. Hofbauer’s suggestion.
- v. Ike Brown stated that projects helping to pay tower rent and maintain the NRIN system should be given high priority because they are necessary to maintain the network. Therefore, the group agreed that these 11 projects should be high priority: **North Central PET NRIN** (with discussion regarding the recommended amount.), **East Central PET NRIN Operations**, **Southeast PET Region NRIN Maintenance**, **Southeast NRIN Leases**, **Panhandle PET NRIN Sustainment**, **South Central PET NRIN**, **Southwest PET NRIN Support**, **Southeast PET Malcolm Water Tower-NRIN**, **Southeast PET Nemaha Land Lease for NRIN Tower**, **Northeast PET Dixon County Generator for NRIN/SRS**, **Northeast PET Dixon County Tower for NRIN** (with recommended amount reduction.)
 - a. **North Central PET NRIN**: There was discussion, but not consensus about reducing the recommended amount for the tower to the same level recommended for Dixon County. The recommended reduction of \$80,000 would result in an allocation of \$255,000 (\$160,000 for the two towers + \$95,000 for tower rent and hardware). The group decided to move the project forward to the Investment Justification Workshop for additional discussion.
 - b. **Northeast PET Dixon County Tower for NRIN**: Jon Rosenlund suggested a reduction in funding recommendation for the Northeast PET Dixon County Tower for NRIN. There was discussion regarding the requested amount and purpose for the size of the tower, and it was determined that the region is asking for the full cost of the tower. Sue Krogman informed the group that \$60,000 of the tower is funded by NEMA, local government pays \$80,000, and the PET Region pays the rest. Ed Toner informed the group that SRS funds are not available this year because they are budgeted out for the next 2 years. After this explanation, and considering the other Northeast PET project amount, the group decided to recommend \$80,000 to be funded for this project.
- vi. Ike Brown stated that the **Chadron 911** Project looks like an administrative phone system. 911 phone systems can receive funding through the public service commission but administrative phone systems cannot. Counties have been funding these systems on their own so Mr. Brown recommended this project not be prioritized for funding. The group agreed to not fund this project.
- vii. **Cheyenne County Generator** - The group decided this project is a low priority as it does not address statewide projects of NRIN or SRS.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

- viii. Ray Richards informed the group that the **Morrill County Tower Lighting** project is re-lamping and painting to be in accordance with FCC regulations. Jon Rosenlund suggested a medium priority because the FCC regulations are requiring the update. There was consensus for this suggestion.
- ix. Jon Rosenlund stated that SRS connectivity is a second priority and has been a high priority in the past. Therefore, the **Alliance Box Butte Console** should remain a medium priority this year. This is the last console in the state to be installed. There was consensus for this suggestion.
- x. Phil Brazelton explained that the **Tri-County Mobile Data Computer (MDC)** project is a sustainment request for Bellevue Fire Department. There was discussion regarding whether to fund sustainment or maintenance projects. Jon Rosenlund suggested this project be considered by the Hazardous Materials Group because it is for the Fire Department associated with one of the state's hazardous materials local teams. There was consensus for this suggestion.
- xi. Bryan Tuma suggested **University of Nebraska Public Policy Center Statewide Communications Planning** project be identified as high priority because the service received is instrumental to interoperable communications planning. There was consensus for this suggestion.
- xii. **Tri-County Cybersecurity**: Jon Rosenlund requested additional information regarding the placement of this project and suggested moving the project to Law Enforcement. Nikki Weber informed the group that this has been a discussion in the past. Bryan Tuma explained that NEMA allowed the applicant to make the decision of where to place the projects for funding requests. There was discussion regarding the function for each project and possible alternatives.
 - a. **Tri-County Passive Vulnerability**: The group consensus was to place this as a medium priority.
 - b. **Tri-County Cryptography Testing**: The group consensus was to place this as a low priority because strong passwords should be enforced through proactive policy.

