

Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network
December 8, 2014; 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Sandhills Conference Room, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
215 Centennial Mall South, Ste 401
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0228

DRAFT

I. Welcome & Meeting Overview

Name	Organization
John Bomar	Madison Volunteer Fire and Rescue/ Assistant Chief
Mark DeKraai	University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
Pat Gerdes	Region 15 Emergency Management
Tim Hofbauer	Platte Valley Emergency Management
Sue Krogman	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
Pete Petersen	Keith County Emergency Management
Ray Richards	Scotts Bluff County
Tracy Rocolle	Office of the Chief Information Officer
Jon Rosenlund	Hall County Emergency Management
Jayne Scofield	Office of the Chief Information Officer
Jim Sheets	Office of the Chief Information Officer
Hayley Sutter	University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
Jim Volcek	Adams County Emergency Management Agency

II. Review Previous Meeting Notes

Jayne Scofield made a motion to approve the meeting minutes pending various amendments and corrections. Tracy Rocolle seconded this motion; the motion passed unanimously.

III. Updates

a. Update on NRIN implementation

The East Central is almost complete. Work on the Schuyler elevator has begun; once the Howard County site passes the structural analysis, the path from Midland to Howard County can be completed. All mapping is complete; the equipment is ready to be hung; and the routers are ready to go. An enclosure may be put over the dish in Schuyler to protect it from dust and the environment.

Sue went to Wayne Country in the Northeast last week to discuss the possibility of Wayne State College buying into the system; if they do, they could add fiber to the network. Sue will make an appointment to talk to the regional representatives about incorporating Wayne State College into the network.

A meeting in South Central was held two weeks ago to discuss tower availability. Radio station towers want \$1.25 per foot per cable per month; NRIN cannot affordable this proposal as they had intended to have up to five dishes on one tower. New paths and path calculations are being considered to determine new options. The Southeast Region is ready to be hung from McCool to Cass County and Hebron is ready to go; the region is

waiting on the structural analysis results on the Gladstone Tower near Fairbury; once that is done, they will be ready to hang all the way to the Big Blue.

In the Southwest Region, a path from the tower outside the city of Curtis into the city of Curtis has not been mapped; the Region is currently looking at water tower options. The agreement for the Viaero tower is signed but not submitted ; the agreement will not be submitted until the Boone County Tower is done. The system is currently working well and is very fast even though it is going through different agencies.

Platte Valley and Cornerstone have been very good at keeping the process moving and taking proactive steps. The RFP is not finished; however, it will be completed before the grant funds run out. The OCIO and NEMA may ask for an extension on the grant funds as some of the towers are still being built and some of the build outs are contingent on weather; if awarded, the extension would not be any longer than three months.

b. Regional Updates

i. Panhandle

The Panhandle is working with Cornerstone on Gurley site. The UPS equipment at Lodge Pole site has failed, the equipment may be replaced with spares at the Oshkosh site. Cornerstone has sent an invoice for work completed in Cheyenne County, the Region would like to use PET money; however their PET funds have already been fully spent. They are trying to get \$2,000 dollars for the equipment that was replaced in Gurley. The PET funds spent by the region were for the NPPD towers in Chadron and were not for maintenance and repairs. The Region is considering allocating a portion of their future grant funds for maintenance and repair. The emergency manager in the region has retired and the first replacement resigned; it is not clear when the next emergency manager will be hired.

ii. North Central

Everything in the North Central is working fine.

iii. Southwest

Some of the solar lenses failed, resulting in the link between Imperial and Benkelman breaking; the lenses have been turned in to the insurance company for replacement. The antennas have been readjusted and re-anchored so they will not be affected during the next wind storm. The link between Trenton Ethanol and Frontier County is down. The UPS at Stratton went down last Monday; it was restarted but went down again the next day; the UPS will be changed out with one of the spares in storage. All inventory in the McCook warehouse needs to be removed by the end of the month. There are multiple license issues, the FCC has requested additional information and did not accept the change of contractors as a reasonable excuse for an extension request. Mike Eppley at Platte Valley is working on the licensure issue; he has done it before and is very good with it. The Region will make a list of what the FCC is questioning, send it to Sue, and she will get it to Platte Valley and Mike Eppley.

iv. South Central

The South Central Region met and has decided on a new path to proceed with the structural analyses, including using the Southern Public Power District (SPPD) tower from Atlanta to Minden. Emails have been sent to the SPPD in Grand Island to look at hanging equipment on the customary towers and determine what the Region has paid for public power. Once the region hears back from SPPD they can finalize mapping, the structural analyses of the tower, and get an updated cost estimate.

v. Southeast

No report.

