

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND WORKING GROUP

Lighthouse Room of Country Inn & Suites
5353 N. 27th Lincoln, Nebraska
Friday, August 11, 2017, 1 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tome Casady, Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska
Brian Daake, Nebraska Municipal Fire Chiefs Association
Dave Sankey, Nebraska Public Service Commission
Bill Lundy, Nebraska Sate Volunteer Firefighters Association
Lynn Marshall, NAEM
Neil Miller, Sheriff's Association of Nebraska
Tom Nutt, NACO
Russ Stanczyk, Nebraska State Patrol
Lon Renner, Alt. for Dave Webb
Jim Weeda, NREA
Matthew May, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Debra Von Seggern, NEMSA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, State of Nebraska
Bob Wilhelm, Project Manager, FirstNet

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & INTRODUCTION OF WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Chair, Tom Casady

Mr. Casady called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Roll call was taken. There were 12 voting members present. A quorum existed to conduct official business.

Director Casady acknowledged the presence of Lt. Governor Foley.

The Working Group members introduced themselves and who they represent in their role on the working group.

INTRODUCTION OF WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Guests introduced themselves. Lesia Dixon FirstNet, Drew Delaney FirstNet, Dustin Blyth AT&T, Bob Huber NET, Ling Ling Sun NET, Jake Carol Beatrice Fire & Rescue, Shelly Holzerland Fremont City/Dodge County 9-1-1 Center, Tim Hofbauer Platte Co EM/NRIN Representative, Clint Merithiw So. Sioux City Fire Chief, Ray Ryan City of Lincoln Radio Maintenance, Steve Cody Otoe Co EM, Sue Krogman NEMA, Troy Harris NEMA, Ben Leseburg, Jason Atthelm Nebraska Link, Bob Nord Douglas Co/Omaha technology.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF 6/29/2017 WORKING GROUP MEETING

Chair, Tom Casady

There was a correction notes to Mr. Renner's first name in the minutes – it should be Lon not Lou.

Mr. Nutt moved to approve the minutes with the name correction. Mr. Lundy seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ON MUNIRA JAFFAR'S REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE NEBRASKA STATE PLAN

Wilhelm presented to the group an overview and history of how Munira became to be hired to review and assess the State Plan and compare it to what Nebraska had requested and identified through the data collection phase which involved a survey to public safety agencies and regional stakeholder meetings that were held in the 8 NEMA/FEMA Planning Exercise and Training Regions.

Munira created a Coverage and Capacity Analysis and provided a report on the comparison between FirstNet's baseline and Nebraska's desired and stated needs. This was also shared with the Working Group at the time.

Munira's initial review covered all the elements in the State Plan Portal and she presented a 59 page matrix that highlighted the good and the concerning observations she made, as well as how the State Plan stacked up against what stakeholders had asked of FirstNet in the data collection phase. This reports was distributed to the Working Group members and she later distilled that information into a FirstNet approved State Plan Comments Spreadsheet with 73 comments that were submitted to FirstNet and AT&T regarding the five major sections of the State Plan Portal. This spreadsheet was also sent to the Working Group members. These reports could not be shared further than the Working Group due to the proprietary information that was contained in the documents.

This last spreadsheet was condensed into a succinct eleven page executive summary report The State of Nebraska Review and Comments Summary FirstNet/AT&T Draft State Plan Proposal. This report was shared with the Working Group members as well as the 220+ stakeholders on our ListSrv subscribers list.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions about the draft State Plan proposal. Director Casady commented on how thorough and significant her questions and observations were and he appreciated the work that she put into the review. Bill Lundy raised questions regarding the additional cost of \$7.50 for extended users to use the "Dynamic Traffic Management Tool". Ms. Dickson explained that there are primary and extended users. Primary users would be law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, Emergency Management and Public Safety Communicators. Other possible extended participants in FirstNet may be entities such as the Salvation Army, Public Works, etc. They would not normally use the system every day. They would be given the option of paying \$7.50 per month. There are different levels to priority. If a true incident occurred, the primary users will always take priority over the extended user. Bill Lundy asked how you would manage a case where too large a group of users wanted to pay for the higher priority on the system. Ms. Dickson explained that anyone on FirstNet will need to be vetted to determine if they actually need to have that heightened priority on a day to day basis and if they did not meet that threshold they would not be able to utilize that option. Matthey May asked if this fee is retained by AT&T for its use or if it goes back to enhance the network for public safety. Ms. Dickson said the money would go directly to the carrier. FirstNet asked for and will receive annual payments back from AT&T and that amount included the projected fees such as the Dynamic Traffic Management Tool fee and others. No one is obligated to pay the \$7.50 to get priority because primary users get priority at no additional fee.

