

**NEBRASKA PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND
WORKING GROUP MEETING**

Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 1 p.m.
Country Inn Suites-Lighthouse Room
5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Daake in Scott Cordes place, Nebraska Municipal Fire Chiefs Association
Dave Sankey, Nebraska Public Service Commission
Bill Lundy, Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association
Lynn Marshall, NAEM (Nebraska Association of Emergency Management)
Neil Miller, Sherriff's Association of Nebraska
Tom Nutt, NACO (Nebraska Association of County Officials)
Russ Stanczyk, Nebraska State Patrol
Julie Righter-Dove, APCO/NENA
Dave Webb, Nebraska Public Power District
Jim Weeda, Nebraska Rural Electric Association
Matthew May, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Arnie Higgins for Debra Von Seggern, Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Casady, Police Chief Association and Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTION OF WORKING GROUP MEMBERS & AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Sheriff Miller called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. He reminded those present that the meeting was being audio recorded and that the notice for the meeting was posted on the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar and that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act was available on site. Roll call was taken. There were 12 voting members present to conduct official business.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 18, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Webb moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Sankey seconded. Roll call vote: Daake-Yes, Sankey-Yes, Lundy-Yes, Marshall-Yes, Miller-Yes, Nutt-Yes, Stansyzk-Yes, Righter-Dove-Yes, Webb-Yes, Weeda-Yes, May-Yes, and Higgins-Yes. Results: Yes-12, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: Sheriff Miller offered the audience the opportunity to identify themselves and the agencies they represent if they so desired. Cullen Robbins PSC, Lon Renner NPPD, Tim Pierce FirstNet, Steve Cody Otoe County Emergency Management, Sue Krogman with NEMA, Bob Huber NETV, Jake Carrol Beatrice Fire & Rescue, Ben Leseberg DHHS EMS and trauma, Pat Borer Lincoln Fire & Rescue, Drew Delaney FirstNet and Lesia Dickson FirstNet.

ANNUAL NATIONAL TRIBAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Matthew May

Mr. May thanked the committee for sponsoring a portion of his attendance to the conference. There was a FirstNet tone to the conference. Everyday there were sessions about how FirstNet activities are related to tribal nations across the country. The first session dealt with the branding of FirstNet and how information is getting pushed out to volunteers. The new message is that they do have a contractor that is approved and they plan to make that announcement in November. The indication is that the things we have been waiting for will happen a lot faster once they make that announcement, although they would not reveal who the partner will be. It will be a customer service based system with FirstNet taking care of customer service and the vendor will be taking care of the technology activities. There was a round table discussion with seven other states involved. A total of 30 tribal nations were represented at the conference. The Omaha Sioux and Winnebago tribes were the only tribes represented from Nebraska. Most from the tribes were from the northwest and east coast regions.

Outreach was a major topic in round table discussion. Each state discussed approaches that would work for them. California has 109 tribal nations to involve in the project compared to Nebraska's four tribes. FirstNet's stance is that the states need to do the tribal outreach but FirstNet is willing to assist. The big session was on Pre-emption and prioritization and how this will occur. There were 3 possible models:

- Let electronics and the equipment do it all
- Put a 2nd gatekeeper into place, and
- Have a combination of both.

Do we take the efficiency route and technology can do but it. No decisions have been made yet. The technology solution has yet to be built and this will be up to the vendor/partner according to the standards that FirstNet puts forward. The political question is will there be someone with their finger on the button or not? That is where the struggle is coming in at. Again the outcome will be on the partner/vendor.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (NPSCC) MEETING INFORMATION - Bob Wilhelm

Wilhelm reminded those in attendance that this Working Group was formed by and under the NPSCC's Governor's Executive Order and authority to monitor and help shepherd FirstNet into Nebraska. The Working Groups Charter was approved by the NPSCC and identified what entities could be represented on the Working Group. Since that time an additional entity, the Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA) has indicated a desire to be represented on the Working Group. Additionally there are some groups that are on the Working Group that do not attend the meetings which can have an impact on securing a quorum to conduct business. Some of the changes to the Charter are as follows:

- 6.1 which changed the maximum number of voting members to 19 and directed the OCIO to maintain list of the active, inactive and non-voting member of the Working Group.
- 6.2 Amended the entities that could become active member of the Working Group.
- 6.2.15 added the Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA).
- 6.5 changed to reflect if a voting member or their designate missed two consecutive meetings the representative and entity would be removed as an active member until such time that the entity notified the OCIO of their desire to continue to be represented and identify their new representative. The entity will be reinstated upon the attendance of their representative at a future Working Group meeting.

