

**Nebraska Public Safety**  
Broadband Working Group Meeting  
November 6, 2014 at (1:00 P.M.)  
Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department Training Rooms  
3140 N Street, Lincoln, NE  
**Minutes**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tom Casady- Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska (Chaired the meeting)  
Scott Cordes- Nebraska Municipal Fire Chiefs Association  
Gene Hand- Nebraska Public Service Commission  
Bill Lundy- Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association.  
Tom Nutt- Nebraska Association of County Officials  
Kyle Otte- Nebraska State Patrol/State Law Enforcement  
Julie Righter- APCO/NENA  
Jon Rosenland- Alternate for Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers (NAEM)  
David Webb- Nebraska Public Power District

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brenda Decker- Chief Information Officer State of Nebraska  
Bob Wilhelm- OCIO

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jon Borton- Nebraska Hospital Association  
Troy Bredenkamp- Nebraska Rural Electric Association  
Claudine Cohen-Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska  
Roger Foster- League of Nebraska Municipalities  
Lynn Marshall- NAEM  
Neil Miller- Sheriff's Association of Nebraska  
Larry Voegele- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

Mr. Bill Schrier attended the meeting via a conference call.

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES**

The following individuals also attended: Jayne Scofield- OCIO, Rosalia Solis, Nicholas Kemnitz- Emergency Manager for Wayne County, Shelly Holzerland- 911 Director for Fremont/ Douglas Counties & NESCA, Alicea McCluskey- ITS Engineer III For NDOR, Steve Hensel- Chief of Police for City of Crete, LingLing Sun- ETO for NET, Bob Huber- Director of Network Distribution for Nebraska Educational Telcom, Bob Nord- Director Operational Services for Douglas Omaha Technology Commission, Raymond Ryan- Radio System Supervisor for City of Lincoln, Jim Skinner- Chair Nebraska SECC/ Broadcast Engineer for KPTM-TV FOX 42, Mark Meints- Highway Emergency Program Specialist for NDOR, John Huff – Lincoln Fire Chief and Lincoln Fire Battalion Chief Eric Jones.

## **ROLL CALL/OPEN MEETING RECOGNITION**

In the absence of the chair, Tom Casady, the Vice-Chair conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum of voting members was present. The meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Planning Project Page](#) and on the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on October 01, 2014. The agenda was posted to the Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Planning Project on October 17, 2014.

## **INTRODUCTIONS/OPENING COMMENTS**

Director Casady started the introductions and thanked everyone for all the preparation and hard work that went into the meeting. Each member, public attendees, and Mr. Schrier then shared information about their career and backgrounds. Mr. Schrier joined the group on a conference bridge to share Washington States experiences with their FirstNet initial consultation meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Brenda Decker moved to approve the May 19, 2014 minutes as presented. Gene Hand seconded. Roll Call vote: Casady-Yes, Cordes-Yes, Hand-Yes, Lundy-Yes, Nutt-Yes, Righter-Yes, Rosenland-Yes, Webb-Yes. Results: Yes-9, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion Carried.

## **TIME AND MILEAGE REPORTING AND TRACKING FORM FOR IN-KIND SLIGP MATCH**

Wilhelm explained the "Meeting Attendance and Match Tracking Form". Each attendee was encouraged to complete the form in lieu of a sign-in sheet. This form in addition to being a record of attendance will be used to capture attendee's time, mileage driven to and from the meeting and the value of these items to be used to fulfill the 20% match requirement of the SLIGP grant. Attendees were encouraged to complete the salary information and/or their job description so the appropriate salary information can be obtained from the Department of Labor website.

## **REVISED WORKING GROUP CHARTER BY THE NPSCC**

Director Casady explained that the Working Group Charter was amended on 8/27/14 at the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council meeting. Changes are to Section 6.1- changed to no more than 18 members. Change to Section 6.2.1.14 from one tribal representative to a Tribal Council appointed representative from each of Nebraska's four Tribes; the Omaha Sioux, the Ponca, the Santee Sioux and the Winnebago. The above changes are done and are reflected in the copies of the charter that were distributed at the meeting as well as posted on the Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Planning Project webpage. Wilhelm reported that the changes were due to a recommendation brought forward to the NPSCC from discussions at the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Working Group meeting.

## **DISCUSSION OF WASHINGTON STATE CONSULTATION MEETING AND LESSONS LEARNED WITH Mr. SCHRIER**

Mr. Schrier had shared a copy of their consultation summary with the Working Group and gave a brief overview of their initial consultation meeting. Mr. Schrier said although there were no clear "next steps" given they felt they had a good meeting. He made the comparison of the deployment of FirstNet across the nation as a marathon and the initial consultation process as a 100 yard dash. He said FirstNet will work with the states and their responders to gather information they can use to design a plan and work through the questions of cost, coverage, who the users will be and develop the state plan to be presented to the Governor. He believes that within the next 18-24 months we will have those questions answered.

