

**NEBRASKA PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND WORKING GROUP**  
**Monday May 19, 2014**  
**Lancaster County Health Department Training Rooms**  
**3140 N St., Lincoln, Nebraska**  
**MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tom Casady- Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska  
Scott Cordes- Nebraska Municipal Fire Chiefs Assoc.  
Gene Hand- Nebraska Public Service Commission  
Bill Lundy- Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Assoc.  
Lynn Marshall- Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers  
Neil Miller- Sheriff's Assoc. of Nebraska  
Tom Nutt- Nebraska Association of County Officials  
Kyle Otte- Nebraska State Patrol/State Law Enforcement  
Julie Righter- APCO/NENA  
Dave Webb- Nebraska Public Power District

**TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES**

Nephi Harlan- Representing Omaha Tribe of Nebraska  
Matthew May- Representing Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jon Borton- Nebraska Hospital Association  
Troy Brendenkamp- Nebraska Rural Electric Association  
Scott Cordes- Nebraska Municipal Fire Chiefs Association  
Roger Foster- League of Nebraska Municipalities

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES**

The following individuals also attended: Jayne Scofield- OCIO, Mark Meints- NDOR, Sue Krogman- NEMA, Jon Downey- Madison Sheriff, John Buckley- OPPD, Brian Kesting- City of Wayne, Tom Perez-Thurston County, J. Rosenland-Hall County GI EMA911, Chip Volcek- Adams Co. EMA, Timothy Loewenstein-PSAC/SAFECOM, Raymond Ryan- City of Lincoln, Cora Caulkins-Boyd Holt E911, Michael Terkildsen-NE Dept of Roads, Tony Martinez- Harris Corp., Pat Gerdes- Region 15 EMA, Nicholas Kemnits-Wayne CO EMA, Cindy Sorum-Racom Corporation, Shelly Holzerland-Fremont Dodge Co. 911, Cullen Robbins-NEPSC, Mike Clauson- IT Dept City of Kearney, Brian Dixon- Richardson County EMA

Meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Planning Project page](#) and on the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) as was noted on the agenda.

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

N/A as this was the first meeting.

## **MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. at which time Brenda Decker greeted those in attendance and introduced herself as the Single Point of Contact appointed by Governor Heineman for the FirstNet network in Nebraska. She provided an historical account of the FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband project from the passage of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to present. Ms. Decker identified the options identified in the law that the state will have when FirstNet delivers its final design and plan to the Governor. The state may opt in and accept the design and plan as delivered at which point FirstNet moves forward to build the system. Or the state may opt out at which point the state has 180 days to plan and design a network that is compatible with the FirstNet Radio Access Network (RAN) and that satisfies the FCC that it is interoperable with FirstNet. Option three is to remain silent at which point FirstNet moves forward with the build-out as they had designed it. Ms. Decker explained the process that was used to identify and select the members of the Working Group and the inclusive efforts that were taken to ensure there was adequate information sharing and input opportunities from the state's professional public safety disciplines, tribal representatives and local governmental associations. Ms. Decker's comments also addressed the State and Local Implementation Program (SLIGP) and the related outreach and planning requirements associated with it.

Introductions followed which were led by the Working Group and then audience members were asked to introduce themselves and what agencies or disciplines they represented.

Roll call was completed and a quorum of the Working Group members was present.

Mr. Wilhelm introduced a form that will capture the time that is committed by the stakeholders to the FirstNet project in an effort to help meet the 20% match requirement for the SLIGP grant. Individuals present were informed that if they did not wish to reveal their salary information an acceptable salary amount would be obtained from federal charts based on general job description. It is important that stakeholders complete the forms to document their time, regardless.

Mr. Wilhelm then presented the Working Group Charter as the guide for the Working Group's responsibilities and roles and where the Working Group fell in the states organizational chart under the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council (NPSCC). The Charter was approved by the NPSCC at their January 2014 meeting. Mr. Wilhelm asked the group to recommend expanding the membership of the Working Group from 15 to 18 which would allow for representation from each of Nebraska's four tribes (Omaha Sioux, Ponca, Santee Sioux and the Winnebago Tribes) as voting Working Group members. The current Charter allows for only one tribal representative and during discussions with the tribes Wilhelm explained there were concerns that no single tribe could represent the interests of the other sovereign nations in any discussions about FirstNet.

The voting Working Group members present gave unanimous consent to recommend to the NPSCC that the above changes be made to the Charter.

