

**Southeast Nebraska Emergency Management Group  
Regional Governance Board  
MINUTES  
Dec. 10, 2008 — Regular Meeting  
University of Nebraska Public Policy Center  
Lincoln, Nebraska**

The regular meeting of the Southeast Regional Governance Board was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on Dec. 10, 2008 at the Nemaha County Emergency Operations Center, Auburn, Nebraska, by Chairman James Gerweck.

The meeting was held in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act was available for inspection. Chairman Gerweck stated that the meeting was duly advertised by publication in The Beatrice Daily Sun newspaper and meeting notices were posted in each of the 14 counties in the Southeast Region.

Present were board members Mark Meints (Gage County), Gary Petersen (Seward & York Counties), B.J. Fictum (Saline County), James Gerweck (Richardson County), Dan Jantzen (Thayer County), Gregg Goebel (Otoe County), Michael Wilcox (Pawnee County), William Cover (Cass County), Doug Ahlberg (Lancaster County); and Dr. Denise Bulling, Larry Golba, Sheila Peterson, Joe Ruzicka, Shawn Weise, Todd Beam and Bob Wilhelm.

## **2. Reception of Guests/Visitors**

Dr. Denise Bulling and Larry Golba, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center; Sheila Peterson, Cass County EMA; Joe Ruzicka, Seward County Commissioner; Todd Beam, Lincoln Police Department; Shawn Weise, regional ETO; and Bob Wilhelm, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, were welcomed as guests.

## **3. Agenda Approval**

A motion was made by Cover, seconded by Wilcox, to approve the agenda as presented. Voting aye were Jantzen, Meints, Gerweck, Petersen, Wilcox, Goebel, McKee, Fictum and Ahlberg; nays, none; motion carried.

## **4. Minutes**

The minutes of the Nov. 12, 2008 regular meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Meints, seconded by Goebel, to approve the minutes as presented. Voting aye were Jantzen, Meints, Gerweck, Petersen, Wilcox, Goebel, McKee, Fictum and Ahlberg; nays, none; motion carried.

## **5. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence received by any board members that was not already contained within another agenda item.

## **6. Committee Reports**

- **Communications** — Committee Chairman Fictum introduced Bob Wilhelm from NEMA and explained that Gerweck had asked Wilhelm to talk about different topics

concerning governance, the decision-making process and the funding mechanisms for the regions. Wilhelm explained that the governor, the lieutenant governor and their Homeland Security Policy Group ultimately make the decisions on the state's Homeland Security goals, strategies and funding. The SIEC (State Interoperable Emergency Communications) and RIAB (Radio Interoperability Advisory Board) were the first two organizations to delve into bringing all the public safety responders onto the same page communications-wise in the state. NEMA is the entity which processes all the Homeland Security funding received in the state, and as that progressed, the state definition of interoperability became that everyone, not only within a jurisdiction, a region, a county, but to be able to talk to others with different radio equipment.

Wilhelm said it was the state's decision to purchase the licenses for the Paraclete system for over \$1 million and it initially funded and will continue to fund, according to Governor Heineman. The FY2007 Homeland Security money was divvied out according to formula, then the PSIC money was split by region and by investment justification. He explained that PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) interoperability is achieved through the "black boxes" while interconnectivity comes later (redundancy).

The Southeast Region doesn't have quite enough PSIC funding for the assigned number of Paraclete interfaces, as determined by the state, and the state's proposal is to take the remaining funding from the region's FY2007 allocation. He also noted that 25% of the total allocation in FY2008 and likely FY2009 must be spent on planning and that it must be spent before additional money is spent for other purposes (equipment, etc.)

Chairman Gerweck distributed a spreadsheet handout (*Handout A*) that broke down the funding received by each region in the state for the FY2007 PSIC Grant, the FY2007 Homeland Security grants, the FY2008 IECGP (Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program) grant and the FY2008 Homeland Security grants. Discussion ensued dealing with the investment justification and how they related to the regional needs.

Todd Beam explained that the two PSIC Investment Justifications are (1) Regional PSAP Interoperability, which is the Paraclete interface equipment; and (2) Regional PSAP Interconnectivity, which will use a 4.9 GHz microwave link as a backbone to connect the Paraclete interfaces together. Wilhelm stressed that Interop Solutions will provide the first two years of Internet (interconnect) service and the first five years of maintenance only. Discussion centered on questions from Ruzicka, Jantzen and Petersen concerning insurance issues and the cost to each county for upkeep of equipment. Jantzen said the South-Central (CNRI) Region has Paraclete in every county and each is paying something into an upkeep fund.