Washington State cast a wide net to include invitations to as many people as possible that should be involved in the process. They sent out over 4,000 invitations including 2,300 through the USPS to sheriffs, city and county officials, police and fire chiefs as well as a number of others via email or listserv broadcasts. They had 180 stakeholders who attended the meeting which was open to the public. Ms. Decker inquired about which public officials attended or were targeted with invitations. Mr. Schrier said mayors, city supervisors, fire commissioners, sheriffs and those interested in disaster response.

Director Casady asked if they did anything to encourage participation with such a large group being invited. Mr. Schrier said they met with local jurisdictions and called and encouraged others to attend. He said if they could have done anything differently it would have been to put out an explanation sheet on FirstNet and why certain people should attend to educate elected officials.

Washington shared past events with FirstNet; the devastating wildfire, mud/land slide involving 1000 responders, bridge collapse and earthquake. They discussed the communications issues presented by each event and how a data network would be utilized in these situations. Mr. Schrier also talked about the commercial wireless broadband issues first responders experienced during the Seattle Sea Hawks victory festivities. He said the bandwidth usage by the private citizens prevented usage by first responders working the events. Director Casady said that Lincoln first responders have similar experiences before during and after Nebraska football games at Memorial Stadium.

Mr. Schrier was asked about a comment that FirstNet would build out in phases in Washington and what that meant. He said this is a relatively new comment from FirstNet in that an initial build-out will occur in phases. States will need to identify priorities for areas in need of initial coverage. It was commented that it would appear that this type of phased build-out would present an issue for FirstNet when establishing a cost for a state's plan. Mr. Schrier mentioned that at a recent APCO event the individual responsible for government affairs interaction posed that the \$7 billion would only get FirstNet so far and that deploying an initial build-out (first phase) would generate a cash flow that could be used to continue funding additional build-out of the network.

Washington State felt if there was no cost associated with and opt-in selection that the governor could make that decision without approval of the legislature.

Mr. Schrier was asked about how they kept the Governor informed during the process. Washington State had two fire chiefs and emergency manager that met with him along with the governor and staff to explain to them about FirstNet, emergency preparedness and communications. They used specific response examples.

Director Casady asked Mr. Schrier to talk about the information they would gather for the continued consultation process. Mr. Schrier explained they would gather information from state and local sources realizing that some agencies have limited tracking systems and different networks. They would gather lists of systems. They would use SLIGP funds to gather information like 911 call data and information from law enforcement and fire officials. They would also look at GIS networks and attend e911 meetings, etc. He said they have a contract with Washington State University to assist in the collection and analysis of the information they obtain. Director Casady asked about the Mentum Planet software that Mr. Schrier said the FirstNet will be using. This is a system that carriers use that will map their potential coverage. They use this to map sites and to show where a build out of their network should occur.

Bob Wilhelm offered that Mike Jeffres of the CIO's office may have coverage maps from local jurisdictions communications systems that were used during past DHS grant processes. Jon Rosenlund and Shelly Holzerland commented about other possible sources of call for service information, etc. Some agencies have more and others have much less. Some agencies who have CAD don't utilize all the capabilities of the system and some may use spreadsheets to track CFS. There was a discussion on how overlaying information such as coverage, calls for service, previous disaster locations such as tornados, flooding and grassland fires would be useful for FirstNet and Nebraska when assessing the coverage needs of the network.

Gene Hand mentioned a smartphone application, Mobile Pulse, the PSC is using to gauge the coverage of various carriers in Nebraska. He said sometimes the coverage maps presented by the carriers don't reflect the actual coverage that is experienced by the users. PSC is trying to get more "off the beaten path" users of the application to get a better picture of cellular coverage. The grant is running out to fund the application but they are looking at sustaining that process. Mr. Schrier thought this was a great application.

Wilhelm suggested a concern that rural areas may be viewed by FirstNet as more expensive to cover and less attractive to their business plan which underscores the need to focus on providing information that would support coverage needs for rural areas via a terrestrially deployed FirstNet network. This is a concern Nebraska needs to focus on during our discussions with FirstNet.

Mr. Schrier asked about Nebraska's current mobile data usage. Jon Rosenland said the communications regions have provided some jurisdictions with air cards to MDT's some of which were funded by DHS grants. The need exists to provide are cards to increase MDT usage in more public safety vehicles. NEMA may have a list of agencies that received air cards or MDT funding.