5. Review, Changes, and Approval of NPSCC Annual Report

Tim Hofbauer made a motion to approve the NPSCC Annual Report (document attached to these minutes). The motion was seconded by Tom Schwarten. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstaining votes and no dissensions.

6. Public Safety Communications Information and Reports

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

There is 100% connection from western to eastern portions of the state but the network is still in testing with Cornerstone. The Lt. Governor will do a public briefing for awareness once the testing is complete. Cornerstone has set aside the rest of the year to work on NRIN testing completion. They will start with the locations most beneficial to the state and move westward. The southeast areas are ready to connect but are not turned on until testing is complete.

Cass County is putting in an 800 MHz system at the same time as NRIN installation. Motorola solutions is going to use the NRIN transporting of signals for their radio system across NRIN. This co-locating will save money for the local government. NRIN is ready to move into North Central region of Custard County and then into the Northeast Region. The equipment is purchased and is in storage ready to install.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

b. Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Governance Board Update–Tim Hofbauer, East Central PET Region & Jon Rosenlund, South Central PET Region

The NRIN Governance Board continues to meet on a monthly basis. The board has created multiple committees; technical, policy/administration, and finance. The technical committee worked with the OCIO to develop a process for users to access the NRIN system and have also developed a form to track network usage. The board continues to have requests to connect to the system. The policy committee is working on developing a promotional video for county board presentations.

The NRIN Board is looking to maximize usage of NRIN including using the South Central Region as a pilot location for text to 911, next generation 911, state teletype, and data sharing for Niche Records Management System and Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling (MACH). The Board is also examining NRIN to meet FBI security specifications.

c. FirstNet Report – Bob Wilhelm

i. Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) Working Group report –Bob Wilhelm

There were only three companies who applied to the request for proposal (RFP); PDP Wireless, Bravada, and AT&T. PDP Wireless was disqualified at the end of 2016. Bravada has a pending lawsuit against FirstNet. The Governor’s office has been receiving information from other states who have gone through the RFP process. Munira Jaffar is the state of Nebraska’s hired consultant and has produced a five page brief on the FirstNet State Plan (Assessment of the State Plan that FirstNet presents to Nebraska document is attached to these minutes).

Ms. Jaffar is starting to work on GIS activity to show the current FirstNet coverage assessment at the county level based on data collection process (Proposal for County by County Coverage and Capacity Assessment document attached to these minutes). The report shows 911 call areas. This process has also identified areas that are not utilizing 911. NPSBN has also contacted Offutt and the National Guard to get them involved in the discussion.

The next FirstNet working group meeting is on Thursday, March 30th at 1PM Country Inn & Suites at 5353 N. 27th Lincoln, NE.

Federal Financial Report (document is attached to these minutes) shows how much Federal money has been spent and how much is remaining. There is \$1,130,000 currently unobligated for the project. FirstNet has found that many states will not spend their grant funds and other states are going to run out before the end of the grant period. The states have been asked to redo their budgets and de-obligate money back to FirstNet. This process will allow FirstNet to reformulate the grant and redistribute back to the states so they can continue the grant period performance without a pause in service. They will need at least \$25,000,000 returned in order to complete this redistribution. Nebraska will participate in this process and we will reapply if necessary. If they are not able to redistribute, FirstNet will have a Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) in the fall of 2018. This would create a period of non-activity.

d. State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) – Janel Walther

The State Emergency Communications Committee meets again on Wednesday, March 15, 2017. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) plan that was last approved in 2007 has been resubmitted to the FCC. The FCC will be reviewing Nebraska’s plan next. There will be more information on this in the upcoming months.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

e. Statewide Radio System (SRS) –Pam Kemper and Lon Renner

Implementation Update: The SRS Regional Operations Communications (ROC) interoperability goal has been met and the new map includes all dispatch centers except for four counties that do not yet have SRS ROC Consolettes in their dispatch centers (Sheridan, Box Butte, Cheyenne, and Kimball). The expectation is that these four counties will have ROC Talk groups by the end of this year. All counties’ dispatch centers, with the exception of these four, have interoperability with the SRS users and with each other through their dispatch centers via the ROC Talkgroups.

