

**Southeast Nebraska Emergency Management Group**  
**Regional Governance Board**  
**MINUTES — Regular Meeting**  
**Feb. 9, 2011 – 10:30 a.m.**  
**Geneva Public Library, Geneva, Nebraska**

**Call to Order**

Chairman James Gerweck called the regular meeting of the Southeast Regional Emergency Management Governance Board to order at 10:34 a.m. on Feb. 9, 2011 at the Geneva Public Library, Geneva, Nebraska. The meeting was held in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act was available for inspection in the meeting room.

Present were board members Bill Cover (Cass County), Mark Meints (Gage County), Gary Petersen (Seward County), Renee Critser (Nemaha County), James Gerweck (Richardson County), John McKee (Jefferson County), Clint Strayhorn (Johnson County), Doug Ahlberg (Lancaster County), Bill McPherson (Thayer County), Donna Mainwaring (Fillmore County) and Mike Wilcox (Pawnee County). Guests present included Shawn Weise, Regional ETO; Mardell Hergenrader and Nikki Weber, NEMA; Joe Grubbs, Jefferson County Ambulance District; Richard Vlach, Nemaha County EM; Barb Liska, Seward County Communications; Sandy Weyers, Cass County Emergency Management; Laura McDougall, Four Corners Health Department; Wayne Svoboda, Volunteer Partners; Lisa Bloss, Southeast District Health Department; Mark Hosking, Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department; Dr. Denise Bulling and Janell Walther, NU Public Policy Center; and Jane Ford-Witthoff, Public Health Solutions.

**Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Cass, seconded by Jefferson, to approve the agenda. Voting aye were Richardson, Nemaha, Cass, Johnson, Pawnee, Gage, Lancaster, Seward/York, Saline, Fillmore, Jefferson and Thayer; nays, none; absent, Otoe; motion carried.

**Introductions & Reception of Visitors**

Chairman Gerweck welcomed the visitors and introductions were made around the tables.

**Statewide Accountability/Credentialing**

Brenden Ourth with Midwest Card Systems, Riverside, Mo., gave a presentation to the group on the InterTrax suite of accountability and ID systems by Salamander Technologies. He handed out information on the product suite and also a copy of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's Nebraska Credentialing Policy which was discussed by the members.

**Regional CERT/Citizen Corps**

Wayne Svoboda of Volunteer Partners, Lincoln, presented information on creating a regional CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)/Citizen Corps program in the Southeast Region. After discussion, a motion was made by Gage, seconded by Fillmore, to support the regional CERT/Citizen Corps effort. Voting aye were Fillmore, Thayer, Seward/York, Gage, Saline, Lancaster, Johnson, Richardson, Pawnee, Nemaha and Cass; nays, none; absent, Otoe; motion carried.

## **ETO Progress Reports**

Regional ETO Shawn Weise distributed copies of his quarterly report to the group. A motion was made by Nemaha, seconded by Pawnee, to accept the report. Voting aye were Richardson, Saline, Pawnee, Cass, Nemaha, Lancaster, Johnson, Seward/York, Thayer, Fillmore, Gage and Jefferson; nays, none; absent, Otoe; motion carried.

## **Committee Reports**

- a. **HazMat/Training** — No report
- b. **Exercise/Planning** — Ahlberg reported his committee met last week and has 22 members. Another meeting is scheduled Feb. 23 immediately following the SEMRS meeting. He requested that each agency and county submit a wish list for training in 2011-12. Ahlberg also discussed the TERREX 2011 exercise in May.
- c. **SEMRS Update** — Ahlberg also gave a short update on activities of the SEMRS group. SEMRS is reviewing morgue trailers with OMRS currently and will discuss the issue more during its meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month.
- d. **Executive Committee** — Gerweck, Ahlberg, Fictum and Petersen reported on the Executive Committee meeting held Feb. 26 in Wilber. The committee decided that all regional correspondence with NEMA, especially when it deals with grants, agreements, etc., will be sent by registered mail with signature required. The committee also discussed work plans and Petersen is heading the subcommittee working on that. Gerweck requested that each county appoint a point-of-contact for the microwave system (storage of equipment, tower access, etc.) and the Secretary will send out a form to be filled out and returned by March 1.

