

**Joint Meeting of the Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR) and
Nebraska Wireless Interoperability Network Council (N-WIN Council)**

Friday, September 30, 2011, 9:00 AM (CDT)
Center for People in Need, 3901 N. 27t Street #1, Lincoln, NE 68521-4177

Minutes

Opening Comments

1. Roll call

a. NCOR Members

First	Last	Organization (NCOR)	Attendance
Mark	Conrey	Tri-County Region	x
Patrick	Foust	Northeast Region	x
Pat	Gerdes	Southwest Region	x
Jim	Gerweck	Southeast Region	x
Tim	Hofbauer	East Central Region	x
Pete	Peterson	North Central Region	x
Ray	Richards	Panhandle Region	x
Larry	Thoren	South Central Region	x
Thomas	Schwarten	Nebraska State Patrol	x
Dave	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District	x

b. NWIN Council Members

First	Last	Org (NWIN)	Attendance
Al	Berndt	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	x
Ted	Blume	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	x
Mark	Conrey	Tri-County Region	x
Jim	Gerweck	South East Region/NCOR Rep.	x
Adam	Matzner	State Fire Marshal's Office	x
Tom	Schwarten	Nebraska State Patrol	x
Jayne	Scofield	Office of the Chief Information Officer	x
Dave	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District	x

2. Open Meeting Law information- verification of public notice, availability of copy of law in the meeting location

3. Review of minutes from previous meetings held August 26, 2011

a. NCOR

Larry Thoren made a motion to approve the August 26, 2011 meeting minutes. Pat Gerdes seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

b. NWIN Council

Thomas Scharfen made a motion to approve the August 26, 2011 meeting minutes. Ted Blume seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Discussion Items

a. Regional Interoperability Network Project Update- Rod Hutt, NEMA

The Regional Interoperability Network Project is currently installing hardware in pilot areas and getting everything in order for future installation in other sites. The Pilot Area in the Panhandle should be complete by mid-November. Once the panhandle is complete and proven to work, the project will move into the Southwest region. Anticipated completion date is June 30, 2012.

b. Mutual Aid Project Update- Bob Willhelm, NEMA and Mike Jeffres, OCIO

All regions should submit EHPs by November 1, 2011 if they expect to use PSIC grant funds for Mutual Aid Projects. Regions need to send tower sites to Mike Jeffres, OCIO, so he can run coverage tests. Regions should pay particular attention to antenna height. In Keith County, all equipment has arrived and no delays are expected. Buffalo County Mutual Aid is on schedule.

c. Interop Solutions/Paraclete Project Update- Sue Krogeman, NEMA

NEMA is continuing training efforts and is going next to Counties in Southeast Nebraska. A planning aspect for Paraclete use has been added to the training. Paraclete training is open to all interested persons, including users and first response agencies. Additional training times may be added if requested.

d. NECP Goal 2 Compliance- NEMA- Sue Krogeman, NEMA

Twenty-two counties still need to complete the Goal 2 Capabilities Evaluation and 28 counties need to complete the Response Level Evaluation. Goal 2 was granted a 30-day extension. Sue Krogeman, NEMA, has continued to work with local entities. It is expected that all Nebraska Counties will meet their deadline.

e. Narrowbanding- Mike Jeffres, OCIO

Mike Jeffres, OCIO, worked with Jim Lundsted, OEC, and Janell Walther, Public Policy Center, to prepare a list of requirements for narrowbanding. For narrowbanding status, entities may check the spread sheet on <http://publicsafetytools.info>; this site is updated at least every 72 hours. The major challenge is discovering who owns each license and encouraging them to narrowband. Another difficulty is with tornado sirens that are controlled by wide-band radio. Because of this conflict, some equipment may need to be replaced. Turnaround time for modification on these tornado sirens is about six weeks; as narrowbanding deadlines approach, the turnaround time will likely increase.

f. State Radio System Update- Mike Jeffres, OCIO and Matt Schnell, NPPD

Phases 1 and 2 are operational and Motorola's coverage testing is pending. Illegal carrier issues have been addressed but need to be tested under adverse weather conditions. Phase 3 has two sites remaining to install, but federal frequencies have been approved for these sites already. Phase 4 has all frequencies approved except Omaha. Nebraska City is waiting on a lease agreement. Antenna orders are pending. The expected end date for Phase 3 is November 30.

g. Review and Discussion of Governance Structures for statewide interoperability in Nebraska- Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy (Statewide Interoperability Coordinator)

The Lt. Governor was appointed as the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) He will serve as a representative of Nebraska's communications projects nationally.

Lt. Governor Sheehy recommended that NCOR and NWIN partner since they address many similar issues and can combine state and regional/local efforts.. It is anticipated that the Governor will create a new executive order with clearly defined authorities for a new combined governance group. The new group should have authority and linkages to work effectively with city and county leadership. It should also contain representation from key groups impacted by statewide communications projects and have access to technical expertise to aid in decision making.

It was expressed by members that the new governance group have access to and ability to form subcommittees or work groups to address policy, technological, implementation, and structural aspects of statewide interoperable communications. The new governance group will need to establish operating procedures which may include bylaws that provide for continuity of leadership in the absence of the Lt. Governor. NCOR and NWIN members noted that it is important to involve local governments and further their understanding how interoperable communications will benefit local areas and how it can be funded.

Lt Governor Sheehy said that the existing NCOR and N-WIN Council should have an opportunity to review the executive order. The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center will continue in their support role to the Regions, the statewide groups and to state agencies related to statewide interoperable communications.

Comments

a. Member comments

Jayne Scofield, OCIO: The N-WIN Council would like to recognize Ted Blume for all his contributions to public safety; he will be retiring two weeks from today.

Pete Peterson, NCOR: Regional Mutual Aid plans should be submitted to Bob Wilhelm by the end of October. Contact Pete if you need assistance in preparation. A one-day training program is being created by the North Central Region elected officials and other local stakeholders to increase their knowledge about statewide interoperable communications.

Tim Hofbauer, NCOR: A draft of the interlocal agreement has been held rather than distributed because additional language clarifying the role of NPPD must be reviewed and sustainability costs of the project must be incorporated in the draft.

b. Public comments

Janell Walther, Public Policy Center- The narrowbanding informational material is available online at: <http://homelandplanning.nebraska.edu/news.php>. The Public Policy Center has been working with the Southeast Region and the Southeast Medical Response System (SEMRS) to create the "Heartland Regional Preparedness Guide" flip book to serve as an emergency reference guide for each county and hospital in the southeast region.