Figure 1 shows statistics on Local Agencies Migrating to the SRS for their daily operations.

SRS Migration Progress as of 3/7/2017

Local dispatch with statewide interop on SRS	Local dispatch with SRS networked consoles	SRS radio users	Sheriffs requesting SRS radios	Contacted via phone, email, in person	Requested radios installed	SRS infrastructure partnerships
*100%	6	5	28 County Sheriffs	17	0	Lincoln
4 pending install	4 pending install	1 pending install	200 radios (approx.)			Pending agreements
Plus Sedgewick County, CO	Beatrice PD	Butler County SO	Banner	X		Douglas County/ORION
	Butler County	Gage County SO	Boone	X		Sarpy County
	Cass County	Lincoln County SO	Boyd	X		
	Colfax County	Nemaha County SO	Colfax	X		
	North Platte PD		Custer	X		
	Seward County 911		Deuel	X		
			Furnas			
			Garden			
*Pending ROC interop install	Pending console install	Pending radio install	Garfield			
Box Butte County	Johnson County	Platte County SO	Gosper	X		
Cheyenne County	Nemaha County	Seward County SO	Greeley			
Kimball County	Platte County SO		Harlan			
Sheridan County	Saunders County		Holt	X		
			Johnson	X		
			Kimball	X		
			Merrick	X		
			Otoe			
			Pawnee	X		
			Perkins	X		
			Pierce	X		
			Richardson			
			Saunders	X		
			Sheridan			
			Sherman	X		
			Thayer			
			Valley			
			Wheeler			
			York	X		

Figure 1: SRS Migration Progress

Infrastructure update: Three new tower sites were turned on right before Christmas; Rattlesnake Creek near Pender in Northeast Nebraska, South of Hastings at Department of Roads Ayr site, and the Big Springs location in Eastern Deuel County. There are 3 other tower sites that will be added to the SRS network; Pawnee County will be operational soon, Hebron in Central Thayer County (site pending), Eastern Boyd County near Lynch. The SRS is being upgraded to Motorola ASTRO25 version 7.17 which should be completed in May.

f. NEMA, Bryan Tuma

i. Regional TICPs

The state did a large event exercise in the Panhandle a year ago. This exercise revealed deficiencies in the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICPs). Mr. Tuma’s staff is working with the regions to validate that the TICPs are current; he has tasked the council with discussing ways to keep the TICPs current, how to validate that they are current, and exercising the TICP. The TICPs have a lot of utility for large, multi-agency events.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

There was discussion regarding the possibility of requiring updated TICPs as a condition for receiving Homeland Security Grant funds. Some of our bordering states have TICPs as a requirement. There was a suggestion to give priority for grant dollars to regions who have current TICPs. If the council decides to make this a process for grant dollars, it could be done in phases so to give regions time to prepare.

Jon Rosenlund noted that TICPs are used rarely so it is easy for them to fall through the cracks. Keeping the TICIP current becomes a catalyst for interoperability and continuity between counties. The counties need to be accountable for their grant dollars and the TICIP is one way to create this accountability.

TICPs should be entered into CASM (computer system provided by Homeland Security) which will make the updating process easier. TICPs also need to be updated to include NRIN and SRS. The council will continue discussion of this topic.

g. Regional updates

i. Southeast –Ray Ryan

The city of Lincoln is doing their P-25 upgrade. The city has signed an agreement with the state to use their core equipment and the state will use the cities end coverage; there is no additional cost to either side with this agreement. The equipment will go up in May and testing will be in June. Completion for this project is tentatively slated for mid-October.

