

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Meeting Minutes

March 27th, 2019 2:30 PM(CDT)
Lincoln Community Foundation Building
5th Floor Conference Room
215 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln NE 68508

I. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Attendance
Mike	Foley	Lt. Governor	
Phil	Brazelton	Tri-County PET Region	X
Ike	Brown	Southwest PET Region	X
Steve	Cody	Nebraska Game and Parks	X
Roger	Foster	League of Municipalities	
Kevin	Garvin	Northeast PET Region	X
Heidi	Gillespie	Panhandle PET Region	X
Tim	Hofbauer	East Central PET Region	X
Adam	Matzner	State Fire Marshal	X
Tom	Nutt	Nebraska Association of County Officials	
Roger	Powell	Southwest PET Region	
Mark	Rempe	North Central PET Region	X
Jon	Rosenlund	South Central PET Region	X
Kevin	Ryan	Nebraska State Patrol	X
Dave	Sankey	Nebraska Public Service Commission	X
Jayne	Scofield	Office of the Chief Information Officer	X
Craig	Stover	Game and Parks Department	Jeff Clawson
Ed	Toner	Office of the Chief Information Officer	
Bryan	Tuma	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Chair	
David	Webb	Nebraska Public Power District	

Others in attendance:

Pam Kemper (OCIO), Sue Krogman (NEMA), Jim Lundstead (DHS CISIA), Bob Wilhelm (OCIO), Kate Speck (PPC), Rid Zeigler (SECC), Matthew May (Winnebago EMA), Ray Richards (Scottsbluff County), Shelly Holzerland (Fremont/Dodge 911), Mark DeKraai (PPC), Lindsey Button (PPC).

II. Welcome, Introductions, and Open Meeting Law Information

Jane Scofield, called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM Central Daylight Time. Ms. Scofield verified public notice and availability of copy of law in the meeting location – NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 THROUGH 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007)

III. Approval of Minutes

Phil Brazelton made a motion to approve the July 23rd, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ike Brown; the motion passed unanimously, with no abstaining vote, and no dissenting votes.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

IV. Review and Recommendations of Projects for Investment Justification

This year, the regions have submitted \$1,915,173.80 covering 15 communications projects for funding consideration from the Homeland Security grant. The Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council (NPSCC) is the communications Subject Matter Expert (SME) group for these projects. Over the last four years, communications projects have received an average of \$1,175,646.50 from the grant. For the purpose of this meeting, the council will operate from the premise that the average amount received over the last several years will again be granted this year. Project scoring was completed ahead of this meeting based on four questions:

- This project will effectively reduce risks for Nebraska
- This project is feasible
- This project is able to be completed within the period of performance
- The costs are reasonable for project scope

The scores were then averaged and compiled for review. The authors of the projects provide a brief description of the project for the Council. The Council reviews the projects to determine if project funding can be funded in full, reduced, or not funded. Once each SME group makes recommendations, the proposals are reviewed by the Homeland Security Senior Advisory Council (SAC). Finally, the project recommendations are reviewed and final determinations are made by the Homeland Security Policy Group (HSPG).

Project proposals were reviewed by the Council prior to this meeting. During this meeting, the Council agreed to fund all projects requesting less than \$100,000, and review higher ask projects on an individual basis.

East Central NRIN Rent/Sustainment/Buildout: The East Central Region is requesting \$15,000 to cover tower rent sites and operating expenses for the NRIN system in their region. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

North Central NRIN Maintenance: The North Central Region is requesting \$50,255 to cover maintenance of tower sites located in their region for the 2019/2020 fiscal year. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

Southeast NRIN Operational Expenses: The Southeast Region is requesting \$5,400 to cover NRIN operational expenses. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

Continuation NRIN Build out: The Statewide NRIN Building project is requesting \$500,000 to complete the network build out. Sue Krogman stated that these funds would complete the build out. The Council recommended to fund one year of this project for \$250,000 with the expectation that the NRIN Building project will return next year to apply for the remaining \$250,000 needed to complete this project.

Southeast NRIN Tower Leases: The Southeast Region is requesting \$6,500 to cover the lease cost of their NRIN towers. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

Knox Co NRIN Tower: The Northeast Region is requesting \$45,910 to cover the building of an NRIN tower in Knox County. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

Rock Co NRIN Tower: The North Central Region is requesting \$58,000 to construct one NRIN tower in Rock County. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

Statewide NRIN Tech Assistance: The South Central Region is requesting \$150,000 to hire a full time Technical Assistant for two years. The Council recommended funding this position for one year at \$75,000 under the assumption that NRIN will come back next year to request the second year of funding.

Sheridan Co SRS Consolette: The Panhandle Region is requesting \$15,000 to purchase and install an SRS Consolette for Sheridan County. Pam Kemper stated that Sheridan is the last County in the State without connectivity to the State Radio System via a Consolette, and that this purchase would complete the Statewide Radio System communication network. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

Statewide NRIN Governance Board: The NRIN Board is requesting \$444,000 to cover the monitoring, operations, maintenance, replacement, outreach, public education and training for the Statewide NRIN system. Jayne Scofield inquired after NRIN's strategy for funding this network once the build out is complete. Jon Rosenlund stated that the NRIN Governance Board is implementing a fee schedule to NRIN users that will cover operational costs. The Council recommended funding this board for one year at \$222,000 under the assumption that NRIN will come back next year to request the second year of funding.

