

**Southeast Nebraska Emergency Management Group  
Regional Governance Board  
MINUTES — Regular Meeting  
May 18, 2011 – 10 a.m.  
Saline County Extension Office Conference Room, Wilber, Nebraska**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Doug Ahlberg called the regular meeting of the Southeast Regional Emergency Management Governance Board to order at 10:03 a.m. on May 18, 2011 at the Saline County Extension Office Conference Room in Wilber, 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 Donna Mainwaring (Fillmore County), Sandy Weyers (Cass County alternate), Renee Critser (Nemaha County), Bill McPherson (Thayer County), John McKee (Jefferson County), James Gerweck (Richardson County) Mark Meints (Gage County), Clint Strayhorn (Johnson County), Gary Petersen (Seward County), BJ Fictum (Saline County) and Doug Ahlberg (Lancaster County). Guests present included Tom Hiser, Seward County EMA; Barb Liska, Seward County Communications; Mardell Hergenrader, Dan Hiller and Nikki Weber, NEMA; Mark Hosking, Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department; Shawn Weise, Regional ETO; Richard Vlach, Nemaha County EMA, Lisa Bloss, Southeast District Health Department; Kim Plouzek, Public Health Solutions (district health department); and Kate Specht, NU Public Policy Center.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Nemaha, seconded by Richardson, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2011 meeting. Voting aye were Fillmore, Richardson, Saline, Thayer, Nemaha, Cass, Johnson, Jefferson, Gage, Lancaster, Seward/York and Thayer; nays, none; motion carried.

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Nemaha, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2011 meeting as corrected, eliminating the name of Shawn Weise listed under those present. Voting aye were Richardson, Gage, Nemaha, Jefferson, Johnson, Fillmore, Saline, Cass, Seward/York, Lancaster and Thayer; nays, none; motion carried.

**Introductions & Reception of Visitors**

Chairman Ahlberg welcomed the visitors and introductions were made.

**Claims & Requests For Funding**

Ahlberg presented the following claim for approval:

- ◆ First Wireless, \$3,150 for Phase 2 of the Tower Project Manager billing (Johnson). Strayhorn also gave a short progress report. A motion was made by Gage, seconded by Richardson, to approve the claim. Voting aye were Nemaha, Cass, Saline, Lancaster,

Richardson, Johnson, Gage, Jefferson, Thayer, Seward/York and Fillmore; nays, none; motion carried.

### **Fiscal Grants Update**

Ahlberg reported the only change to the allocations is with the Tactical Response to School Shooter Violence (Jefferson County) where \$31,000 was allocated and only \$27,800 was required. McKee said there will be some local reimbursement down the road. Ahlberg noted that the region needs to begin developing the GMS projects for FY2009 because he is receiving invoices already from the TERREX 2011 conducted May 11.

### **MOU/Agreement For Planning**

Mardell Hergenrader reported that FDI has already been paid \$87,000 for the debris management and continuity of operations plan creation project based upon a letter signed by Ahlberg stating that the board had approved the expenditure during its April 13 meeting. However, no MOU/Agreement had been executed at that time. Nikki Weber said the money is still accounted for in the region's grant on GMS and all they needed was that letter. Gerweck made the motion to approve the MOU/Agreement for use of FY2008 planning funding anyway, noting that the redundancy was needed for accountability. The motion was seconded by Nemaha. Voting aye were Cass, Johnson, Fillmore, Richardson, Saline, Thayer, Nemaha, Jefferson, Gage, Lancaster, Seward/York and Thayer; nays, none; motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

**a. Executive Committee** — Petersen reported on the Investment Justification workshop held in Lincoln. Priorities will continue to be the microwave and the Mutual Aid systems, but the IJs have been made a little broader. Ahlberg said the PET had some funding for threat assessment, otherwise there were few changes. Kate Specht (PPC) reported the IJs are on the Homeland Planning Web site for comment and that discussions were also held on consistency in ID badges across the state, water rescue sonar and other training issues.

**b. Communications** — Fictum, Gerweck, Mainwaring and McKee reported on the Communications Committee meeting held May 4. They discussed priorities for spending, the microwave interconnect system and the state Mutual Aid system. Gerweck reported about the alleged need to use very expensive antennas on the Mutual Aid system to prevent interference, but clarification was needed and will be provided at the NCOR meeting May 27.