Ms. Jaffar thanked the Working Group for the opportunity to work with them. Mr. Casady thanked her for her time and expertise.

COMMENTS FROM OR QUESTIONS FOR FIRSTNET OR AT&T REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT Chair, Tom Casady

Mr. Dickson stated that FirstNet will be responding to the questions Munira Jaffar and Nebraska raised in the report. She said she felt Munira did a very thorough job and was very fair and professional in her

questions, comments and observations. Lesia said they would eventually respond to all the questions submitted by the states. This could go through the end of the year. This is a 25-year contract with consultation occurring on an on-going basis. Policy questions as an example...how will we do this? There will be a lot of discussion with stakeholders to try to answer and address these questions and issues.

Questions and discussions regarding Band 14 followed. Matthew May was concerned about coverage and service in rural Nebraska and said it appeared that other than Lincoln and Omaha the rest of the state would be giving up access to Band 14 especially for the first three year? He asked what the benefit was for rural Nebraska for waiting and will there be any benefit for the delay. AT&T has coverage in Lincoln and Omaha but not so much for the rest of the state. Lesia said to be clear there is no Band 14 available today. In Nebraska they will be identifying roaming partners that will provide access to current/existing networks. AT&T representative indicated that they will be working with existing service carriers to provide quality of service and preemption that is less than what customers are paying today. Lesia said for the most part users will not know if they are on Band 14 or AT&T because you get priority and pre-emption. You will be getting an LTE network. Jim Weeda said he had voiced similar concerns at the previous meeting and was satisfied with the explanation that FirstNet will be monitoring AT&T and their partners and that the financial sanctions should motivate them to provide rural Nebraska with a good product. Bill Lundy and others voiced the opinion that if AT&T and FirstNet did not provide a good product then no one would subscribe.

Accountability was discussed. FirstNet has an SLA with AT&T to provide coverage, with huge penalties if they don't. They have to meet the adoption targets in every state. Rural America responder agencies will be a tough sell unless coverage and costs are impressive. The Working Group requested information about the current coverage information by counties. AT&T said they have requested this information but have not received it yet. Ms. Dickson assured the work group that FirstNet will continue to serve the areas not covered and will work with the work group and the partners.

**WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING OPT-IN OR OPT-OUT
RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRSTNET/AT&T STATE PLAN WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE
NEBRASKA'S FIRSTNET SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)**

Ed Toner and Chair, Tom Casady

There was a federal hearing for the public on FirstNet. Mr. Marshall observed the hearing. He said Congress told FirstNet they have to build it with what funding they have, there will be no more funding. Mr. Nutt indicated that although there are concerns about rural coverage, costs and oversight, NACO is confident the system will work. Mr. Weeda stated that the NREA is pleased that they will be in a category of first responders. Mr. May commented that the longer the state waits, the more we are hurting ourselves. Mr. Lundy stated that the work group does not have the technical expertise and that FirstNet does. Mr. Casady stated that some Police Chiefs will be apprehensive as well and AT&T is going to have to provide a very good product for police departments to consider subscribing to FirstNet.

Sheriff Miller said he agreed with the comments Munira Jaffar had made about the lack of partners that AT&T currently has and how critical their performance will be and the ability of FirstNet and AT&T to hold their partners to a high quality. It is imperative that someone holds the partners feet to the fire. AT&T said that they would be responsible for holding their partners at an acceptable level of performance.

