

**Southeast Nebraska Emergency Management Group
Regional Governance Board
MINUTES-Regular Meeting
September 14th, 2011 – 10 a.m.
Otoe County Public Safety Building
16th Street and Central Avenue
Nebraska City, NE**

Call to Order

Acting Chairman Gary Petersen called the regular meeting of the Southeast Regional Emergency Management Governance Board to order at 10:11 a.m. on September 14th, 2011 at the Otoe County Public Safety Building, Nebraska City, NE. 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 Renee Crister (Nemaha County), Mark Meints (Gage County), Bill McPherson (Thayer County), Gregg Goebel (Otoe County), Gary Petersen (Seward/York County), John McKee (Jefferson County), Bill Cover (Cass County), Clint Strayhorn (Johnson County), BJ Fictum (Saline County), and Jim Gerweck (Richardson County). Guests present included Shawn Weise, Regional ETO; Janell Walther, Public Policy Center; Lisa Bloss, Southeast District Health Department; Richard Vlach, Nemaha County EMA, and Steve Cody, Otoe County EMA. Board members absent were Doug Ahlberg (Lancaster County), Donna Mainwaring (Fillmore County), and Mike Wilcox (Pawnee County).

Introduction and Reception of Visitors

Petersen welcomed the visitors and introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Richardson, Seconded by Otoe to approve the agenda. Voting aye were Nemaha, Gage, Johnson, Otoe, Thayer, Jefferson, Cass, Seward/York, and Richardson; nays, none; Saline County out of room; motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Cass, seconded by Nemaha to approve minutes of the August 17th, 2011 meeting. Voting aye were Nemaha, Gage, Johnson, Otoe, Thayer, Jefferson, Cass, Seward/York, and Richardson; nays, none; Saline County out of room; motion carried.

Jim Gerweck stated that we need to investigate why board members are not getting minutes and agendas in a timely manner. Bill Cover stated that the agendas need to be sent to the Emergency Managers sooner than what they have been receiving them to allow for the agendas to be posted previous to the meetings. BJ stated that he will send out the agendas 1 week prior to Governance Board meetings, but reminded everyone that agenda items can be added up to 24 before the meeting.

Claims and Requests for Funding

No new requests this meeting. Meints asked about the status of the Beatrice Fire repeater project. No information was available about this project; Meints will call Ahlberg to check status of this project.

Fiscal Grants/Projects Progress Update

Johnson County Tower Project – Strayhorn states that they are still waiting on the EHP to be completed. There is an issue with the Migratory Bird section of the EHP. Strayhorn will keep the board updated.

Credentialing System – Renee Crister states that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was published in the Lincoln Journal Star from September 1st thru the 13th. She states the project is moving forward but she has no update on the number of bids received or the bid opening date.

Approval of Updated FY 2008 and 2009 Work plans

Petersen gave an update on the approved projects that are listed in the 2008 and 2009 work plans. Meints asked about the regional hazmat repeater that had been approved by the region previously not being on the list, Petersen said he would add the hazmat repeater to the list. There was a question about the milestone dates on the work plan and if they would need to be changed, this needs to be looked into.

Gerweck states he hopes that FDI does a better job with the Debris Management Plans than they did with the COOP plans as he was not impressed.

Motion made by Saline, seconded by Otoe to approve the amended 2008 and 2009 Work Plans. Voting aye were Nemaha, Gage, Johnson, Otoe, Thayer, Jefferson, Cass, Seward/York, Saline, and Richardson; nays, none; motion carried.

FY 2010 IED/Fusion Center Funding MOU/Agreement

As stated in the August 2011 Minutes: Motion made by Nemaha, seconded by Richardson to draft an MOU with the State to give \$47,158 to the NSP Bomb Squad and \$47,156.53 to the IED/Fusion Center and to vote on the MOU at the September Governance Board meeting. Also included in motion was for the region to keep \$47,158 to fund the Lincoln Bomb Squad with requests for those funds to be made to the Southeast Region Governance Board.

Motion made by Richardson, seconded by Cass to ratify the 2010 IED/Fusion Center funding MOU agreement. Voting aye were Nemaha, Gage, Johnson, Otoe, Thayer, Jefferson, Cass, Seward/York, Saline, and Richardson; nays, none; motion carried.