Dave Webb asked about the phased response and if FirstNet had talked about how they may approach sharing/leveraging the network spectrum commercially and if that would be a problem in the eyes of public safety users. Mr. Schrier suggested FirstNet would look for a partner/partners who can resell the excess spectrum but still provide priority to public safety. This is a must because public safety may find few benefits to FirstNet if they weren't guaranteed priority access at a competitive cost.

Jon Rosenland underscored the need to have the system be affordable. Agencies now are doing well with carrier air cards and no priority on a day to day basis so they may not be willing to pay more for FirstNet than they are for the carrier they now lease from.

Mr. Schrier felt that they had enough time in their State meeting to accomplish what needed to be done. He suggested that we make sure people have done their homework in advance of the consultation meeting so a lot of time isn't used up on broadband 101 questions.

#### **DISCUSS NEBRASKA'S CONSULTATION MEETING**

Overall Director Casady felt the format for the Initial Consultation meeting that Washington used was favorable but he had concerns about the lack of involvement from public utilities and low level involvement by law enforcement. He would like to get more involvement from both of those disciplines for our initial consultation. The Working Group liked the two half day sessions that Nebraska had in Kearney last December for the Broadband workshop. It lessened the burden of traveling for those coming from longer distances and driving in potentially winter conditions during the hours of darkness.

It was decided to approach FirstNet about the possibility of having Nebraska's session over a two day period. The Working Group also wanted to have the meeting in Kearney if possible.

There was further discussion on the outreach efforts thus far and the process used for inviting stakeholders to the outreach meeting held last December. We currently have 84 counties that have identified a FirstNet representative to the OCIO. Director Casady would like to see more involvement from EMS or medical directors. Wilhelm explained we had presented at the States EMS board meeting and there was a great deal of interest shown by their members and particularly Dr. Rice who has been added to the ListSrv recipients list. Dr. Rice M.D. is the State EMS Physician Medical Director for the Department of Health and Human Services. The makeup of current county representatives include sheriff's, county board members and chairs, communications technicians, dispatchers a police chief and more. It was felt that more EMS and fire representatives should be involved.

The group discussed the informational presentations Nebraska should use. It was agreed that specific incidents where FirstNet technology would have been useful should be addressed. Specifically mentioned was a presentation by the Wayne State College regarding their communications trailer and its use in their response to the Pilger tornado. Additionally the group wanted to ask Sheriff Miller to do a presentation on Buffalo County's use of wireless broadband applications for their public safety first responders similar to the presentation he gave the Working Group at their May meeting.

There was continued discussion about the possibility of presenting GIS mapping with overlays of current cellular and LMR coverage, past disaster locations, calls for service, etc. to help justify coverage and give a clearer picture of Nebraska's situation. Jon Rosenlund and Julie Righter thought the Mission Critical Partners Next Generation Telephone Communications study that the PSC commissioned may provide some information as well as information that the PSC has available on calls, etc.

Director Casady asked if there was anyone in the rural parts state using broadband to transmit medical data such as EKGs, etc. to hospitals. No one believed volunteer fire departments (VFD) were using broadband for this application at this time. Bill Lundy mentioned that fire departments want to use broadband to transmit information and stressed that the apps used need to be standardized for use at different facilities to ensure interoperability. Mr. Lundy said some VFD's are moving away from pagers and are using apps to page out people and identify who is responding so the department knows if the response is adequate. Director Casady felt there would be a need for FirstNet in rural communities due to the distance and time encountered in getting patients to facilities.

There was a discussion on the need to gather calls for service numbers and the difficulty we may face in acquiring the data due to poor availability and tracking of same. Jon Rosenland said there were 85 PSAPs in the state. Some should have phone coverage maps and PSC may be able to provide CFS info for landlines and street address.

Gene Hand brought up connection that should or will exist between Next-gen 911 and FirstNet and how the capabilities of one system will complement the other.

There was considerable discussion on Next Gen and its relationship with FirstNet and whether either one can reach their full potential without the other. Julie Righter thought it would be good to bring someone in to the next meeting to talk about NextGen.

**DISCUSSION OF OPE-IN AND OPT-OUT AND INTRODUCING FIRSTNET TO THE NEW GOVERNOR & STAFF**

Ms. Decker said she would identify and solicit people to help with the FirstNet discussion with the Governor and his staff.

**DISCUSS FIRSTNET RFI**

Wilhelm said Nebraska had submitted a one page response to the FirstNet RFI and Public Notice specifically addressing coverage definitions and potential users of the system. FirstNet received 64 responses to the public notice and 122 comments on the RFI. They are analyzing the information now and to prepare for the RFP which they hope to have out by the end of 2015.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director Casady asked if there were any comments from the public and received none.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:55 P.M.**

After a motion to adjourn by Dave Webb was seconded by Jon Rosenland the meeting was adjourned.