Director Casady spoke to the group about the desire from the Governor's office that he would like this group to make a recommendation on what Nebraska should do regarding the opt-in and opt-out choices to be made. Director Casady spoke to his willingness to hear not only from the Working Group members but also from the members of the public that were in attendance. Tom Nutt said that speaking for NACO and of course their concerns are cost and coverage and he thinks this group had done a fine job. Jim

Weeda said at the very least it is going to make cell coverage in the state much better. The NREA feels very pleased that they will be considered as first responders and this will enhance the safety for all public safety first responders. Matthew May said he felt waiting would not benefit Nebraska and thought that we should opt in and start moving forward. Bill Lundy said he did not think it was feasible for our state to build the network and he thinks our only choice is to opt-in and that public safety will vote with their billfold. Lynn Marshall agreed this is a chance for Nebraska's coverage to improve and enhance the safety of the public. Jim Weeda said he will be stunned if AT&T get the 98% of the geographical coverage. Lynn Marshall felt that is when deployable assets will enter into the equation. Neil Miller said one of the bigger things FirstNet/AT&T may bring to the table are the applications. Many agencies don't have the funding for their own IT people and AT&T will be in a position to provide applications to agencies that otherwise could not afford them. He said we often think only about coverage but the applications can provide public safety with great opportunities. Sheriff Miller recommended that Nebraska opt-in. Director Casady said his agencies are big mobile data operations with hundreds of users and data devices in use daily in mission critical situations. He said they are happy and have a high level of satisfaction with their provider and they are apprehensive. When things are bad anything is an improvement but when things are pretty good you wonder what might happen. He said Bill, Matt and Jim have done a good job in making the case that switching would be a tough sell in small agencies but it will be a tough sell in large agencies too. On behalf on other police chiefs in Nebraska he thinks they are apprehensive too. However he said we are not picking a carrier in this process but rather making a recommendation to the Governor's office through the SPOC as to whether we should opt-in or opt-out. Director Casady said on behalf of the City of Lincoln and as a representative of the Police Chiefs Association his recommendation is to opt-in.

Mr. Lundy moved to recommend to the SPOC and to the Governor that the State of Nebraska opt-in to FirstNet. Mr. May seconded. Roll call vote: Casady-Yes, Daake-Yes, Sankey-Yes, Lundy-Yes, Marshall-Yes, Miller-Yes, Nutt-Yes, Stanczyk-Yes, Renner-Yes, Weeda-Yes, May-Yes, and Von Seggern-Yes. Results: Yes-12, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Director Casady informed Ed Toner that he wanted to communicate to him as the Single Point of Contact for FirstNet in Nebraska that the Working Group has unanimously voted to recommend that the State opt-in to the FirstNet plan.

Mr. Toner stated that the Governor is depending on the Working Group to make a recommendation regarding FirstNet. It was great to see that all the members were in agreement. Ed has been very impressed with the work this group has done. He knows that the Governor is looking forward to their recommendation and that it will carry great weight.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ling Ling Sun, from Nebraska Educational Television, provided a written public comment offering NET's support and encouraging the involvement of all stakeholders. Ling Ling was pleased with the thorough review of the State Plan by Ms. Jaffar and the issues she identified. She encouraged cooperation between the State, FirstNet, AT&T and existing infrastructure holders. (Written statement is on file with the Office of the CIO.)

Tim Hofbauer, NRIN Chair, would like to offer any assistance to FirstNet. NRIN, is the governing body of the State's Public Safety Radio System.

Stan Shearer, Omaha Fire Department, announced that he is hosting a Nebraska Public Safety Technology in Omaha, on September 27th and 28th. There will be a focus technology and emerging technology. Some of the topics for the first day will be FirstNet and NextGen911. He has a speaker coming in that will talk about advanced technology and structural firefighting. He plans to have law

enforcement related topics addressed in the afternoon. On the second day, there will be a focus on radio demonstrations and discussions on the Statewide Public Safety Radio System and other LMR topics. He is hoping to get a drone demonstration. The plans are to take the conference out-state to get more involvement in the future and it will be held the last Wednesday and Thursday of September in years to come. They will be sending out save the date. Stanley believes technology for public safety is a statewide issue and it is important to move an event like this around the state. Lunch will be provided.

Ms. Dickson wanted to thank the working group for the opt-in recommendation and is looking forward to working with Nebraska. She also stated that Ms. Jaffar's report was one of the best reports submitted so far and indicates she would be sending responses to the questions soon.

NEXT MEETING

~~After discussing potential dates for the next meeting, November 2, 2017, 1 p.m. was selected at the same location if it is available. That meeting date has since been cancelled. TBA~~

MEETING ADJOURNED

With no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

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