

**Southeast Nebraska Emergency Management Group  
Regional Governance Board  
MINUTES — Regular Meeting  
April 13, 2011 – 10 a.m.  
Southeast Nebraska Health District Conference Room, Auburn, Nebraska**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Doug Ahlberg called the regular meeting of the Southeast Regional Emergency Management Governance Board to order at 10:02 a.m. on April 13, 2011 at the Southeast Nebraska Health District Conference Room, Auburn, 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. The meeting was also advertised as being available via the Telehealth Network and via teleconference.

Present were board members Bill Cover (Cass County), James Gerweck (Richardson County), Bill McPherson (Thayer County), Renee Critser (Nemaha County), BJ Fictum (Saline County), John McKee (Jefferson County), Mark Meints (Gage County), Clint Strayhorn (Johnson County), Mike Wilcox (Pawnee County), Doug Ahlberg (Lancaster County), Gregg Goebel (Otoe County) and Donna Mainwaring (Fillmore County). Guests present included Mark Higgins, CSI-Omaha; Richard Vlach, Nemaha County EMA, Sandy Weyers, Cass County EMA; Lisa Bloss, Southeast District Health Department; Dr. Denise Bulling and Janell Walther, NU Public Policy Center; Mark Hosking, Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department; and Bryan Deimeke, SES/Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Introductions & Reception of Visitors**

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

**Claims & Requests For Funding**

Ahlberg presented the following claims for approval:

(1) Jim Gerweck, \$4,697.68 for mileage and travel in personal vehicle to attend board and committee meetings, NCOR and NWIN meetings, etc. Motion made by Nemaha, seconded by Fillmore, to approve. Voting aye were Nemaha, Cass, Saline, Lancaster, Richardson, Johnson, Otoe, Pawnee and Fillmore; nays, none; Thayer abstaining; motion carried 9-0-1. Meints arrived at 10:14 a.m.

(2) Gage County, \$11,554.78, salary and benefits for Regional ETO for January-March 2011. Motion made by Cass, seconded by Richardson, to approve. Voting aye were Lancaster, Richardson, Nemaha, Cass, Saline, Johnson, Otoe, Pawnee and Fillmore; nays, none; Thayer abstaining; motion carried 9-0-1. McPherson arrived at 10:21 a.m.

Ahlberg presented a request from Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner for any assistance in purchasing an armored vehicle SWAT vehicle, cost of \$232,479. Motion was made by Cass,

seconded by Fillmore, to table the request. Voting aye were Richardson, Johnson, Otoe, Nemaha, Gage, Cass, Saline, Lancaster, Pawnee and Fillmore; nays, none; Thayer abstaining; motion carried 10-0-1.

Ahlberg presented another request from Capt. Jim Davidsaver, Lincoln Police Department, for additional training funding since they were revising the entire program nationally. Motion was made by Gage, seconded by Cass, to table the request until more information on costs is provided. Voting aye were Otoe, Nemaha, Saline, Lancaster, Gage, Richardson, Johnson, Cass, Pawnee and Fillmore; nays, none; Thayer abstaining; motion carried 10-0-1.

### **Fiscal Grants Update**

Ahlberg reported that only \$164 has been spent out of FY2008 grant funds so far and \$2,000 can be subtracted from the allocation for the ice surface rescue class that has been postponed. Gerweck noted a plan need to be developed and implemented for transporting animals, plants, etc. in the area as part of the nuclear plant emergency response planning.

### **Agricultural Planning**

Bryan Deimeke with SES Inc., representing the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, gave a short presentation on workshops that SES would be conducting in the region for planning and exercising involving agricultural disasters. Renee Critser noted that Auburn is hosting a meeting for Richardson, Nemaha and Otoe counties on the subject. Ahlberg said one thing to consider is several counties border other states and the region needs to start developing plans. A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Johnson, to appoint a committee of Meints, Wilcox, Gerweck, Weise (chairman), Critser and McPherson to work on the issue. Voting aye were Thayer, Johnson, Cass, Otoe, Saline, Lancaster, Nemaha, Gage, Richardson, Pawnee and Fillmore; nays, none; motion carried.

### **FY2011 Investment Justifications**

Denise Bulling led a discussion on the FY2011 HSGP investment justifications developed by the Executive Committee. Homeland Security funding will decrease about 20% in 2011 and the IECGP program has been dropped. Nebraska's priority is still communications, but the big unknown currently is the UASI program which also has decreased funding. If the list of UASI cities is pared down, Omaha will be dropped which means \$1 million in HSGP funding would go to the Tri-County Region, leaving about \$4 million remaining. Bulling said at least \$2 million is needed for the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (e.g., microwave) and that does not include 25% for IED. The Fusion Center has requested \$432,000 to bring up six new sites, add an analyst position and new developers. Lynn Marshall (Sarpy County EMA) has volunteered to serve on the Fusion Center advisory board. A motion was made by Cass, seconded by Fillmore, to approved the SE Region FY2011 Investment Justifications. Voting aye were Lancaster, Gage, Johnson, Cass, Otoe, Nemaha, Saline, Richardson, Fillmore, Thayer and Pawnee; nays, none; motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

- a. **Communications** — BJ Fictum introduced Mark Higgins of CSI, the company in charge of development of the NRIN (microwave PSAP/EOC interconnect) project. Higgins explained the effort in the Southeast Region begins with the kickoff meeting in a few weeks to review predesign of the system and the towers that may be needed

to implement it. He said this region has some of the better towers in the state and that out west, few towers are passing inspection and only about 10 have passed grounding continuity of 5 ohms or less. There will be grounding system remediation needed at some sites. Higgins said CSI was to receive a directive from NEMA to get the primary dispatch center in each county into the system, but in most counties there were also EOC locations listed by the regions; a ruling from Al Berndt will be necessary and it may be up to each county to fund that. There is a hole in the SE Region plan currently with the absence of the Thayer County tower and that is a concern. Higgins said the CSI contract is for building out the network and creating a network presence in locations that is redundant; it does not include interior networking, but that component is being discussed by NCOR. A discussion ensued on possible solutions for Thayer County. Higgins said that Nikki Weber (NEMA) has asked that the region delay any decision on FY2008 until May to see if CSI can complete tower surveys for grounding and other issues, then we would be able to purchase equipment with FY2008 dollars and install with FY2009 funding.