Southwest NRIN Buildout: The Southwest Region is requesting \$40,000 to complete the build out of the NRIN system in their region. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

Statewide NRIN Coordinator: The NRIN Board is requesting \$150,000 to hire a full time Coordinator for two years. Given that the Homeland Security contract with the Public Policy Center (PPC) will expire in August, the intent is to hire an individual to take over the administrative tasks previously performed by the PPC, as well as having a single point of contact for the network. The Council recommended funding this position for one year at \$75,000 under the assumption that NRIN will come back next year to request the second year of funding.

APX Consolette: The Northeast Region is requesting \$35,508.80 to replace five APX Consolettes in their region to maintain connectivity between three Northeast Counties and the Iowa and South Dakota SRS. The Council recommended fully funding this project.

Tri-County Transceiver Replacement: The Tri-County Region is requesting \$330,000 to cover a replacement transceiver for the Tri-County Regional Wide-Area Network. Last year, this project was funded for \$330,000, with the intent of Tri-County applying for another \$330,000 in 2019. Jon Rosenlund raised concern that this transceiver is a local, not statewide initiative. This funding was granted in 2018 under the assumption that these transceivers would be patched into the Statewide NRIN network. Phil Brazelton stated that this is still the intent. The Council recommended funding this project at a reduced rate of \$250,000.

Northeast NRIN Construction Expenses: The Northeast Region is requesting \$69,600 to cover two years of facility rental for the purposes of storing existing NRIN equipment currently awaiting install, and NRIN related construction expenses that may be incurred as construction starts in the region this year. Kevin Garvin from the Northeast Region offered to cut funding to a single year as NRIN is not yet established in the Northeast Region. The Council recommended funding this project for one year at \$34,800.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

A motion was made to approve the above funding recommendations by Ike Brown. Jon Rosenlund seconded. Motion passes unanimously with no abstentions and no dissentions.

V. Approval of NPSCC 2018 Annual Report

The 2018 Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council Annual Report summarizing all 2018 NPSCC activities were emailed to all members for review. Feedback and changes were gathered from the membership and included in the updated document presented. A motion was made to approve the 2018 Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council Annual Report by Tim Hofbauer, motion was seconded by Mark Rempe. Motion passes unanimously with no abstaining votes and no dissenting votes.

VI. Approval of Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Working Group member addition

Two individuals have resigned from this group recently, but their appointments were filled by their designated agencies. Meagan Whitherspoon from the University of Nebraska Lincoln Dispatch Center was appointed to fill in for Julie Ryder, and Chadron Police Chief, Tim Lordino was appointed to fill the position of Director Cassidy. The Lincoln Police Department had requested that they be added to the working group as well, and in the Working Group's meeting on Monday, there was consensus that Lincoln PD should become a member. The Working Group's charter allows 19 voting members, of which there are currently 14. The charter also indicates that additional members must be approved by the NPSCC.

A motion was made to approve the addition of the representative for the Lincoln Police Department to the Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Working Group by Dave Sankey. Kevin Ryan seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously with no abstentions and no dissentions.

VII. State of Nebraska Updates – Sue Krogman

NEMA has been working very hard to address issues associated with the recent floods throughout the State. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has set up an office at NEMA as part of the disaster relief effort. The Governor pushed through an expedited Disaster Declaration, which has allowed FEMA to bring in a specialist. FEMA is visiting multiple counties today, and brought in 10 people from the State of Washington to perform individual assistance (IA) for counties not included in the original declaration. Sue would like to say thank you to everyone on their excellent response to the flooding. All agencies have been very helpful in this effort. Tim Hofbauer has noted that the first round of disaster relief has also caused some problems for local Emergency Managers who were not included on the original list of counties listed for (IA). Emergency Managers are working very hard to get funding for counties left off the original declaration.

VIII. Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Report– NEMA and NRIN Board – Sue Krogman

Due to poor weather, contractors have been working on indoor tasks such as radio and router configuration. NRIN is hoping to acquire new routers for many areas whose current routers are having trouble handling the increased load. NRIN is also in the process of purchasing an upgrade to the Ceragon radios, which will increase the speed of the network. NRIN is pushing towards the end of their buildout. The Panhandle region raised concerns that seven years ago they were deemed a pilot project for NRIN, and to date they are still dark. NRIN provided some troubleshooting during the meeting, and OCIO will follow up with the Panhandle Region connectivity issues.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

IX. FirstNet Report – Office of Chief Information Officer – Bob Wilhelm

Coverage in Nebraska is still an ongoing issue. Particularly along the South side of Interstate 80. On Monday at the Working Group meeting there was a presentation given by AT&T. AT&T has purchased 100+ towers to install from Iowa to Colorado. They are not yet installed, but have been purchased, and per contract, must be made with “Made in America” products. This will have a particularly large impact on coverage along the interstate and in the Southeast region of Nebraska. AT&T is also pouring 200+ sites North of I80. In 12-18 months, a lot of these sites will be turned up and the coverage out west and in the rural areas will be enhanced greatly. AT&T will be providing another briefing in about 6 months.