The regional 911 system project is completed; all dispatch centers are using the system. Beatrice has been having problems with the system (potentially) due to a lightning strike. NRIN will be considered for the backup of the new 911 system when the system is completed in the region.

ii. Tri-County – Phil Brazelton

The region is considering joining SRS. Their current vendor's pricing is higher. Fremont is now on the Orion system. The region is in discussions with NRIN to allow them use of the Orion microwave.

iii. Northeast –Kevin Garvin

The region has been completing dispatch console upgrades, replacing old equipment. They have one county joining SRS.

viii. East Central – Tim Hofbauer

The region is using the NRIN system for their EC911 project. There is an issue in the Butte county area with the tower and the region is reviewing alternatives. There are counties on NRIN looking at sharing the 911 system and dispatch capabilities. Platte County is considering joining SRS for the Sheriff and Police department. Columbus is considering a digital system to be compatible with NRIN. Other counties are considering text to 911.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

iv. North Central – Mark Remppe

Region 26 and Custard County finished getting new phone systems; this is the first piece of the new 911 system and should be done by mid-April. The region TICPs have been updated.

v. South Central – Jon Rosenlund

The South Central region was in discussions with the Southwest region on merging together but they decided to remain in their current regions. They are looking at 3 locations for NRIN towers. There have been discussions about having a statewide Emergency Management (EM) talk group on SRS which will allow local emergency managers to speak with other EM's in the state. This will be useful when a phone is not an option and for emergency management from vehicles.

vi. Southwest – Ike Brown

The Southwest region was in discussions with the South Central region on merging together but they decided to remain in their current regions. They have been concentrating on the grant process and updating the NRIN infrastructure. There has been a lot of effort going into planning and exercise.

The 911 centers in Lincoln County and Red Willow County are looking at joining Lexington. Keith County plans to join this effort and will go live by the end of the year. NRIN will be the backup system for 911. The region is adding capabilities of patching more channels to their local SRS system to rectify disconnect with the State Patrol.

vii. Panhandle – Ray Richards

NRIN has failed a couple of times; they are working on getting this stabilized by replacing old equipment by working with Cornerstone. The consolidated center is ending their agreement with Sleuth in the next 14-16 months. They start site visits with final 3 vendors; this will be over a \$500,000 investment when completed. There are 62 agencies in the communication center.

Troup E is leaving the communication center so there is a lot of work with the local troopers going on during the transition. This August there will be a total solar eclipse and there is concern about I80 shutting down during this time. The region is making the current systems more robust to handle potential events.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

5. Member Comments

Ike Brown: regarding the 911 systems being expanded, the Viper system through CenturyLink will require phone system usage and fees. NRIN as a primary system with redundancy in place has very little downtime and is a good alternative to phone companies as the primary; it saves a lot of expenses a month.

McCook Sleuth is being supported until the end of the contract and then they will switch to another provider. Sleuth has a commitment through the state to support the contracts.

Bryan Tuma: There may be cuts in Homeland Security funding at the national level and there may be new requirements associated with cost share. Three NEMA members will be attending the National Emergency Management Association Meeting next week to discuss Grants (EMPG and Homeland Security), Public Assistance Programs, and thresholds for Federal Disaster qualifications. This meeting will provide a lot of information from the federal level on these funding topics.

6. Public Comments

None

7. Next Meeting

No date was identified for the next meeting. The Investment Justification Workshop and Senior Advisory Committee Policy Group is on April 13th.

8. Adjourn

Jon Rosenlund made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ray Richards; the motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote. The meeting was adjourned at 03:28 PM CDT.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Acronym	Meaning
CASM	Communications Assets Survey and Mapping
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DSL	Digital Subscriber Line
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EM	Emergency Management
EMPG	Emergency Management Performance Grant
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FFO	Federal Funding Opportunity
IJ	Investment Justification
IP	Internet Protocol address
MACH	Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
MDC	Mobile Data Computer
NACO	Nebraska Association of County Officials
NCOR	Nebraska Council of Regions
NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NPPD	Nebraska Public Power District
NPSBN	Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network
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
ROC	Regional Operations Common
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SME	Subject matter expert
SPR	State Preparedness Report
SRS	Statewide Radio System
TICP	Tactical Interoperable Communications Planning