

**Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network**  
**July 24, 2014; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
**Bennett Martin Public Library – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**136 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Lincoln, Nebraska 68508**

1. Welcome & Introductions

Name	Organization
John Bomar	Assistant Fire Chief
Tim Hofbauer	East Central PET Region, Platte County Emergency Management
Pete Peterson ( <i>via phone</i> )	North Central PET Region, Keith County Emergency Management
Jim Sheets	Office of the Chief Information Officer
Sue Krogman	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
Ray Ryan	Southeast PET Region, Lincoln Emergency Management
Janell Walther	University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
Mark DeKraai	University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
Pat Gerdes	Southwest PET Region
Ray Richards	Panhandle PET Region
Tracy Rocole	Office of the Chief Information Officer
Matt Schnell	Nebraska Public Power District
Todd Thalcken	Columbus Police Department
Chip Volcek	South Central PET Region, Adams County Emergency Management

2. Purpose of meeting

Mark DeKraai reviewed the agenda.

3. Summary & Overview – Sue Krogman, NEMA

The contract with CSI, Inc. was halted by the state in May, with an official ending date of June 16, 2014. CSI turned over all documentation including router, radio, passwords, and equipment information. The biggest concern was the \$1.2M remaining in the current grant; a grant extension was issued until February 1, 2015. OCIO has a master service agreement with Platte Valley Communications and Cornerstone, who both are certified in Ceragon Radio Systems. Cornerstone has been hanging equipment and working with towers. Platte Valley Communications has been working on tweaking the routers, switches, rectifiers, dish alignment, and connections. The process is moving quickly, which is beneficial to the East Central Region who is relying on NRIN for their regional 911 system. Once the companies are done in the East Central Region, they will move to the next region that has their EHP (Environmental & Historical Preservation) Applications approved, has all equipment ready to install, and all dish information turned in to Logan Leuking. After the grant period ends in February 2015, the contract will need to go out for bid again. Using selective router locations will assist in creating backup redundancies in areas where telephone companies can't link to each other.

Sue Krogman, NEMA, can provide a list of what is complete and still needs to be complete for each region as requested. Sue has been working to ensure there is a connection across the South Central PET Region in order to move work into the Southeast PET Region area. Regions should continue to move forward because expansion is moving quickly at this time.

Memoranda of Understanding with tower owners often depends on the tower's structural analysis. Often, it is useful to have an MOU in place with the caveat of "if the structural analysis passes" so that MOUs are ready when engineers arrive. If tower owners will charge from the date of MOU signature, then counties should wait to sign the final MOU until the equipment arrives, though some shared language should be developed.

Each of the PET regions is developing a separate agreement with OCIO for the management and monitoring of their region. This agreement is optional, but highly encouraged. OCIO currently has agreements with North Central, East Central, and soon to be South West. For the North East region, it is too early to process. South Central hasn't signed on yet, but they plan to. As long as the grant is there, then grant funding will pay for the things that regions can utilize and the State-Level Agreement.

#### 4. NRIN Uses, Benefits & Updates

##### a. Panhandle – Ray Richards

- i. NRIN came back on line last week and it is getting pinged again. A meeting was held to sign the agreement with the OCIO. The region will go back and address end-of-life issues with the equipment to help blend services. The regions plans to use NRIN to assist in cameras and teletype. The biggest barrier to moving forward with NRIN is that the concept is abstract and not everyone knows how to use the technology. The agreement with OCIO will assist in providing technical assistance to address technology issues.

##### b. North Central – Pete Peterson

- i. One contract with NPPD for leasing bandwidth from Chadron to Ogallala is on hold. A "show & tell" about NRIN will be planned for the Fall. The biggest barrier is combatting negativity about the NRIN system. The region is working with Platte Valley Communications.

##### c. Southwest– Pat Gerdes

- i. The region signed onto the OCIO's agreement. The Southwest Region recently had an connectivity outage in late July when two antennas fell out of alignment due to a windstorm. Development of NRIN is out to McCook due to a lack of infrastructure. Dundee County is using NRIN off the Binkleman water tower, which provides the only use in the Southwest region.

##### d. South Central – Chip Volcek

- i. The South Central Region is waiting for completion in the Southwest region. In the meantime, they are working to set an alternate pathway along the I-80 corridor rather than south through Adams County. There is a connection needed from Lexington that is pending until absolutely necessary due to const. On August 5, the region will meet with Sue Krogman and the crews to move forward to hang equipment. Equipment is up in Mindon, Buffalo County, and two towers are in Adams County, but they are not connected. South Central is the go between for the Southwest and Southeast regions. There is no fiber at McCook at this time, but there is telephone company fiber on Highway 6 that is not a likely connection.