Approval of Paraclete Locations and Equipment Needs

Fictum stated that the communications committee along with Brad Lamb from Cass County and 3 subject matter experts met September 2nd to discuss Paraclete. One area of discussion was about the region purchasing computers for PSAP's and EOC's. Each PSAP that does not have a paraclete system will need the computer to access paraclete. Also, any EOC that wishes to access the system will need to have a computer. The committee believes there will be a need for 13 or 14 computers at about \$800.00 each.

BJ will send out a survey to each County asking if they would like a computer and if they will need one for the PSAP, EOC, or both.

Meints asked if there was any way the region could have another meeting to discuss Paraclete (what it is and what it is capable of). He stated that since the initial meeting in 2007, there are several new Emergency Managers, Elected Officials, and Communications Directors. It was mentioned that NEMA will be doing training on the system when installation is complete. It was discussed that training is good, but the new EM's do not have an understanding of what the system does.

Janell Walther with the Public Policy Center said they are putting together information to provide to the counties about the communications projects which are ongoing. The webinars that the PPC has held were discussed and the newer EM's stated the webinars left them with more questions than answers.

Committee/Other Reports

Executive Committee – Met last week and updated the 2008 and 2009 work plans. They also discussed making sure every purchase was made following the Lincoln/Lancaster County purchasing policies.

Communications Committee – The communications committee voted to table the 3 funding requests (Thayer, Cass, and Johnson) until there is a prioritized list of communications equipment needs for the region completed.

NCOR/NWIN/NRIN – Gerweck informed the board that the statewide communications system will not be turned on in our region until the end of 2011. The biggest obstacle is the lack of frequencies available. The microwave system will not be up and running until the summer of 2012. Gerweck also states there is also no plan right now that addresses how local law enforcement will communicate with the State Patrol.

SCIP/Goal 2 Requirements

Janell talked about a joint meeting that will be held with the NCOR Board, NWIN Board, and the Lt. Governor. This meeting will be held Friday September 30th from 9-noon at the Center for People in Need. She also talked about the Goal 2 survey which needs to be done. Eight counties in our region have completed it and six still need to be done. Narrow banding was discussed. It was discussed that it may be useful for the region to compile a list of all narrow banded frequencies in the region to make programming of radios easier. Janell also handed out the Heartland Regional Preparedness Guides.

Approve Updated Mutual Aid Plan

Fictum handed out a propagation map showing the mutual aid coverage area in the Southeast Region based on the original Mutual Aid plan. The map shows a loss in coverage in Otoe, Cass, and Pawnee counties. Fictum discussed the need to add a tower site in southern Gage County and Plattsmouth. This would provide better coverage over the area.

Fictum then handed out an updated Mutual Aid Plan. The major difference in the plan is going from 6 tower sites to 8. Motion made by Cass, seconded by Otoe to approve the updated Mutual Aid plan. Voting aye were Nemaha, Gage, Johnson, Otoe, Thayer, Jefferson, Cass, Seward/York, Saline, and Richardson; nays, none; motion carried.

Authorization to Begin Request For Bids Process on Mutual Aid Projects

Motion made by Saline, seconded by Richardson to postpone this agenda item until the October meeting. Voting aye were Nemaha, Gage, Johnson, Otoe, Thayer, Jefferson, Cass, Seward/York, Saline, and Richardson; nays, none; motion carried.

Sustainability of Current and Future Homeland Security Projects

No update. Gerweck states NCOR is working on this issue.

Public and Board Comment

Cover reminds everyone that the region needs to work on completing the communications system as soon as possible before Congress completely cuts off all funding and the Counties are left holding the bill.

Petersen talked about the Preparedness Day Seward County is having October 12th and handed out flyers.

Lisa Bloss - Center for Bio Preparedness is sponsoring a presentation November 15-16 on the Joplin, Missouri tornado.

Next Meeting

The next Southeast Regional Governance Board meeting will be held Wednesday October 12th, 2011 beginning at 10:00 am at the new National Guard Training Center located at Hwy 136 and West Scott Street, Beatrice, NE.

Motion made by Nemaha, seconded by Thayer to adjourn at 11:53 am. Voting aye were Nemaha, Gage, Johnson, Otoe, Thayer, Jefferson, Cass, Seward/York, Saline, and Richardson; nays, none; motion carried.