Fictum reported on the NRIN (Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network), or microwave, kickoff meeting for the region held April 18. The system plan will require adjustment as towers are inspected. Petersen reminded the board that county boards want to know about long-term sustainability by the counties.

**c. PET** — Hosking discussed the need for training in using the E-beams that have been received through grant funding. Once someone in each county is trained, he would like to set up a monthly exercise schedule with different hosts using varying methods of communication.

- d. SEMRS — The equipment and steering committees will meet May 25. SEMRS has about \$25,000 left to spend in its budget after purchasing communications and other equipment for hospitals. They are also examining the possibility of purchasing oxygen distribution manifolds. Gerweck asked Hosking to express the region's appreciation to SEMRS for funding the D\*Star repeater projects in Saline and Richardson.

The board recessed at 10:49 a.m. and reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

### **FY2008/FY2009 Workplan Revisions**

The board held a discussion on revising the FY2008 and FY2009 workplans and moving tower projects between the two years. Weber said that no microwave equipment can be purchased until the Panhandle (PH) pilot project is tested and proven. Once the Panhandle is complete, CSI will move to the Southwest (SW), South-Central (SC) and then Southeast regions. The second priority is Mutual Aid and she suggested using the PSIC 07 allocation first, but a plan must be approved by Mike Jeffres (OCIO office). Gerweck noted that the SC region has already ordered equipment. McPherson said Thayer County will not build a tower at this time. Strayhorn reported that his EHP is completed and they were surveying the site with First Wireless the following day. Ahlberg stated that since the Johnson County tower is now in FY2009, that leaves \$260,000 to reallocate in FY2008. Gerweck suggested sending the funding to NEMA through an MOU to support the microwave system statewide. Meints asked if it needs to be spent on communications equipment. Ahlberg reported receiving a letter from the Johnson County Board stating that the county's intent is to fund the remainder of the project after all local, state and federal funding sources have been extinguished.

McPherson reported Thayer County wanted to build on county-owned land (e.g., the edge of a sandpit) and that one major problem is that the project has gone through three directors which has made things much more confusion. Ahlberg stressed that Johnson County does not automatically get \$260,000 if Thayer County does not use its \$130,000 allocation. McPherson said Thayer County received the grant based upon a project for "this much" money, but then the pricing was more than double what was anticipated. Dan Hiller noted the region could ask NCOR if they could MOU the money to NCOR through NEMA for use elsewhere in the state microwave project. A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Saline, that the board consider allowing NEMA/NCOR to utilize \$260,000 in FY2008 funding for the statewide microwave system so long as that funding is returned to the region in future grants. Voting aye were Saline, Lancaster, Richardson, Jefferson, Seward/York and Johnson; voting nay were Nemaha, Cass, Gage, Fillmore and Thayer; motion carried 6-5.

Ahlberg said everyone should bring any communications need(s) they have that are eligible expenses, along with AEL code, to the next meeting in case NCOR cannot do the microwave allocation.

Weber also noted that there is approximately \$35,000 remaining in FY2008 planning money with the demise of the Thayer County tower project. She suggested having FDI do additional planning work to utilize the funding. Ahlberg said the FAD committee would meet and report at the June meeting.

### **Sustainability**

A motion was made by Lancaster, seconded by Cass, to table the Sustainability item and place it on the June agenda as the No. 1 priority. NCOR is working on the issue as is the PPC. Voting aye were Richardson, Nemaha, Cass, Saline, Thayer, Johnson, Lancaster, Otoe, Fillmore, Seward/York and Thayer; nays, none; motion carried.

### **Public/Board Comments**

Weber gave an update on the Interop Solutions Paraclete project. Of the region's 7 boxes, 4 have come back with EHP approvals and are ready to be improved. Installations are expected to begin the second week of June in Lancaster, Seward, Fillmore and Jefferson counties. The remaining three have EHPs pending and will be dropped off at NEMA. If there is no EHP approved by that time, the counties will need to pay Hal to come back out and install them.

### **Next Meeting**

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Cass, seconded by Richardson, to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 p.m. Motion carried 11-0. The next meeting will be held June 8, 2011 at the UNL Public Policy Center in Lincoln.



B.J. Fictum, Secretary

APPROVED:

Gary Petersen, Vice Chairman  
June 8, 2011