

Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network
October 7, 2015; 9:00 AM – Noon
University of Nebraska Public Policy center
Lincoln, NE

I. Participants

Name	Organization
Clint Casper	Lancaster County
Mark DeKraai	University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
Tim Hofbauer	Platte Valley Emergency Management
Nic Kemnitz	Wayne County Emergency Manager
Sue Krogman	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
Ray Richards	Scotts Bluff County Communications Director
Matt Schnell	Nebraska Public Power District
Tracy Rocolle	Office of the Chief Information Officer
Raymond Ryan	City of Lincoln
Jim Sheets	Office of the Chief Information Officer
Robert Tubbs	Buffalo County Sheriff's Office
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 October meeting agenda

III. Official Status as Committee of Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

NRIN is now an official committee of the Council and will provide periodic reports at Council meetings. The Charter requires a committee chair. Tim Hofbauer was nominated and elected NRIN Committee chair. Mark will check on any requirements for adherence to Nebraska open meeting laws.

IV. Update on NRIN Buildout and Regional Updates

The Giltner exchange will be completed next week. Garland and Malcolm sites need to come back on line, so these are being worked on. Then there will be two redundant rings for East Central. All of the red areas of the map (see attached)

should be completed by winter. Then work will proceed to the Northeast and North Central Regions.

In the Panhandle they are working on redundancy and line of sight issues. The smart people are working on the mathematics. There are issues with the hop between Alliance and Angora. Sue will have contractors look at this issue. There is also no connection between the Sidney tower and dispatch. There will be a meeting on November 10th in Sidney – Sue, Tim, and Ray Richards will attend and maybe Pete. The basics of NRIN will be discussed. Mark will contact the emergency manager in the north part of the region concerning the Interlocal Agreement.

North Central is affected by the difficulties with the Gering PSAP to Minatare tower site to Angora in the Panhandle. Awaiting path study. The ring is only partially operational in North Central because of this. This will be addressed. Pete offered to assist in helping Panhandle communities understand the benefits of NRIN.

Southwest – Sue will talk to Matt about the fiber run in this area.

South Central – Many counties have signed the Interlocal Agreement and Chip has been working on having counties understand the benefits and signing up. South Central is on hold right now while East Central, Southeast and Northeast are being built. The focus will be on the Grand Island to Lexington connections and getting into Hastings. There is an issue with the link in Lincoln County from the North Platte NPPD tower to Dispatch. The link started bouncing after storms. Matt will look into it.

East Central – The Albion tower is built which allows linkage to the EC911. The hop between Osceola and York is being established, which will provide another ring. Tim sent out lessons learned for grain elevators (attached). They are working on getting in to Dodge County and using the Humphrey water tower. NRIN is being used for EC911 and mutual aid base stations. Colfax and Butler are up and running. All East Central equipment will be out of the Lancaster County storage shortly

Southeast – All Southeast equipment will be out of storage by the end of December, so the lease can be terminated. There was discussion about appropriate storage of equipment. Particularly for the routers, which are expensive and

complex, secure and environmentally controlled storage is recommended; it's unclear how changing temperatures might affect the equipment.

Northeast – They are looking at storage options and understand they will need to find appropriate storage by the end of December. The Hooper water tower is being considered as the link to Burt County.

Tri-County – There will need to be consideration given to quality of service standards and equipment match up in linking the Tri-County microwave system to NRIN.

V. NRIN Quality of Service

Tim proposed quality of service standards for NRIN. Tracy suggested we add language acknowledging routing and network management would have priority even above the three proposed levels (see attached). There was discussion about data communication and issues if the data is lost because it gets bumped by higher priority usage. NRIN members will review and provide comments regarding suggested revisions prior to the next meeting. The NRIN committee will vote on these standards at the November meeting. These standards will need to be ratified or modified when the NRIN Board is formed, but this will give them a starting point.

VI. Interlocal Agreement

The Interlocal Agreement has been signed by 25 counties and two cities. Five of the PET regions are represented. Efforts are ongoing to get additional counties and cities to sign by the end of November.

VII. NRIN Board Development Process

The deadline for signing the Interlocal Agreement will be December 1, 2015. The nomination process will also be closed by December 1, 2015. We will ask for nominations from Interlocal Agreement members (counties and cities which signed the agreement) and from PET Region Boards. The Board could benefit from individuals with a variety of experiences including elected officials, 911 dispatch centers, law enforcement, fire, emergency management, communications directors, and other stakeholders. It is important to get Board members who understand the benefits of NRIN and can act as ambassadors to their constituency groups. It would be ideal to have more than two candidates per region so members have a choice; however, it was recognized that it is hard to attract people to serve on Boards. Mark will put together a draft Candidate Solicitation and send out for committee review before sending to Members and Regions. We

expect elections to take place in December with a Board elected by the end of the calendar year.

VIII. Updating NRIN Cost Estimates

The cost estimates are from a year or more ago and there are better numbers now. Sue will send Mark a list of tower rents for NRIN and a list of NRIN equipment so we can estimate equipment costs. There was discussion about cost for monitoring, management, and maintenance labor. Mark will compile updated costs for the next NRIN meeting.

IX. Other NRIN updates

Tim and Sue will look at training in the Regions for individuals who will be working with NRIN equipment. Training will include working with Ceragon. There was also discussion about level of knowledge of trainees regarding microwaves.

Tim discussed how he was the microwave licenser for his region. He relies on contractor for filing reports related to microwaves and interference issues. Tim will send out a report. This can be addressed as part of NRIN.

There was discussion about presenting at the NACO meeting

X. Next Steps

1. Mark will check on the need for adherence to Nebraska Open Meeting Laws
2. Tim and Sue will explore training opportunities for people in regions including contractors who will be working with NRIN equipment.
3. Mark will develop NRIN Board Candidate Solicitation and send to Committee for review.
4. Sue will provide Mark with updated tower costs and equipment replacement costs. Sue will contact the two contractors and get estimates for being on call within regions. Mark will compile and provide updated cost estimates at the November meeting.
5. Tim will send out microwave report for his region.
6. Tim will contact NACO about an NRIN booth and presentation
7. Next meeting will be in Kearney on November 12, 2015 at 9:00 AM. Draft agenda is attached. Committee members will review and provide additional topics.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.