

**Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Committee  
 May 20, 2013, 10:00 AM  
 Buffalo County Emergency Operations Center  
 1512 Central Avenue, Kearney, NE**

**Minutes**

**1. Attendance**

First	Last	Organization	Attendance
Mark	Conrey	Tri-County Region	
John	Bomar	Northeast Region	X
Ike	Brown	Southwest Region	
Ray	Ryan	Southeast Region	X
Tim	Hofbauer	East Central Region	X
Pete	Peterson	North Central Region	X
Ray	Richards	Panhandle Region	
Dan	Guenther	South Central Region	X
Matt	Schnell	Nebraska Public Power District	X
Dave	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District	X
Sue	Krogman	NEMA	X
Jane	Schofield	OCIO	

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

**3. Overview**

Tim Hofbauer and others provided an overview of the NRIN project. The vision for NRIN includes microwave and other communications technologies. There are some phone companies with fiber not used and eventually NRIN could talk to them about use of these lines.

**4. Governance**

Discussion emphasized the importance of making sure there is good governance for NRIN. The Draft Inter-local Agreement is based on a Tri-County model. A question was asked about why NPPD is listed on the draft agreement. The reason is that NPPD may participate in NRIN and trade use for tower space. OCIO is included for monitoring. The idea is that the Agreement would be signed by individual PSAPs rather than each county.

Need to clarify state radio system – it is all governed through the OCIO. Sharing part of microwave link with NPPD now in the North Central region. It is a gentleman’s agreement now. The purpose of this group is to formalize governance.

Governance could include politicians from each of the Regions as well as other government parties. But then would likely need to have a technical committee. We would need lots of education and training for both the politicians and the technical people. Mark will draft a technical advisory group in the inter-local agreement.

## **5. Management/Monitoring/Sustainability**

We need to determine the cost for managing, monitoring, and maintaining network. Some counties have had to foot the bill for towers where there is no PSAP. It would be better if we could split cost across the whole state. Sue had done cost estimates for tower leases etc. of \$2000-3000 per county per year. South Central costs are about \$3000-4000 per county. East Central is not paying any tower rent because of infrastructure.

Pete reported that wide area operations from the OCIO has worked very well. They are sharing some of the state network for a patch. OCIO is charging time and materials each month. OCIO likely to need 2 FTEs when goes state-wide for monitoring NRIN.

OCIO will be doing both managing and monitoring, so what is the role of NPPD? The role of NPPD will be in sharing towers. Need to write governance so not to exclude any options.

Keith County has signed service level agreement with OCIO for three years. Using homeland security \$\$ to pay for service level agreement.

Regions should put in costs in IJs to cover costs of the monitoring for OCIO. But this may be negotiable. There might be more work up front and less down the line. Equipment needs will go down but work on circuits will go up (IP address checking). Therefore, we may not see a change in workload over time. Could be time and material cost basis until see what costs are. Could do time and material instead of flat estimated rate.

Cost of software upgrades? CSI wants to work out maintenance on ongoing basis. First two years are covered under the contract with CSI. There should not be a lot of software upgrades for microwave system.

Question – could NPPD think about maintenance of system. Could do information only, not a formal bid. Already have people around the state. NPPD doesn't climb towers. But have vendors that can climb towers. But NPPD doesn't call them unless really need to climb tower.

We don't know how long homeland security money will last to pay for these costs.

## **6. Technical Issues**

The issue is reliability – PSAPs won't make changes and support NRIN unless there is reliability. Pete is working on the pilot ring – waiting for contractor to match things up and now ring is more stable than at beginning – now using radio signals from a distance. There is a much clearer and stable signal now that it is going through the microwave. Control of base stations is now done through microwave system. Now multiple dispatch centers can use single base station.

Pilot ring – cameras at four locations – but no end piece to view cameras – will be able to control cameras and share with power districts. They are primarily for sight security. One camera is for tourism, but no grant money used for this one. We will be able to let Custer Public Power to view camera images. Custer County is not part of network but they can view cameras.

Matt – QOS needs to be on the circuits so SRS and NRIN each have the minimum bandwidth for each to work properly when operating on the same system. Otherwise, problems could happen – garbling on the system.

Need redundancy – multiple paths. Microwave fades so hope is NRIN and SRS won't fade at same time. Service Level Agreement has provision that OCIO can use NRIN where need it.

Should have meeting with NRIN, NEMA, NPPD, OCIO and CSI. Would like to see what the plan is to move forward.

East Central is looking at sharing 911 switch and housing in NPPD center. Pilot regions have also talked about sharing 911 systems. Concern that microwave won't have enough bandwidth for Next Gen 911. Question of how First Net fits with NRIN system. Is NRIN robust enough to carry bandwidth of LTE?

## **7. Marketing**

NRIN is designed for local use for the most part but there are endless opportunities. Put system in and then look for ways to use it. Don't need to define system use up front. It would be good to document some of the potential uses. Need to get list that was put together at previous NRIN meeting. An important uses is as a secondary way to control remote repeaters. In the East Central Region, 3-4 base stations will tie into NRIN and allow linkage of PSAPs. They are also working on using NRIN for video arraignment. NRIN will tie in Paraclete system as well.

Need a marketing video. NPPD has resources – communications people. We could use creative people to sell idea that NRIN is worth funding. Why NRIN would be important to regular people. Should ask the question "What if built NRIN, then what would be the benefits." NPPD could provide a couple guys and use PPC web site. Here is what spending now and here is what could replace it and save money and improve services. There is a County Commissioner who is state trooper that could be involved, as well as other first responders who are city and county commissioners. Look at cost savings – counties need to upgrade – this is what would cost if each did it, but if do it through microwave, this is what we would save.

We might consider doing a survey of lease for telephone lines for each PSAP. Need good questions (not like recent surveys). Need a business plan. Marketing and training are key so don't stumble like SRS. May need train the trainer model so get consistent model out there.

Work with NACO to present at their conference – but limited only to an hour but could do the day before NACO. North Central doesn't have funding for a training like before, but maybe could look for other source of funding. The NACO meeting is in December. We could do a half day starting at noon the day before the NACO meeting. There is a retired 911 operator who is commissioner and could use them in marketing. There is also a retired trooper from Holdrege. Need to involve Larry Dix. Tim has talked to Larry Dix and NACO could be fiscal agent. They understand the concept.

Response agencies don't understand benefits either. Do we want a separate marketing subcommittee or this group take it on with additional help? Police chief in Alliance would be good. It would be good to have someone on judicial side using NRIN for video arraignment. Tim could contact judge about benefits of how video arraignment could be done. Use between court and jails. Could do fire conference in Beatrice to reach out to fire fighters. Need to reach out to EMS and public works too. Almost like

marketing one network since they are tied together. Not much work needed to link the fiber and the microwaves but need to be careful since so much negative publicity on SRS.

The group decided to have this committee work with others to develop marketing plan. We will find a date to have the marketing meeting and then the meeting with CSI so people only need to travel in for one day.