

NWIN Meeting
Friday, June 26, 2009, 10 AM
Game and Parks Commission

Opening Comments:

1. Roll Call: 10:05 AM
 - a. NWIN Group Attendees: Chair – Owen Yardley, Members: Al Berndt, Ted Blume, Mark Conrey, Jim Gerweck, Adam Matzner, Thomas Schwarten, Jayne Scofield, Dave Webb
2. Open Meetings Law Information was reviewed by Chair Owen Yardley
3. Review of Meeting Notes, May 15, 2009
 - a. Correction of Mike Jeffres name spelling
 - b. Meeting notes with the spelling correction were approved by consensus.
4. Information/Reports:

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) – Jayne Scofield

The handouts from the Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR) meeting were distributed and reviewed briefly. Jayne Scofield reported that activities involved with development of interoperable communication infrastructure are proceeding on schedule in the Panhandle. She reported that quotes for the tower infrastructure came in too high so they are looking at other options, like microwave. Installations in State Patrol cars from Troop E are mostly complete. Command staff will have orientation to the new systems in the next 30 days. The lessons learned from that orientation will be incorporated in future orientations across the state.

NEMA – Bob Wilhelm

NEMA indicated that environmental assessments will be done at all tower sites as required by the EPA for each project funded by the PSIC grants. This will be taken care of by NEMA.

Bob Eastwood has revised the State Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) with the changes suggested at the recent workshop held to update it.

Nebraska has been notified of the amount it will receive for 2009 homeland security funding. Once the grant notice is officially received NEMA will have 45 days to allocate and award funds at the regional level. All homeland security funds for the FY 2005 grant must be spent by 9/30/2009. Currently there is about \$250,000 that is unspent by counties which were awarded the funds.

1. Public Policy Center – Denise Bulling

Denise Bulling noted there have been requests to have NWIN meetings recorded or streamed for viewing over the internet. She reported it was technically feasible. The general consensus from the group was that recording 3 hours meetings for later viewing was not the preferred route for getting information about the meetings to the public.

2. Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR) – Tom Schwarten

Tom reviewed the proceedings of the last NCOR meeting. There was not a quorum present at the NCOR meeting so no official actions were taken. NCOR members appreciated the information shared by the OCIO related to the timeline and implementation questions that regions must answer as part of the overall infrastructure development process. At the next meeting they will begin discussing how to provide guidance to regions related to making decisions about funding allocations earmarked for development of the regional infrastructure to support statewide interoperable communications.

Action Items

1. Adoption of Bylaws – Owen Yardley

The bylaws were reviewed and adopted by consensus.

2. Establish work plans for purposes and charges outlined in Executive Order 08-03

- a. Attendees (including Pete Peterson, NCOR Chair) at a recent national conference on interoperable communications learned that the Department of Homeland Security is planning to release at least nine templates for standard operating procedures soon. It is anticipated that Nebraska will use these templates, but the general consensus was that it would be helpful to have a work group begin to identify the standard operating procedures (SOP's) needed to operate the NWIN. PP attended one of the training sessions on SOPs. Owen Yardley proposed that a workgroup be assembled with NWIN and NCOR representation to begin addressing the type of joint implementation issues that will face NWIN users.

Tom Schwarten will chair the “Joint Operational Issues Workgroup” which will include additional representation from the State Fire Marshal, Game and Parks and NPPD along with 4-5 representatives identified by NCOR. Support for the group will be provided by the PPC and NEMA. This will address the charge to provide oversight for the development of protocols, standard operating procedures and guidelines for use of the N-WIN.

- b. Discussion ensued about the administrative decisions that must be made to ensure that NWIN achieves the goal of interoperability without unnecessarily burdening users with escalating fees. Protocols about how agencies become users of NWIN must also be decided along with delineation of user responsibilities and responsibilities for sustaining network components.

This “NWIN Administrative Workgroup” will be co-chaired by the Jayne Scofield (OCIO) and Dave Webb (NPPD) and will include representation from NEMA and the State Patrol. This will address the charge to establish the terms of agreements and enter into agreements for public safety entities to operate on the N-WIN, in conjunction with the Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO), when such arrangements are practical and in the best interests of the State and the regions.

- c. The other responsibilities outlined in the Executive order forming NWIN were discussed and tabled for action at a later time. General discussion included a report from Al Berndt that NEMA is prepared to take responsibility for coordinating and providing planning, training and exercise opportunities related to communications interoperability for all necessary and authorized public safety practitioners.

Discussion Items

Strategies for increasing involvement for regional representatives in state communication infrastructure development were discussed. The list of NCOR representatives has been distributed to State Patrol Troop area leaders; the OCIO has a listserve available for people interested in NCOR activities; the PPC website is regularly updated with NWIN and NCOR activities; and the calendar posted on that website now has a password protected space for NWIN and working group members use.

Comments

1. Member Comments - none
2. Public Comments - none

Next Meeting:

1. NCOR: July 31, 1 PM in Lincoln, NE (location TBA)
2. NWIN: July 31, 10 AM in Lincoln, NE (location TBA)
3. Joint Operational Issues Workgroup: July 21, 1 PM in Lincoln at the Public Policy Center (215 Centennial Mall South, Ste 301)
4. NWIN Administrative Workgroup: July 16, 2 PM in Lincoln at the OCIO offices

Meeting Adjourned: 11:48 PM