

**Southeast Nebraska Emergency Management Group  
Regional Governance Board  
MINUTES  
Feb. 11, 2009 — Regular Meeting  
Valentino's Meeting Room, Seward, Nebraska**

The regular meeting of the Southeast Regional Governance Board was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on Feb. 11, 2009 at the Valentino's Meeting Room, Seward, 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 Dan Jantzen (Thayer County), Gary Petersen (Seward & York Counties), B.J. Fictum (Saline County), James Gerweck (Richardson County), William Cover (Cass County), Kevin Edelmaier (Johnson County), Mark Meints (Gage County), Mike Wilcox (Pawnee County), Doug Ahlberg (Lancaster County), Bob Cole (Nemaha County) and John McKee (Jefferson County). Kevin Edelmaier was welcomed to the group as the new EM director for Johnson County.

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

Bob Wilhelm, Dan Hiller and Nikki Weber, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency; Don Hiser, Seward County Emergency Management; Deputy Bruce Slaven, Gage County Sheriff's Office; Shawn Weise, Regional ETO; Capt. Chuck Phillips and Capt. Rod Getting, Nebraska State Patrol; Bill Moody, Lincoln Bomb Squad; Alan Baldwin, Milford Police Chief; and Barb Liska, Seward County Communications were welcomed as guests.

## **3. Agenda Approval**

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

## **4. Minutes**

The minutes of the Jan. 15, 2009 regular meeting were reviewed. Doug Ahlberg (Lancaster County) arrived at 10:09 a.m. A motion was made by Cover, seconded by Ahlberg, to approve the minutes as corrected. Voting aye were McKee, Jantzen, Petersen, Cole, Gerweck, Wilcox, Fictum, Cover 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. IED Presentation**

Bill Moody with the Lincoln Bomb Squad gave a presentation on the equipment and

training needs of the bomb squads in Nebraska, including Lincoln, Omaha, Scottsbluff and the Nebraska State Patrol. There are seven accredited bomb technicians in the Lincoln group, but since the entity is not within the Lincoln police or fire departments, funding is very difficult to obtain. The Lincoln team was trained by the FBI in New Mexico and will train again in Omaha next week. The four Nebraska squads submitted information to develop an organizational group during FY2008 [Handout #1], but the money was instead given to the EM regions. Moody said the Department of Homeland Security completed an assessment in 2008 to identify needs, risks, etc., and although the team had a good rating, there were equipment deficiencies, including an old, smaller-scale robot and use of Polaroid X-ray film that is no longer produced. Cover asked how NEMA is planning to fund IED squads throughout the state and Wilhelm said that funds can be “given” back to NEMA and NSP to administer. Getting said the governing body would authorize spending of funds, not NSP. Again, 25 percent of FY08 SHSGP funding must go to planning and 25 percent to law enforcement/IED (\$209,000).

Mark Meints (Gage County) arrived at 10:33 a.m. Discussion continued on how to fund the teams, what training can be provided by DHS or through SHSGP funding, and development, and how everyone fits into the mix. Deputy Slaven explained that he has been trained by New Mexico State for Incident Response to Terrorism bombings and suicide bombings and currently gives IED awareness classes to fire, EMS, public works, officials, government entities, etc. In response to Ahlberg’s question, Wilhelm noted that the IED funding could be given to NEMA via MOU/Interlocal Agreement for distribution among the four IED groups. Dr. Denise Bulling (UNL Public Policy Center) arrived at 10:48 a.m.

## **7. Fusion Center**

Capt. Chuck Phillips, NSP, gave a presentation on the Fusion Center much like one presented to the Communications Committee on Feb. 6. He said the Fusion Center is designed to work with all public safety entities to share information across the board securely and quickly. The center began with a budget of \$1.2 million for FY2008, but much of that is funding computer and technical equipment and software. Phillips handed out a sheet [Handout #2] summarizing the Fusion Center’s purpose, goals, objectives and ideals. He also explained the workings of ACAMS (Automated Critical Asset Management System), which keeps track of infrastructure and facilities dealing with hazardous materials, ethanol plants, chemical plants, etc. which could be points of focus for terrorism or man-made disasters. Phillips reported that SLAT (State and Local Antiterrorism Training) would also be made available for local law enforcement agencies and personnel in the near future, tied in with the Fusion Center Data Call currently underway (the Data Call collects information and status of many of the same sites as listed in ACAMS, but with more detail and efficiency)

Chairman Gerweck declared a recess at 11:22 a.m. The board reconvened at 12:10 p.m.