The board recessed for lunch at 12:35 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 1:03 p.m.

## **Updated FY2009 Work Plan**

The Executive Committee explained minor changes in the FY2009 Work Plan proposed for adoption, including adding specific amounts of funding for the approved projects. A motion was made by Saline, seconded by Lancaster, to approve submission of the updated plan.

Weber said that when the grant was received, money was divided up amongst the different Investment Justification, one of which was Nebraska Department of Agriculture coming out and conducting training and exercising. All other regions have apparently given their allocation to NEMA via MOU. Ahlberg explained that the \$31,000 specified was for the Jefferson County shooter training and \$24,000 was reserved for the TERREX 2011 Active Shooter training, and that the Executive Committee was placing responsibility for completing agricultural planning/training on the Regional PET Committee to complete.

Gerweck noted that the ETO also needs to submit a budgetary request each year to allow for developing the work plans in future years. A total of \$51,000 was allocated out of FY2009 PET dollars for the ETO and PET areas. Ahlberg suggested that the TERREX Active Shooter allocation be reduced to \$21,000 and the remaining \$3,000 be allocated for board expenses.

Cass called the question. Voting aye were Saline, Jefferson, Thayer, Seward/York, Fillmore, Gage, Pawnee, Richardson, Johnson, Nemaha, Cass and Lancaster; nays, none; absent, Otoe; motion carried.

## **FY2009 MOU/Agreement For IED/Fusion Center**

At the recommendation of the Executive Committee, a motion was made by Gage, seconded by Fillmore, to approve the MOU/Agreement with NEMA for IED and Fusion Center funding from FY2009 in the amount of \$236,952 with \$79,000 going to support activities and projects as determined by the Nebraska State Patrol, the Nebraska Hazardous Device Technicians Governing Group and grant guidance; \$79,000 to support Lincoln Bomb Squad activities and projects as determined by City of Lincoln Division of Building & Safety and grant guidance; and \$78,952 to support activities and projects of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Fusion Center as determined by the Nebraska State Patrol and grant guidance. Voting aye were Cass, Nemaha, Richardson, Johnson, Pawnee, Gage, Jefferson, Thayer, Fillmore, Saline, Seward/York and Lancaster; nays, none; absent, Otoe; motion carried.

### **Limiting Length of Presentations**

Ahlberg reported the Executive Committee had also discussed limiting the length of presentations to the board involving equipment and/or services. Presentations would be limited to one hour and there would be only one allowed per board meeting. Presenters would need to contact the Secretary to be placed on the agenda. Petersen noted it is crucial that there is funding available for those projects; if there is none, there is no use in doing them. A motion was made by Lancaster, seconded by Cass, to approve the recommendation. Voting aye were Thayer, Gage, Saline, Pawnee, Cass, Nemaha, Richardson, Johnson, Jefferson, Lancaster, Fillmore and Seward/York; nays, none; absent, Otoe; motion carried.

### **Remaining FY2007/FY2008 Funding**

The board discussed remaining FY2007/FY2008 funding with Mardell Hergenrader and Nikki Weber of NEMA. A request was made by Jefferson, Thayer, Fillmore, Seward/York, Gage, Saline and Johnson counties for \$76,000 to purchase a regional credential/ID system from Midwest Card Systems. Hergenrader noted that there was some latent confusion between the FY2008 and FY2009 PET dollars and said FY2008 planning dollars cannot be used for credential/ID systems, only planning purposes. Ahlberg noted that another suggestion was to use the \$87,000 remaining from FY2008 to hire ICF to conduct Foreign Animal Disease planning for all 14 counties. Bulling said the board needs to specify what deliverables it wants. Gerweck said his intent was chairman was to appoint a committee to do that and Ahlberg noted that it is the responsibility of the Regional PET Committee. A motion was made by Cass, seconded by Nemaha, to table the request until another funding source can be funded and the entire region can be funded. Voting aye were Richardson, Gage, Saline, Seward/York, Johnson, Pawnee, Fillmore, Thayer, Cass and Nemaha; nays, none; abstain, Lancaster; absent, Otoe; motion carried.