- 7.2 was changed to reflect that “A quorum consists of at least 50% of the active voting members.”

There were other changes to the Charter that the NPSCC approved. The Charter can be viewed at the following link http://cio.nebraska.gov/ps-broadband/docs/2016/Working_Group_Charter_meeting.pdf or contact Wilhelm for access.

NPSCC’s involvement in the State Plan review report will be to review it prior to it being released to the Governor. It was recommended to provide a briefing to Governor and Lt. Governor prior to its release as well.

REPORT - FIRSTNET’S STATE PLAN FOR NEBRASKA REVIEWER - Wilhelm

The Governor requested that Nebraska have a review of the state plan completed. This would assist him and others in identifying the deliverables and pros and cons of the plan as well as provide a comparison between what Nebraska’s priorities and asks of the plan were against what the plan actually proposes to deliver. Due to the complexity of the project, the person hired will be receiving large amounts of data from the FirstNet office, as well as information on the project’s priorities, what can or cannot happen for coverage and what are other options.

Nebraska stakeholders all have full-time jobs and the project needs someone who could focus on the plan to be sure Nebraska’s priorities are met and shortcomings identified. Rather than release an RFP for a consultant, the state will work with the state’s Covendis contract. Through this contract, someone with the specific required technical requirements can be found.

The OCIO, the Working Group members and a Working Group Sub-committee have discussed qualifications needed and submitted the request to the state’s Covendis coordinator. There were nine applicants forwarded to the OCIO. A review committee from the Working Group looked at the applications and interviewed the top four this week. There were three finalists. The committee will discuss and determine the successful candidate that they wish to hire.

Subcommittee members shared their views of the candidates. Members were impressed with the scientific process to get to the best qualified person. Sub-committee members were Matthew May, Bill Lundy, Tom Casady, Lynn Marshall & Neil Miller.

Wilhelm asked the members to review the state plan’s deliverables and asked members to send their recommendations to him by the end of next week. He’d like to include the recommendations prior to the candidate starting.

Wilhelm asked the sub-committee members to talk to the larger group about their impressions and experiences with their involvement in the application review process. Lynn Marshall said this was the quickest way to get this accomplished and he thought it went well and was a good opportunity to look at the candidates and talk with them. Sheriff Miller agreed with Lynn. He said the reason we need this person is because we are getting a lot of indication that a lot of data and information will come back about Nebraska’s plan. We also know that there was a committee and Russ was on it that we identified priorities for Nebraska based on input from quite a number of people for what those priorities for coverage and capacity were going to be. Our concern is and we could be wrong but we don’t believe we are going to cover every square meter of Nebraska with coverage. So if you can’t have that then what do you get. The concern then is that we get what the groups priorities were for coverage and capacity. Sheriff Miller said we then needed someone who has the time, technical expertise and experience to come in and see what Nebraska is getting from the state plan and make sure we are getting what we think

we are getting and make sure that Nebraska's priorities that we had sent off to them are being taken into consideration. We needed to find someone out of this group to do this on our behalf and can explain it to elected officials and non-technical people. Bill Lundy said that this was a mathematical quantitative evaluation of the candidates. We got together through conference calls and reviewed the resumes and ranked the candidates. It was a pretty clear separation between the top 4 that we interviewed and the lower tier of candidates in points. The follow-up was a phone interview with a set of questions to identify assets that we were looking for. One of the candidates that appeared good on paper in the interview it was clear that he wasn't going to meet our needs. Bill thought it was a good scientific process to get the best person for the state of Nebraska review, distill and present this information in a document in an understandable and usable way. Matthew May took away from the process that we will get a document at the end that will tell us what we are getting and compare it to what we were asking for. It will give us an understanding from an untainted set of eyes whether that is going to be a good thing or a bad thing. Wilhelm said there were at least four of the applicants that had touched FirstNet in their previous positions in varying activities.

