

Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network Group (NWIN)
Meeting Notes
Friday, July 31, 2009 at 10:00 am
Joint Forces Headquarters Conference Room
1234 Military Road, Lincoln, Nebraska

Opening Comments:

1. Roll Call
 - a. NWIN Council Attendees: Chair – Owen Yardley, Members: Ted Blume, Mark Conrey, Jim Gerweck, Adam Matzner, Thomas Schwarten, Jayne Scofield, Dave Webb, Dan Hiller asked to sit in for Al Berndt (NEMA) who was absent
2. Open Meetings Law Information was reviewed by Chair Owen Yardley [verification of public notice, availability of copy of law in the meeting location - NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 through 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007)]
3. Review of meeting notes – June 26, 2009
Meeting notes were approved by consensus
4. Information/Reports
 - a. Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) – Mike Jeffres was asked to present an update on timelines and infrastructure development for the NWIN.

Mr. Jeffres noted that the Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR) is in the process of providing feedback on a draft request for proposals (RFP) that will be let according to state purchasing rules for the physical development of the wireless backbone for NWIN.

NWIN is being built for primary use by state groups but the network can be leveraged to provide increased connectivity for local users as well. Regions should not be expected to build a parallel stand-alone network. The OCIO noted that the IP scheme for the regional network and the statewide trunk system has to be managed by someone. NWIN and NCOR are vehicles to negotiate implementation strategies that ensure coordination between region and state network development and implementation.

OCIO has identified tower locations but OCIO does not have an RFP out yet and reports it is realistic that it will be out by the end of August. Mr. Jeffres indicated that vendors will likely be given 60 days to work with NCOR and the regions on specific details related to regional implementation needs (e.g., mutual aid base station links to NWIN.) It is likely to be November before a vendor can realistically begin any work.

The OCIO is still working on tower issues in the Panhandle region, so it will be the end of August before the towers are actively being used in that area. This delay won't affect the timeline for release of the RFP. The original go live date was August 17, but that may not be realistic for entire panhandle troop area. The revised completion date for Phase 1 will probably be the first week in September. The State Patrol had already scheduled training for the panhandle troop area radio operations on August 14 and would like to be informed of an exact go-live date as soon as possible so the training immediately precedes use of the new system.

Strong concern was expressed by NWIN members about Nebraska's ability to complete the network development given the PSIC grant required deadlines. NWIN members strongly suggested that the successful vendor be required to work with regions within a specified amount of time.

- b. Nebraska Emergency Management (NEMA) – Dan Hiller & Bob Willhelm
NEMA has submitted the environmental impact reviews for the physical communications work intended in the Panhandle and most of East Central. The EPA has approved all the sites that require no ground disturbance. NEMA has been informed that any federally funded project involving installation of communications equipment needs to have an environmental study or review completed. NEMA is examining previous grant funded communications projects to ensure they are reviewed. NEMA will be the lead for getting the reviews done on PSIC funded projects.
- c. Public Policy Center (PPC) – Denise Bulling – no update
- d. Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR) –Mark Conrey & Jim Gerweck – No update other than to note that the NCOR meeting will follow the NWIN meeting.
- e. NCOR/ NWIN Operational Work Group – Tom Schwarten, Chair, reviewed the proceedings of this work group. The operational work group was charged with drafting standard operating procedures. The group decided to use standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed by NCOR and the Nebraska State Patrol as a starting place for NWIN SOP template development. These templates would be available to NWIN user agencies as a base for internal policy development. The goal is to create consistency in the expected use of NWIN that will be incorporated in all plans. This is particularly important in emergency use of the network. The work group recognized the need to be consistent with national incident management system guidelines (nims) and with local mutual aid usage. Of particular concern for the workgroup were issues related to command and control. The new September implementation date in the panhandle troop area will create an opportunity to pilot State Patrol SOPs with the other groups as Phase 1 is completed. The next meeting of this work group is set for August 18, at the Public Policy Center at 1:00 PM.
- f. NWIN Administrative Work Group – Jayne Scofield, Chair, reported that this work group met and will be moving toward the following actions: 1) Draft a document to indicate the service that will be provided by the state via NWIN , 2) Research ongoing costs for maintenance, 3) Propose a plan to recoup actual costs without profit, and 4) Establish a state acceptable use policy.

The next meeting date of the Administrative work group has not yet been set.

Discussion Items

1. Discussion of recommendations presented by work groups – No recommendations presented at this time
2. Discussion of additional action required to meet charges of executive order – No new actions at this time

Action Items

1. Adoption of recommendations proposed by work groups – No recommendations were presented at this time

Comments

1. No additional member or public comments noted

Next Meeting: August 28, 1 PM. (Boardroom at Nebraska Educational Television (NET) 1800 N. 33 in Lincoln, NE)