

**Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network**  
**August 12, 2015; 9:00 AM – Noon**  
**Buffalo County EOC**  
**Kearney, NE**

**I. Participants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Mark Conrey	Douglas County 911 Director
Mark DeKraai	University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
Pat Gerdes	Director, Region 15 Emergency Management Agency
Tim Hofbauer	Platte Valley Emergency Management
Nic Kremnitz	Wayne County Emergency Manager
Sue Krogman	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
Neil Miller	Buffalo County Sheriff
Tracy Rocole	Office of the Chief Information Officer
Matt Schnell	Nebraska Public Power District
Ray Richards	Scotts Bluff County Communications Director
Tracy Rocole	Office of the Chief Information Officer
Raymond Ryan	City of Lincoln
Jim Sheets	Office of the Chief Information Officer
Chip Volcek	Adams County Emergency Management Agency

**II. Welcome, Meeting Overview, Changes to Agenda, Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from last meeting were approved. No additions or changes to August meeting agenda

**III. Update on NRIN Buildout and Regional Updates**

There continues to be a problem with connecting Center in Northeast Nebraska. Once Southeast is completed in about 6 months, Northeast will need to find new storage for their equipment. Northeast is working on MOUs. They have been approached by group doing fiber but this is not a solution for Center at this point.

They are talking to Tri-County for develop a link to Tekamah and may need to reconfigure. Tri-county is completing major upgrades to the microwave system including IP simulcast; their system includes western Iowa. It functions as a911 call back up. Washington County is a spur off Douglas County. The system works for 911 in Tri-county. It delivers to back up center and provides redundancy. Douglas County is sharing CAD with Sarpy and Douglas and it is very quick. Microwave has been good. The upgrade will be done this month and will cover OPPD, Douglas, Sarpy, and Pottawatomie. Tri-county should be willing to have NRIN pass through – just need to be architected. Getting from Cedar bluffs to one

of the NRIN links. It would be good to have NRIN to connect to two locations. Saunders county but would also like link up north. Maybe Fremont to Washington County. There are options – OPPD is a player. NRIN will be solid network when it is build – as solid as anything out there including T1 lines. Sue will initiate discussions with Tri-County and other Regions to establish link(s) to NRIN.

They are finishing up the Southeast part of the State. Cornerstone is ready to power up Malcolm. Issue about digging a trench. Loss of signal at some points in SE – OCIO doesn't monitor since there is no agreement in Southwest. Need to be aware of if problems. Chaney tower raised 180 feet, but cornerstone not ready to do this yet since working on Giltner.

For East Central, they are putting in the hop from Saunders County to Fremont. Parts of East Central are waiting for licenses. Spaulding grain elevator and the Mead NET tower are being done. There are issues with cost at the NET tower. East Central is moving mutual aid base station and equipment to Platte Center since original tower didn't meet requirements. Schuyler is looking at video court and will work with Tracey to tie this in. Will get Colfax linked in. Polk County is live on EC911. Howard, Colfax and Dodge not participating in EC911, but once get north part of link going then will be better. Signed MOU with Grand Island dispatch – much cheaper option. Pushing for redundant link. SBA tower by Cedar Bluff – were going to dismantle tower, but allowed county to buy land and no lease. County can use but SBA will continue to own. OCIO is monitoring signal strength and can access on computer.

For the Southcentral, they have toured Edgar and are doing an analysis of private towers to see if they would work. They had a Doniphan meeting about attaching equipment to tower which would complete Doniphan to GI to Hastings. Met with Superior Internet; there are 2 towers and they discussed some creative ideas even though tower didn't look good. Cornerstone will need to look at towers to determine if workable. Hangers are very busy – just waiting for structurals. Sue will work with South Central and work with landowner – lease and how much it is.

For Northcentral there was a site in Cherry County hit by lightning but this is fixed. Tracey worked with Platte Valley – more equipment – will start switching for Grant and this is going smoothly.

Southwest – figuring out a path to McCook. Can get to Curtis, but not to McCook. No feasible solution right now. Possibly look at fiber. Can get from Atlanta to

McCook through fiber. But not sure how expensive. Other areas that thought about fiber found it too expensive. Could get from Atlanta to Beaver City Dispatch. NPPD has some fiber that might work. Will look at this option. Fiber from McCook to Axtell substation. There is a microwave hop from Axtell to Atlanta. Matt will check on this for an option. If it works, it would complete the ring. The other issue going north from Curtis to North Platte – DOR has towers but likely won't meet structural requirements. Curtis might have fiber.

Panhandle is dark at the moment. Signal is degraded and sporadic caused by line of sight problems. There is a tower six blocks away that would have good line of sight. Cornerstone wants to build a tower on court house property. Part of the ring was down – but now back up. Everything is up now except for Lake Minatare link. Ray will talk to owner and see if it's feasible. Building a tower would be a back-up option. Sidney dispatch is also a problem with an up and down link. Link bounces quite a bit. Sue will check in on this. Rest of pilot in the Panhandle is pretty stable.

Sue reported they are between FY13 and FY 14 dollars in the buildout for NRIN. Sue has to report to the Infrastructure Group every three months.

#### **IV. Interlocal Agreement**

The agreement has been sent out to emergency managers with a cover memo requesting signatures by September 15<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed the Frequently Asked Questions and made modifications. One question that has come up is why an interlocal agreement is needed. The response is that an Interlocal Agreement allows more local control than some other option such as an Executive Order. An Interlocal Agreement creates a legal entity that can make decisions. Another issue is whether city and county boards can include a shorter term than 10 years stated in the agreement; if they include a shorter term, the membership in NRIN will terminate at the end date and they would need to sign another Interlocal Agreement to continue their membership. An NRIN Governing Board is needed so there is one standard for quality of service across the state and one system for monitoring and management.

There was discussion that Tri-County may not participate in the Interlocal Agreement, since they do the governance, monitoring, management, and maintenance of the Tri-County microwave network. NRIN may just be applicable to the other seven regions, and there may be an MOU between NRIN and Tri-County to connect the systems together.

**V. NRIN Committee**

The NRIN group would like some official status and will request to be a subcommittee of the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council. The PPC will draft a charter and send out for review. The purpose of the committee will be to develop governance, monitoring, maintenance and management of NRIN. Once there is a Governance Board through Interlocal Agreement, there may no longer be a need for the committee.

**VI. Other NRIN updates**

We will have monthly meetings of the NRIN group. The PPC will send out a doodle for the rest of the year, and we will schedule meetings for September through December. We may alternate meetings between Lincoln and Kearney and will look into video teleconferencing to ease the burden of travel.

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at Noon.