vi. East Central

Usage on the system is increasing. The East Central is currently tying the Heartland Tower in Butler County into the network. The Saunders County site may tie back, depending on coverage. Platte County will tie to Columbus once the hop is in place to the OCIO's office. A mutual aid base station is being put on the tower in Howard County and possibly in Osceola. Preparations are being made to install the EC911 equipment in Wahoo and Columbus; installing the equipment will begin this month and should be a quick process. Seven counties are currently sharing a 911 switch. The point of presence (POP) will convert calls from analog to digital. The Region found it was easier to partner with Hall County and have NRIN links go through Columbus, Grand Island, and Wahoo.

vii. Northeast

The Northeast Region met last week to discuss incorporating Wayne State College into NRIN. The equipment for the Northeast Region is in warehouse in Lancaster County that needs to be moved. The Region has arranged to move the equipment but has not identified a warehouse or storage facility

viii. Tri-County

The Tri-County already has their network. The region never intended to put anything on the network but will link to the network using their equipment. The NRIN network may link in as a back-up for their pre-existing network. Since the Tri-County does not anticipate using the network, it is not expected they will contribute to the cost of NRIN but will pay for the costs of the tri-county network.

c. Update on NSP and potential for using NRIN for teletype

Jim discussed teletype with the Nebraska State Patrol; the NSP is interested but is waiting until a governance structure is developed.

IV. Action items

a. Review annual NRIN cost estimates

The updated tower cost estimates are \$171,750; the updated management and monitoring costs are \$279,484. A statewide maintenance agreement is being considered to ensure this structure is consistent across the network. Cost estimates for technical support and software training are being constructed; in the future, costs for technical support and software training will be included in management/monitoring line item. The fee associated with having NACO serve as the fiscal agent for NRIN has not been determined. Teletype costs are estimated at \$11,000 per month or \$132,000 per year.

Insurance for counties covered by NIRMA will likely be under \$100 per year; counties not covered by NIRMA will likely have increased insurance costs. Cost estimate for equipment repair and maintenance costs should be available by the next meeting. Ceragon may be brought in to do technical training for local radio shops and radio personnel; this would allow locals to do repairs on their own without having to pay Cornerstone or Platte Valley for the repairs. Tim will look into cost estimates for this training and any subsequent update or follow-up trainings. The old contract had spares allocated for each region, which are still there; spares can be transferred across regions. An annual budget for spares and equipment replacement needs to be developed; Cornerstone may already have a cost estimate on file. The cost spreadsheet will be updated before the next meeting.

b. Review draft interlocal agreement

County attorneys, NACO, APCO, and/or NENA may be brought in to assist in the development of the interlocal agreement in order to figure out voting, financials, and parties to the agreement. The number of PSAPs has been cut from 90 to 70 to account for PSAPs that cover multiple counties; currently, each PSAPs would pay \$2,000 for each county they cover. However, it is unsure if the PSAPs can enter into interlocal agreements; instead, the cities and counties they cover may have to enter the interlocal agreement. The interlocal agreement would have to be amended to allow for contributions from the counties if funding were to run out; a formula would need to be created to deal with cost factoring. Until the number of users are known, it will be hard to determine costs, which need to be reliably static. If cost is going to be the driving force to join the network, then the counties will likely want to have their 911 surcharges removed. A governing body for 911 needs to be created; the governing body will help determine the funding schedule for the 911 costs; FirstNet may be incorporated into the governing body. Pending legislation recommends giving management responsibility for the 911 system across the state to the Public Service Commission; the legislation also proposes using landline and wireless surcharges as the funding stream for the 911 system. If passed, this legislation will give the Public Service Commission the authority to create a master plan and an advisory board made up of stakeholders. NRIN may be used for 911 services; however, an entity needs to be in place before anything can happen. Equipment sharing with Next Gen 911 may begin once NRIN is complete and there is interoperability between counties and there is a back-up system in place for NRIN. FirstNet is not expected to be completed for ten years.

Tim stated his support for small interlocal agreements and suggested the inviting the OCIO, NRIN champions group, League of Municipalities, APCO, and NENA to the Summit in March to finalize agreements. In addition, this group could determine if there are existing systems or systems in development that could assist the Public Safety Commission in the proposed 911 legislature.

c. Develop plan for compilation of NRIN success stories and demonstrations

No update.

V. Meeting Summary and next steps

Tim will contact NACO, the regional representatives will contact their League of Municipalities representative and county attorneys, and Sue will engage the OCIO and Bob Wilhelm. Jon Rosenlund will contact Jerry Vapp from the Public Service Commission. Mark will call Roger Foster. Ike will contact APCO.

VI. Adjourn

The next meeting will be on January 26, 2015 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. The tentative date for the meeting after that is the morning before the FirstNet meeting and Summit in Kearney, Nebraska in March 2015. The January meeting will be a brief telephone meeting to plan for the March meeting including place, attendees and agenda.