## **8. PSIC FY2007 MOU/Agreement**

Fictum explained that board action in November 2008 had authorized NEMA to act as the Southeast Region’s authorized agent for \$997,078 in PSIC FY2007 monies for the Southeast Region Wireless Data Project, but had never signed a contract agreement with NEMA that set forth terms and expectations of both NEMA and the Region. The proposed agreement was handed out [Handout #3] and Gerweck explained the additional language in Paragraph 4(a)(i) dealing with the state furnishing monthly progress reports to the regional board. Wilhelm stated

that was unrealistic since the state was not the project manager; those reports should come from Todd Beam. Ahlberg noted benchmarks are set in the project so progress can be measured against those. A motion was made by Petersen, seconded by Meints, to approve the agreement. Voting aye were McKee, Jantzen, Petersen, Meints, Cole, Gerweck, Wilcox, Fictum, Cover and Ahlberg; nays, none; motion carried.

## 9. Committee Reports

- **Communications** — Gerweck explained the reasoning behind creating a PSIC Subcommittee, noting that all the communications work so far has fallen upon 2 or 3 people and since Todd Beam is already doing Projects 1 and 8, the region needs to pick up the ball on the PSAP Interconnectivity (tying PSAPs together) and other PSIC projects to keep moving against the timeline. He explained that hiring a consulting firm to help with the microwave (PSAP Interconnectivity) project would be allowable. Gerweck also thanked everyone who participated in the Paraclete training Jan. 28 in Beatrice; the work to enter all the data will take time and there are still numerous details to work out, including placement of the Paraclete interfaces. At some point, the region will need to discuss a financial system like CNRI did to sustain the interfaces and radios. Wilhelm said everyone is waiting to see how the system design works out before determining the number of interface boxes needed. Hiller also said to be aware that some of the Paraclete interface connections may be needed for a state backbone and then it is a Mike Jeffries problem and a state cost for sustainment. Meints asked if there was anything the region could do to help Beam get things completed since he has problems communicating Mr. Beam, and Wilhelm said he would contact him.
  
- **PET** — Chairman Doug Ahlberg the Public Information Officer training is April 23 and 24 through TEEEX; Mass Fatality training will either be the week of April 6 or April 13; and he had only two responses so far for the Mayoral Seminar. Lancaster County is also sponsoring a Senior Officials Workshop limited to 40 people.
  
- **Hazardous Materials** — Chairman Mark Meints reported that Beatrice Fire Chief Brian Daake visited with the 3&33 Mutual Aid group Feb. 2 and said his problem is that he hasn't spent money from three years ago due to waiting for equipment to expire. He would like to spend some of that money throughout the region, but NEMA (Mardell Hergenrader) said it would not fall under the scope of the grant guidelines. He feels it is crucial that first responders have at least HazMat Operations Level training to support the Regional HazMat Team when it responds. Nikki Weber said she would contact Mardell to clarify the issue.

## 10. Exercise/Planning Workshop

Gary Petersen reported on the Exercise/Planning Workshop held Feb. 4 and 5 in North Platte and he presented a handout detailing his observations [Handout #5]. He visited with Hiller and Wilhelm about part of the planning dollars going back to the state. Wilhelm stressed the region must look at ways to spend planning money if it wants to spend the remaining 75% for equipment. Dr. Bulling suggested next month's agenda include an item to brainstorm ways of using planning dollars according to grant guidance.

### **11. Develop/Approve FY2009 Investment Justification**

The group directed the Executive Committee to meet following the board meeting to develop the region's Investment Justification statement for the Feb. 18 statewide IJ planning conference in Lincoln.

### **12. Revised Interlocal Agreement for Region**

Gerweck led the discussion about the revised interlocal agreement for the regional governance board distributed by Doug Ahlberg at the Dec. 10, 2008 meeting, and noted that several county attorneys had recommended their county boards not sign the document due to concerns and discrepancies. Ahlberg maintained that the document, written by a Lancaster Deputy County Attorney, includes all the pertinent information from the grant guidelines, including who is responsible for maintenance, who owns what equipment, etc. Fictum said that his county attorney advised not to sign due to a statement which says if Lancaster County drops out of the region, the entire agreement is dissolved.

### **13. Public and Board Comment**

Each of the board members and guests expressed their views on the progress of the meeting, grants, investment justifications, etc.

### **14. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the board was set for Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the Cass County Emergency Operations Center, 8400 144th Street, Weeping Water, Nebraska.

### **15. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Cole, seconded by Petersen, to adjourn the meeting at 1:46 p.m. Voting aye were McKee, Jantzen, Petersen, Cole, Gerweck, Wilcox, Fictum, Cover and Ahlberg; nays, none, Meints abstaining; motion carried. Meeting adjourned.



B.J. Fictum, Secretary

APPROVED:

James Gerweck, Chairman

Date: March 18, 2009