OCIO will no longer be involved in the First Net project. NEMA will take over this role and will have a full time employee for this project. As of the end of 2018 there was \$635,000 remaining on this grant to be spent by February 2020. First Net plans to have the grant paperwork complete by June 30th, and transferred to NEMA by July 1st.

X. Statewide Radio System Report – OCIO/NPPD – Pam Kemper

A map was provided in the meeting outlining counties that are currently connected to the Statewide Radio System. Sheridan County is the last remaining county without a Rock Consolette that would patch them into this radio system. Sheridan County has now applied for funding for this consolette, and should they receive it, this would mark coverage for the entire State. A list of agencies that are using the system was also provided in the meeting including 14 Federal, 13 State, and 46 Local agencies. Other counties and agencies that have signed contracts but not yet received radios or training, so are not yet on this list, were discussed.

The XTL5000 Free Radio program is still available to eligible counties, and a meeting at the Fire School last year sparked a lot of interest in this program.

Some areas have received radios, but had not yet received training on how to use them. The State Radio System was able to arrange a conference call to facilitate training for this system, enabling mutual aid and support in response to the recent flooding.

System user group meetings are now scheduled every other month in different areas of the State, and the group will have a presence at several upcoming conferences.

Some concerns were raised by NPSCC members regarding agency eligibility for the free radio program, and radio interference with other emergency efforts. OCIO stated they will investigate the interference issue.

XI. State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) Report – Rod Zeidler (1:05:07)

Jim Skinner out of Omaha has retired, and Tim Williams out of Kearney has assumed his role within SECC. The Cable company association came back to life. Their president is now on there too. SECC will be having an in-person meeting to discuss issues pertaining to the flood, including how several disaster plan books were out of date.

The new Emergency Alert System (EAS) plan was submitted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in June of last year, and SECC is still awaiting approval. This lag could be due to turnover within the FCC. During the flood, Valley EAS stopped issuing alerts after their weather service went down. SECC is investigating options to issue alert weather alert codes to alternate agencies to ensure that these alerts are still being issued in the event that a weather service goes down.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

XII. Federal Update – Jim Lundstead

DHS CISIA has been restructured into the Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CSISA). This agency is considered to be the Nation’s risk managers, analyzing both physical and cyber threats to communications and critical infrastructure. Though CSISA has not been physically present in Lincoln, they have been working in the background on security issues and will be submitting After Action Reports (AAR) pertaining to the flooding events in Nebraska. Jim will be attending the National ESFS2 Training next week in Boise along with the wireless carriers and federal Internet Service Providers (ISPs) where they will be addressing several communications challenges, including the National Weather Service’s continuity of operations plan, which was raised earlier in the meeting by SECC. Numerous upcoming trainings were outlined. Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) will have a scoping call with NEMA tomorrow to discuss delivery of an All Hazards Communications Technician course in NE. One such training was just completed in January with for the communications unit leader. A training on encryption policies was mentioned. Kansas Missouri and Kansas City Missouri mark co-hosted by the Department of Justice and the department of Homeland Security to help manage delivery of over the air encryption key re-keying. CSISA is also developing a cyber-security awareness training for PSAPs. A significant mobile-command regional exercise is being hosted in the 4 corners area on September 25-27, with interest expressed by 14 states and 70 entities, including two tribal entities. ECD will support this exercise with a Just In Time training on gateways, tips on Go Bag, and lessons learned from last year’s hurricane responses

The National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators will meet next month to discuss future benchmarks and measurements of interoperability capabilities and how to enable States to conduct this assessment.

The importance of Wireless Priority Service and GETs cards was also noted, especially in light of the recent flooding emergencies, and in having learned from last year’s hurricanes.

XIII. Member Comments

There were no member comments

XIV. Public Comments

Discussion was had as to who will be filling the services currently provided by the PPC when their contract expires in August. This transition is still in discussion.

XV. Next meeting

The next meeting date will be determined and announced at a later date.

XVI. Adjourn

Motion made to adjourn by Jon Rosenlund and passed by unanimous acclamation vote. Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM CST.

Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

acronym	Meaning
CASM	Communications Assets Survey and Mapping
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DSL	Digital Subscriber Line
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EM	Emergency Management
EMPG	Emergency Management Performance Grant
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FFO	Federal Funding Opportunity
IJ	Investment Justification
IP	Internet Protocol address
MACH	Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
MDC	Mobile Data Computer
NACO	Nebraska Association of County Officials
NCOR	Nebraska Council of Regions
NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NPPD	Nebraska Public Power District
NPSBN	Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network
NPSCC	Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council
NRIN	Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network
OCIO	Office of the Chief Information Officer
PET	Planning, Exercise, and Training
RFP	Request for proposals
ROC	Regional Operations Common
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SME	Subject matter expert
SPR	State Preparedness Report
SRS	Statewide Radio System
THIRA	Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis
TEPW	Training, Exercise, Preparedness Workshop
TICP	Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan