

BROADBAND WORKING GROUP MEETING

March 30, 2017 1:00 p.m.

County Inn & Suites Lighthouse Room
5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Casady, Police Chief Association of Nebraska
Brian Daake, Nebraska Municipal Fire Chiefs Association
Dave Sankey, Nebraska Public Service Commission
Bill Lundy, Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association
Lynn Marshall, NAEM
Neil Miller, Sherriff's Association of Nebraska
Tom Nutt, NACO
Russ Stanczyk, Nebraska State Patrol/NENA
Ryan Ray, Dove and APCO/NENA
Lou Renner, NPPD
Jim Weeda, NREA
Matthew May, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, State of Nebraska
Bob Wilhelm,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Debra Von Seggern, NEMSA

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Sheriff Neil Miller

Sheriff Miller called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS OF WORKING GROUP MEMBERS and AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Sheriff Miller

Roll call was taken. There were 12 voting members. A quorum existed to conduct official business.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS INTRODUCED THEMSELVES: Cullen Robbins NE Public Service Commission, Chip Volcek Adams County EM, Bob Nord Omaha Dotcomm, Phil Brazelton Washington County Sheriff's office, Steve Cody Otoe County EM/communications, Dave Sleeter Douglas County 911 director, Bob Huber NET, Sue Krogman NEMA, Stan Shearer Omaha Fire, Ling Ling Sun NET, Al Krause NET, Shelly Holzerland City of Fremont/Dodge County 911 Director, Glen Still Lt. Fremont PD, Troy Harris NEMA, Ben Leseberg DHHS, Steven Chase Ex. Director of NE State Records Board.

ACCEPTANCE OF JANUARY 19, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Sheriff Miller

Mr. Weeda moved to approve the minutes as present. Mr. Toner seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

BRIDGEPORT AND KEARNEY OUTREACH MEETINGS

Matthew May, Neil Miller, Tom Nutt and Jim Weeda

Lesia Dickson was able to attend the sessions along with Mr. Wilhelm. She got to see parts of Nebraska she had not seen before. Mr. Wilhelm stated that the following persons were invited: all county boards

and chairs, police departments, sheriffs, emergency responders, fire departments and volunteer fire fighters. Members commented that there was a lot of discussion, interest, as well as questions about FirstNet. A lot of smaller agencies were involved. The discussions were helpful to the local entities in understanding more about FirstNet. There were approximately 25 persons in attendance at the Bridgeport meeting including a county commissioner, police chief and sheriff along with fire and EMS representatives. Jim Weeda and Matthew May attended the Bridgeport meeting. Jim Weeda's felt this was a good meeting and well attended. His initial concerns about this project were about getting more rural and smaller agencies involved and informed about FirstNet and its benefits. Jim felt we had a good turnout and conversation and was helpful to getting people to understand the benefit and the magnitude of FirstNet. Not only as a local system for collaboration among small departments but also being able to function on an even larger scale. Matthew May also felt it was a good meeting and that there was a lot of interaction between responders who were present. The Kearney meeting was held the next morning with 18 persons in attendance. Members would like to see more of these outreach efforts continue to inform. Outreach and educating first responders about FirstNet is critical to its implementation and success. It was suggested to hold some of these meetings in the evening for better attendance. Volunteer fire fighters hold full-time jobs during the day and it may be difficult for them to get away for an outreach meeting.

March NACO Spring Meetings

Tom Nutt and Bob Wilhelm

FirstNet was invited to attend and present at the NACO Spring Regional Meetings in Kearney, Norfolk, Scottsbluff, Ogallala and Mahoney. There were a lot of good questions and discussions. Mr. Nutt stated that the commissioners were impressed with the project and enjoyed Mr. Wilhelm's humor.

Columbus EMS Conference

Bob Wilhelm

Right after the Mahoney NACO meeting, the State EMS Conference was in session in Columbus. Debra Von Seggern, NEMSA President, had invited FirstNet. Mr. Wilhelm had an informational booth, distributed flyers, and had three opportunities to talk about FirstNet. It was well attended.