Ahlberg handed out a new Interlocal Agreement (*Handout B*) for the counties drawn up by a deputy Lancaster County Attorney. He explained the initial agreement had gaps and questions about sustainability, liability, insurance, etc., and so the deputy county attorney rewrote the agreement to parallel the FY2007 Homeland Security Grant Program guidance. A majority of the changes are in Sections 6 and 7. Ahlberg

requested that each board representative take it back to his own county and have the county board sign it.

- **PET** — Chairman Ahlberg reported that the Lincoln/Lancaster County PET Committee will meet in the near future. The IS-300 course is scheduled, a four-day mass fatality training is set in March. The Mayoral Seminar is March 10, a Senior Officials Orientation is April 9 and the PIO training is set for March 1 and 2. There is a Civil Support Team exercise with the Beatrice Regional HazMat Response Team on Jan. 14 in Beatrice that will start with a SWAT team callout and goes from HazMat to the CST. There will also be two out-of-sequence drills. Ahlberg reported the CST also wants to have another regional training May 29.
- **Hazardous Materials** — No report

## **7. Planning Activities Report & Strategic Planning**

Dr. Denise Bulling talked about FY2009 guidance, strategic planning and basic operational precepts. She handed out a preliminary agenda (*Handout C*) for the Planning Academy Dec. 15 to 17 in Grand Island. NEMA has agreed to use the Planning Academy to be investigating the FY2009 Investment Justifications in order to determine what the counties and regions need. Each region will have one representative at a February meeting where the IJs will be put together and prior to that meeting each region will need to ensure documentation of what its needs are. The list of attendees from the region for the Planning Academy was reviewed.

## **8. IED Funding FY2008**

Todd Beam presented information about different needs for area bomb and IED (improvised explosive device). He handed out information entitled “IED Funding Needs” and stated that one main emphasis for FY2008 funding on the law enforcement side is IED detection, mitigation, response and prevention, including the Fusion Center. Bill Moody, Lincoln Bomb Squad leader, expressed to Beam that the team’s biggest needs are a new robot with enhanced capabilities (\$184,000). They also need funding to convert for digital media for X-ray devices (\$25,000 each) and other equipment. The squad does cover the entire Southeast region with service.

Beam explained that the Fusion Center is also a national initiative. The idea is to create these activities whereby all intelligence info is fused together. Nebraska law enforcement currently does not share intelligence info very well as a whole. Omaha Police, Lincoln Police and Nebraska State Patrol are charter members of Nebraska Fusion Center. Beam was asked to contact Moody about giving a presentation in February or March.

## **9. FY2009 Homeland Security Grant Information**

Dr. Bulling distributed the preliminary FY2009 Nebraska Homeland Security Grant Process guidelines (*Handout E*) including the 2009 HSGP Grant Priorities and Investment Justifications. She and Wilhelm gave a brief explanation of the FY2009 grants; more information will be presented at the Planning Academy in Grand Island.

## **10. Planning Academy Information & Attendance**

This was covered under Item No. 7.

### **11. EPW Information and Attendance**

Bob Wilhelm said that registration for the EPW Conference in North Platte Feb. 4 and 5, 2009 in North Platte was open on the NEMA Web site.

### **13. Public & Board Comment**

- Regional ETO Shawn Weise reported that the 5-Year PET Calendars will now be maintained by his office and any changes should be forwarded to him.
- It was reported that Bob Lueders, Johnson County EM director, had resigned. Meints volunteered to contact the Johnson County Board of Commissioners to talk about a replacement representative for the Regional Board.

### **14. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the board was set for Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009 at 9 a.m. at the Otoe County Courthouse, 1021 Central Avenue, Nebraska City, Nebraska. The morning will be mostly dedicated to a regional planning workshop.

### **15. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Goebel, seconded by Meints, to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m. Voting aye were Jantzen, Meints, Gerweck, Petersen, Wilcox, Goebel, McKee, Fictum and Ahlberg; nays, none; motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

B.J. Fictum, Secretary

APPROVED:

James Gerweck, Chairman  
Date: Jan. 15, 2009