##### e. East Central – Tim Hofbauer

- i. The East Central 911 is the primary use for NRIN in the Region, so it is the most pressing. There are also three Mutual Aid Base Stations installed, but are not yet

hooked up. The Base Stations will serve as backups to the dispatch centers, allowing them to connect with consoles. When NRIN is complete, the region will look into using Paraclete on the system rather than on the local internet service provider. State Homeland Security Grant Funding (2014) will help to support the NRIN work in the region. The system will be used for video arraignments as well.

- f. Southeast – Ray Ryan
    - i. There is a lot of work to do yet, but the region is looking into using NRIN as a back up to the 911 system connection between the PSAPs. Ray Ryan talked to the OCIO about licensing the Mutual Aid Base Stations.
  - g. Northeast – John Bomar
    - i. No additional updates.
5. Moving Forward with NRIN
- a. To move forward, it will be important to:
    - Examine 911 usage and have a clear plan to bring functions on board outside of 911
      - Set agreements with additional functions
      - Detail the role and timeline of maintenance (with OCIO)
    - Pay attention to which stories can be shared, and which cannot
    - Determine Points of Contact for maintenance with the OCIO and also in each Region.
    - Identify points of selective routing
    - Clarify how to develop redundancy to a PSAP-ring connection – i.e., can existing city communications be used as a backup? How will monitoring watch connections?
    - Clarify [telco] maintenance hours, and get areas classified as public safety by Homeland Security as needed
    - Describe sustainability processes for funding and costs, particularly for maintenance
    - Promote incentives to get counties to join the network
    - Look into replacing teletype service with NRIN
    - Prepare technical training about repair and use of equipment
    - Identify potential vendors, both local and outside vendors
    - Set a governance financing structure
    - Estimate costs by region (rather than by county)

#### 6. NRIN Governance & Financing

There is a State-Level Agreement template and an Interlocal Agency template agreement that cover monitoring and management, PET region costs. The Inter-Local Agreement can be customized and applied. NPPD and OCIO don't have to be on the Inter-Local Agreement.

Originally the cost estimate was to assume the cost divided across all 93 counties since all the PSAPs serve each county. To gain buy-in, we should describe the benefits of NRIN, identify future costs and current costs with the estimated cost savings deferred several years of continued maintenance and upgrades (i.e., switches need upgrades every

seven years on average). For example, 911 can be served by NRIN, assisting in phone savings. The most obvious savings is through teletype (\$3000-5000 per year, est.).

#### 7. Next Steps

The projected completion date is December 2015. There is another \$1M in the 14 grant given to the project. In the meantime:

- a. Sue Krogman will talk to the Nebraska State Patrol about teletype and connecting the DSL versus Point to Point connections to connect the system to the State Patrol. OCIO will work with Sue to discuss communications cost. Sue will meet with the State Patrol and report feedback to the NRIN group.
- b. OCIO will work to figure costs estimates for maintenance and monitoring by Region. OCIO could collect an annual review of tower sites and connections, if included in the State-Level Agreement. There are no FCC requirements for annual maintenance, though the FCC can come out and check tolerances. OCIO and NEMA will discuss a statewide agreement.
- c. Regions should examine their towers, ensuring safety and security such as having outdoor safe padlocks, indoor air conditioning/heating, cleanliness, etc.
- d. Tim Hofbauer will collect success stories to share about NRIN.
- e. Sue Krogman will update the tower costs based figured by region.
- f. Tim Hofbauer and Mark DeKraai will talk to NACO about becoming the fiscal agent and get their attorneys to review the agreement. We will work with NACO to review agreement drafts with their attorney. NACO may be able to assist as the fiscal agent and in getting counties on board if they sign an agreement.
- g. Matt Schnell will work with Dave Webb to locate circuits, hops, and towers that each region is using. NPPD will examine what it will take to decrease tower rental cost, particularly based on bandwidth usage.
- h. Sue Krogman has all of the links; any modifications in the licenses can be made with assistance of Mike Jeffres at the OCIO.
- i. We want to ask Mike Jeffres to present on how to change license information.
- j. Mark DeKraai will invite NACO to the next NRIN meeting.

The next NRIN Meeting: August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 prior to the NSPCC at the Municipal Service Center in Lincoln, NE.