FIRSTNET BRIEFING/UPDATE & COURT RULING

Lesia Dickson FirstNet Regional Lead

AT&T was awarded the FirstNet contract just this morning. FirstNet will provide 20 MHz of spectrum and success based payments of 6.5 billion over the next five years to support FirstNet. It is a 25-year contract. ATT will spend about \$40 billion over the life of the contract to build, deploy and operate and maintain the network, with a focus on ensuring robust coverage for public safety. Additionally ATT will connect FirstNet users to the company's telecommunications network assets. Motorola Solutions, General Dynamics, Sapien and Inmarsat are some of the partners. The overall timeline is as follows:

- 2016-RFP
- 2017 State Plans, and
 - Goals: state plan delivery to Governor by Fall 2017 (90 days).
- 2018 FirstNet Deployment. Two orders that need to occur after the contract award: core development and state plan portal.

The question was raised regarding the use of Homeland security funding for the purchase of radios. Ms. Dickson was not sure at this point. At the last council meeting, it was decided that homeland security monies were not to be allocated to FirstNet. The state plan guidance package is in development and hope to have it available soon. During the draft stages of the state plans, only the State Point of Contact will have access to the customer and secure sites. After the state plan has been approved, the customer side will open to public.

After meeting with stakeholders and receiving input at the outreach activities, the priorities for Nebraska include:

- Deployable assets for tornado and other response

- Coverage
- Costs
- Congestion
- Economic development
- Interoperability
- Indoor coverage
- Tribal concerns
- APPs
- BYOD
- Roaming
- PSAP/NG911
- Missile silos: coverage/coordination
- Broadcasting
- Redundancy in rural area

An NET representative, Ling Ling Sun, stated that when discussions begin regarding the state plan, NET would like to discuss the possibility of sharing their resources with ATSC 3.0/Next Generation TV. NET has statewide coverage. This could increase coverage and in building penetration of FirstNet.

Lesia explained how the portal would look/work and how it would be accessed. She said it is important that we look at how we assign access to the secure side of the portal and their thought is that the fewer the better so that the information can be protected. They will assign access to whomever the SPOC tells them they want to have access.

Lynn Marshall and Jim Weeda raised questions about redundancy at the sites and the difficulty for same in the more rural areas.

Ray Ryan asked about the coverage maps and if they will identify where indoor coverage can be expected. Lesia did not know the answer but has that on her list to find out from AT&T.

MUNIRA JAFFAR ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Bob Wilhelm

Proposal for County by County Coverage and Capacity Assessment. A draft proposal was included in the meeting materials for the members review and input. Her work and collection of data will be a helpful and a tool for members to use when they talk to their constituents. She is also working with the State of Alabama.

Bill Lundy said he was really impressed with the quality and detail of her work and product.

Draft Process for State Plan Review in Nebraska. The draft process was also included in the meeting material for work group members review and input. After the state plan guidelines have been released, the work group will need to decide how to approach developing the plan for example, should there be a work group established to work on sections of the plan or possibly have Ms. Jaffar to work on the development of the plan. **Members were asked to give this consideration for discussion at the next meeting.**

Lesia said it is their intent that the draft State Plan will be THE State Plan hoping to accelerate the decision process for a decision prior to the issue of the "Final" Sate Plan.

Bill Lundy was curious about how large the document will be? Concerned it will be too large to allow for adequate review. Lynn Marshall stated that there would need to be adequate time to review the plan before we regrouped to discuss this. Neil Miller thought we would need to rely on Ms. Jaffar's review. He

said he knows there are certain areas of concern that they will review first. Munira will need to look at this technically.

Some states set up working groups. She didn't think it was necessary to have working groups but it would be up to the group.

NATIONAL GUARD AND FEDERAL AGENCIES UPDATE

Bob Wilhelm

Mr. Wilhelm has sent the FirstNet information to the National Guard and Omaha contacts but has not received a response yet.

VISIT BY AT&T REPRESENTATIVES

Ed Toner

AT&T reached out to the Office of the CIO, State of Nebraska, about FirstNet and what they can bring to the table with the OCIO team. Approximately two weeks later, Mr. Toner and the AT&T representative met with Governor Ricketts. The Governor expressed the same priorities and concerns that the Work Group has and asked if you get the contract, can you deliver. They indicated that they had partners lined up but could not disclose their partners. They said they could not deliver without their partners. The cost of devices was discussed. AT&T is looking at bringing costs down for rural communities. They were prepared for the questions and had done their research on Nebraska. The question "what advantage would Nebraska have for opting in" and in early was asked. Their answer was that Nebraska would have more advantages than those opting in late. The first one in AT&T wants to get on the ground soon so the first one in will get more attention from them and sooner. It was made clear that it would not be a negotiation. Mr. Wilhelm stated that there are penalties if the project does not provide adequate rural coverage or a significant number of subscribers (exact penalties are unknown that were indicated in the contract).