Gerweck reported that Mike Jeffres (State) has decreed that antennas for the Mutual Aid system must be high-performance, heavy-duty units which cost approximately \$3,000 to \$6,000 instead of normal antennas in the \$1,000 range. Denise Bulling reported that the two pilot projects (Tri-County and South Central) are trying to document some of the lessons learned from previous communications projects before totally proceeding with pilot projects. Janelle Walther reported that the first Webinar on the statewide communications systems was held and the second is scheduled for May 5 for public officials.

- b. **Exercise-Planning** — Ahlberg reported sending out 19 requests for training and handed out the schedule for the next 30 days, including the state TERREX 2011 May 11.
- c. **SEMRS Update** — Mark Hosking reported that three locations will be needed to house the morgue trailers indoors and they need to be able to mobilize 24/7. LMMRS will purchase the trailers through grant funding, but housing and transport is the region's responsibility. One will be purchased in each of the next three years. Eric Shanks will be the LMMRS project supervisor. The trailers will be housed in the volunteer counties of Lancaster, Gage and Jefferson.

The board recessed at 12:03 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 12:35 p.m. with an active teleconference. Present by teleconference was John McKee, Jefferson County EM.

### **FY2008-09 Communications Projects**

Clint Strayhorn reported that the Statement of Work is complete for the Johnson County tower project, the last two letters have been received from the tribes and it should be complete and approved before going out to bid. The soil core analysis will be done within the next month. Ahlberg said he talked with NEMA April 12 about the possibilities of extensions of FY2008 HSGP and they would not give a definite answer. Strayhorn said he ran into many more restrictions and requirements than were present one year ago.

Ahlberg noted that there are no concrete answers yet the region needs to rectify what to do with \$260,000 in tower project allocations in FY2008 before Aug. 31. He asked the board

members for thoughts on how to proceed. Gerweck suggested that we get a letter to both boards and ask them for their plans and a commitment, giving them 30 days to respond, then find out from NEMA if we can move that money to microwave projects while switching the tower allocations to FY2009. Ahlberg noted that what the region can do on the microwave project depends upon who is asked on what day. A motion was made by Cass, seconded by Richardson, to move the Johnson County allocation of \$130,000 to FY2009. Voting aye were Otoe, Nemaha, Saline, Lancaster, Gage, Richardson, Thayer, Jefferson, Cass, Pawnee and Fillmore; nays, none; Johnson abstaining; motion carried 11-0-1.

A motion was made by Saline, seconded by Richardson, to move the Thayer County allocation of \$130,000 to FY2009. Voting aye were Lancaster, Gage, Otoe, Nemaha, Saline, Richardson, Johnson, Pawnee, Fillmore, Jefferson and Cass.; nays, none; Thayer abstaining; motion carried 11-0-1.

After discussion, a motion was made by Cass, seconded by Gage, to allow the Executive Committee, with the direction of NEMA, to negotiate changing the FY2008 Workplan to accommodate what NEMA will authorize for (microwave) communications equipment. Voting aye were Saline, Lancaster, Otoe, Gage, Richardson, Thayer, Nemaha, Jefferson, Pawnee, Fillmore, Johnson and Cass; nays, none; motion carried.

### **Debris Management Contract**

Denise Bulling led a discussion on the comparison of the FDI and ICF contracts for created debris management plans for the counties and the region. The FDI contract includes Continuity of Operations plan creation as well. A motion was made by Saline, seconded by Cass, to accept the FDI contract for \$87,000 (attached to these minutes) to be paid out of FY2008 planning funds. Voting aye were Lancaster, Gage, Johnson, Cass, Otoe, Nemaha, Saline, Richardson, Thayer and Pawnee; nays, none; motion carried. Mainwaring and McKee left the meeting at 13:32. Bulling explained that FDI does not really want the EM director to be the primary contact for the project because they will be involved in the planning effort; it is suggested that the County Clerk or some other official be the point of contact. Each county can have up to 15 offices in its Continuity of Operations Plan.

### **Project Sustainability**

Bulling said many entities have been discussing sustainability, but without some hard cost numbers, planning is very hard. She advised the regional board to spend a half-day brainstorming in the near future. Cover said he had talked with Higgins at CSI about the issue and he is hoping to put together a list of possible costs once the Panhandle project is online.

### **Board/Public Comment**

The group thanked Renee Critser, Nemaha County and the Southeast District Health Department for their hospitality in hosting the meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

A short discussion was held on meeting locations and Fictum volunteered to host the May 18 meeting in Wilber. There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Cass, seconded by Richardson, to adjourn the meeting at 13:45. Motion carried 10-0.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B.J. Fictum', with a stylized flourish at the end.

B.J. Fictum, Secretary

APPROVED:

Doug Ahlberg, Chairman  
May 18, 2011