Wilhelm pointed to the deliverables hand out and asked the Working Group members to read it and feel free to provide him with input on additional things we should include in the list of deliverables.

FIRSTNET REGION VII REGIONAL CONSULTANT

Tim Pierce, Drew Delaney & Lesia Dickson

Mr. Pierce, introduced Lesia Dickson, the new FirstNet Regional Consultant. Ms. Dickson provided a brief autobiography of her experience and background in the field of public safety. She works out of the Austin TX area.

Mr. Pierce was asked what is happening at federal level regarding bids. Tim said that Matthew gave a good brief on what has been going on. They could not say anything about the selection process as far as who submitted bids. Mr. Pierce did not have any additional information to share with the work group. Sheriff Miller asked Tim if he knew if roaming agreements were part of the RFP and Tim said that they were definitely part of the objective that would definitely have to be addressed. That is the concern that we have heard. If it is only Band 14 deployed in a certain area does that mean when I leave that area that I don't have any service at all or do I roam onto another carrier. The final plan should include that information.

METROPOLITAN LEADERSHIP MEETING - Wilhelm

FirstNet will be presenting a Metropolitan Leadership Meeting tomorrow at the La Vista Conference Center from 9 a.m. to noon. The meeting will involve Lincoln and the Omaha Metropolitan area responders and officials, including the Tri-County Region. Wilhelm, along with a couple of other members of the Working Group will be attending. Attendees will be given a mini-state consultation or Broadband 101 along with a historical review of the FirstNet path, updates on the most current information they can release, followed by Q&A.

Sheriff Miller asked the members if they had any questions or information they wanted to share.

Being in the emergency response field, Mr. Higgins commented that FirstNet is impressive and that if we could get 90% of the state covered, that would be great. Coverage has always been a big concern for emergency responders.

Mr. Webb spoke to the coverage issue and said many of you have been involved in this process. He thinks when we get the report back after the review process we should be able to identify deficiencies in coverage and the plan. Public power has reminded others that we have towers and other infrastructure. That might be the time to zero in on those assets as a resource that might help improve coverage. Tom Nutt says he has been briefing Larry Dix, of NACO, on the progress and they like the idea of the consultants review and thinks it's important to do it. The sooner we can get it out to the elected officials the better it would be. Bill Lundy said they are hosting the Volunteer Firefighters annual conference in Norfolk this week and weekend and he will brief the state firefighters and update them on FirstNet.

Ben Leseberg said that his agency has distributed right at 300 Lucas devices (external CPR units) and next year plan to give out about 150 more.

Members suggested doing more public awareness of the project with other groups.

APCO/NENA CONFERENCE

Sheriff Miller and Julie Righter-Dove reported that the APCO/NENA Conference is October 24-26, 2016 at the Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln. There will be a NG911 Goes to Lincoln session. The project will be talking about FirstNet, NG911, NRIN, State Radio System and Public Safety and will be challenging all entities as to how we can all come together. The conference will take walk-in registrations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Robbins, Public Service Commission, stated that if members were interested in receiving the federal news releases (Telecommunication Report Daily), to let him or Wilhelm know.

Ms. Dickson stated that she is available to do FirstNet presentations at any local meetings, conferences, workshops to present information.

NEXT MEETING

The group discussed next meeting dates. Wilhelm reported that the state plan reviewer will be hired in a couple of weeks and suggested that we aim for a mid-January meeting. This would give the reviewer some time to look at the state plan and provide some input. Members agreed. Wilhelm will poll the members as to a January date and time.

With no further business, Sheriff Miller adjourned the meeting at 2 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Bob Wilhelm, Office of the CIO.