Bill Lundy asked if the Governor would have the sole decision or if the legislature needed to approve this. The thought was that the Governor could opt-in without legislative approval since there would be no cost associated with it.

Matthew May asked if we do want to be first to opt-in is there a way to make that happen. Can we jump in first? Ed Toner said he thought we could.

Wilhelm said that in a previous meeting with AT&T reps they had reported that there are financial penalties against AT&T if they didn't get adequate coverage and or users and he showed devices and said they would be provided at a VERY competitive price to help meet those levels of coverage and participation.

Lesia said that they would very much like Nebraska's support as quickly as possible regarding accepting the plan.

Great discussion about this topic.

BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION DISCUSSION

Bob Wilhelm

After speaking with Nebraska's representative, Lesiaa Dickson, regarding outreach and broadband demonstrations, it was determined that ATT should do the broadband demonstrations. Now that the contract has been awarded, they would not need to do a Band14 demo. It was suggested to wait until Nebraska has a liaison with ATT to contact regarding broadband demonstrations. Nebraska still has work to do in getting the word out about FirstNet. Wilhelm talked about the Oklahoma demonstrations which were set up as open houses where they were at a location for a certain period of time and people could stop in at their leisure. Neil Miller thought we should wait to identify a contact with AT&T to move forward

on this. He said we need to show how and why broadband makes sense to the jurisdictions. Director Casady talked about a gas line breach at a construction site that a fire department District Chief operated a city traffic camera at that location and zoomed into the hole. You could see the line and its proximity to other buildings. He sent that out to the Battalion Chief in the field so he could have it and it is a really good example of how pretty simple technology can be very useful. Otherwise without it you walk up to the hole and look.

SLIGP 2.0 BUDGET/DE-OBLIGATION OF SLIGP GRANT FUNDS

Bob Wilhelm

The funding will end February 2018. FirstNet has asked states to de-obligate unused funds. If \$25 million is received back, then they will do a SLIGP 2.0 to continue SLIGP 1.0 activities. SLIGP 2.0 would continue March 2019. There could be an interruption in funding to states during this process. At the end of last quarter, Nebraska's FirstNet expenditures totaled approximately \$380,000. The project began with \$1.5 million leaving a large balance of \$580,000 unused funds that we believe we can de-obligate back to FirstNet. Members suggested conducting more outreach road shows for public awareness of FirstNet. This led to a conversation on outreach efforts.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

Tom Casady asked if we thought there was value in doing other "road shows" like Bridgeport and Kearney. Places like South Sioux, Chadron and others. The answer was yes. He thought if the word gets out we may get even larger crowds. It was recommended to hold the informational meetings in the evenings and/or weekends. Many of the volunteer fire volunteers and first responders have daytime jobs.

Tom Nutt said that NACO appreciates watching the costs and also the rural coverage concerns. Tom is also on the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council and we have three major projects coming together now; the NRIN-Nebraska Interoperability Network project, the Statewide radio system and FirstNet. It is a little overwhelming for smaller jurisdictions so anything you can put out to inform people and keep them up to date is good.

It was suggested to invite the Homeland Security group, the NRIN-Nebraska Interoperability Network project, the Nebraska Public Safety Radio System project, and also NG911 to the demonstration or a collaborative meeting to discuss partnerships and collaboration of FirstNet. Mutual Aid groups would be another good resource. This would give responders a chance to ask question about each entity and how the connect.

It was suggested to collect anecdotal stories of successes to use as a good resource for sharing at informal meetings.

Another suggestion was to host actual demonstrations of broadband in the rural areas of Nebraska to get buy-in, cooperation and collaboration.

Bill Lundy suggested having meetings in the evening and on weekends since most of the states responders are volunteers and need work during the day.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Broadband Working Group will be held on June 29th, 2017 at Country Inn & Suites Lighthouse Room at 5353 N. 27th Street Lincoln, NE. Enter on east (front) side of the building. Room is on the second floor.

With no further business, the Chair Sheriff Miller, adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

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