### **Communications Committee Report**

Gerweck and Fictum distributed maps of Mutual Aid plans and discussed some of the progress of the PSAP Interconnectivity Project and the Statewide Mutual Aid System. Bulling explained that NCOR and NACO are developing a series of Webinars for EM coordinators, local officials and end users to learn and utilize the system. Weber noted that the South Central and Tri-County regions already have plans to spend their FY2007 MA funding. Mike Jeffres is now in charge of the MA System and will need to approve the plan before funding can be released. Gerweck said the South Central region has the pilot project, but that since its radios were purchased several years ago, they do not all meet the NCOR system standards. Mark Hosking noted that some

PSIC updates and requests still need to be made then Ahlberg said the Beam tower bids would go out next week, but according to Hoskins, without a completed EHP. Fictum gave an update on NRIN (Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network aka the regional microwave net). He explained that few towers in the Panhandle and Southwest were passing inspection. Gerweck explained the change in equipment manufacturer to Saragon. It was requested that the Mutual Aid SOP proposal survey be sent out to EM directors again for response within 14 days.

### **Executive Sessions**

A motion was made by Saline, seconded by Nemaha, to enter executive session at 2:14 p.m. to discuss job performance and personnel issues. Voting aye were Cass, Nemaha, Richardson, Johnson, Pawnee, Gage, Lancaster, Seward/York, Fillmore, Thayer, Saline and Jefferson; nays, none; absent, Otoe; motion carried.

A motion was made by Cass, seconded by Pawnee, to reconvene in open session at 3:05 p.m. Voting aye were Fillmore, Saline, Johnson, Nemaha, Richardson, Pawnee, Gage, Jefferson, Thayer, Seward/York, Lancaster and Cass; nays, none; absent, Otoe; motion carried. Fictum reported the board discussed increasing communication, having the POC and NEMA provide financial and project status updates monthly, and transparency and timely handling of issues as they related to personnel and job performance. No action was taken.

### **Election of Officers**

Ahlberg urged the board to find someone to assist the Secretary with the clerical and recordkeeping duties because the job is overwhelming and time-consuming.

The board adjourned sine die and Vice Chairman Petersen asked for nominations for Chairman. Ahlberg nominated Gerweck, who requested that he be allowed to step down if someone would want the position then declined the nomination. Meints nominated Ahlberg. The Vice Chairman asked for additional nominations twice more and there being no more nominations, a motion was made by Nemaha, seconded by Fillmore, that nominations cease and an unanimous ballot be cast for Ahlberg. Voting aye were Cass, Seward/York, Fillmore, Saline, Gage, Johnson, Nemaha, Thayer, Jefferson, Pawnee and Richardson; nays, none; abstain, Lancaster; absent, Otoe; motion carried.

Ahlberg took his post and asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Petersen nominated Meints. Fictum nominated Petersen. A ballot vote was held with Petersen winning 8-4.

Ahlberg asked for nominations for Secretary. Petersen nominated Mainwaring, seconded by McPherson. Cover nominated Fictum, seconded by Ahlberg. On ballot voting, Fictum won 7-5. Ahlberg also appointed Mainwaring as an assistant to the Secretary.

A motion was made by Meints, seconded by Fictum, to reappoint Gerweck as the Southeast Region POC for NCOR. Voting aye were Fillmore, Saline, Johnson, Nemaha, Richardson, Pawnee, Gage, Jefferson, Thayer, Seward/York and Lancaster; nays, none; absent, Otoe; motion carried.

### **Board/Public Comment**

Gerweck thanked those present for helping the region progress throughout the past three years, noting that he enjoyed being chairman, but it was time for a change. He also thanked the group for the honor and the pleasure of serving.

Hosking also thanked Gerweck and noted that anyone who has been approved for SEMRS equipment will be receiving an email asking for pick-up by March 1.

McKee, Meints and Fictum reported that their spring severe weather training dates were March 13 (Saline), March 17 (Jefferson) and March 21 (Gage).

**Next Meeting**

Nemaha County will host the March 9, 2011 meeting at 1 p.m. There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Seward/York and seconded by Fillmore to adjourn the meeting at 3:49 p.m. Motion carried 10-0.

B.J. Fictum, Secretary

APPROVED:

Doug Ahlberg, Chairman  
March 9, 2011