Mr. Wilhelm continued the discussion of the responsibilities outlined in the Charter with attention to the required inclusion of FirstNet into Nebraska's Statewide Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The current SCIP underwent SCIP Workshop Technical Assistance (TA) review that was requested through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in the fall of 2013. The workshop was facilitated by representatives of the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) and Nebraska's local communications representatives. Recommendations were made by the OEC after the Workshop and submitted back to Nebraska but there has been no action taken and the SCIP is currently in draft status awaiting further action. Once that occurs Nebraska will be able to move forward, at the appropriate time, and incorporate the FirstNet features into the SCIP and possibly with the assistance of another OEC TA workshop. The remaining responsibilities of the Working Group were reviewed. There were no questions or comments on the Working Group Charter as discussed. Working Group members were encouraged to provide Mr. Wilhelm with the names and contact information of any alternates that could act and vote in their absence prior to the next meeting.

The need and election process for Chair and Vice Chair positions of the Working Group were discussed. Buffalo County Sheriff Neil Miller and Lincoln Public Safety Director Tom Casady were nominated, after they stated their willingness to be involved. Lynn Marshall nominated Neil Miller as Chair which was seconded by Tom Nutt. Lynn Marshall nominated Tom Casady for Vice Chair which was seconded by Gene Hand. Both were unanimously elected.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Buffalo County Sheriff Neil Miller and Lincoln Public Safety Director Tom Casady gave separate presentations to the Working Group and audience on the current broadband capabilities and applications they are employing in their jurisdictions to police, fire and other public safety disciplines. Both were excellent presentations and they agreed provide similar presentations in the near future and allow the Office of the Chief Information Officer staff to record them. The recorded presentations would then be placed on the Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Planning Project webpage for others to view so that the potential capabilities of FirstNet could be shared with other public safety officials.

Tim Loewenstein commented on the accomplishments of both Lincoln and Buffalo County in pushing the boundaries on broadband activities. He underscored the opportunities that FirstNet will provide our first responders and discussed the developmental work being done in Colorado at the Public Safety Communications Research Center that will likely produce devices and capabilities that are unimaginable to many.

Mr. Wilhelm presented the information Nebraska has received from FirstNet on the State Consultation process which was released on April 30<sup>th</sup> and has been sent out to the Working Group and the people on the ListSrv account. Attention was directed to the Readiness Checklist which has bulleted items that need to be addressed and approved by FirstNet before the "Initial Consultation" meeting can be scheduled. Nebraska will hold a conference call with FirstNet regarding the consultation process in the near future. Details of the "Initial Consultation" format are still undetermined but Nebraska views this as an open meeting where stakeholders would be invited to attend and have an initial exchange of information with FirstNet and an opportunity for questions. Most of the interaction and consultation portion of the meeting would be between FirstNet and the Working Group. Preparation for the consultation and information to support

coverage needs is going to be critical. Things such as calls for service in a specific area and critical infrastructure are examples of need. Nebraska plans to keep the information flow from FirstNet continuing to stakeholders through our outreach efforts. The Working Group was informed about the efforts and contacts Nebraska has made to reach out to and identify stakeholders. We are seeking a representative from each of Nebraska's counties and Class 1 & 2 cities to be our contact on FirstNet issues. Nebraska is planning on completing the Readiness Checklist and submitting it to FirstNet by mid to late June 2014. We would prefer to have more time to prepare for the "Initial Consultation" meeting and benefit from the lessons learned from the initial consultation meetings other states have held. We are thinking about a September to November 2014 timeframe in which to hold our "Initial Consultation" meeting with FirstNet.

Outreach suggestions from the Working Group were the usage videos of today's presentations and placing them on the webpage for people to see what the advantages of this system are and could provide. Director Casady voiced his concern that the Omaha Police and Fire departments and metro area may not have been appropriately informed. Mr. Wilhelm will reach out to Omaha Police and Fire departments to ensure they have been kept informed on the process and are invited to participate. Bill Lundy mentioned the sharing of articles and information related to FirstNet through various newsletters the disciplines and agencies publish. Gene Hand spoke about the broadband mapping project the PSC is involved in where an app is downloaded to a smartphone and it will record wireless broadband signal readings which show coverage footprints for the various providers.

The importance of completing the FirstNet Worksheet that was introduced at the Kearney Workshop was discussed as was completing the ICTAP Mobile Data Survey Tool (MDST). Mr. Wilhelm discussed these tools and suggested that both have value in the planning process for local jurisdictions. Wilhelm felt the attention that FirstNet may pay to the information in the MDST data base would be relied upon heavily when FirstNet is designing a state's plan and coverage footprint. Efforts will be made to get local jurisdictions to complete the MDST in the near future.

Tom Nutt felt the emergency managers will be a good source of information on coverage issues and broadband uses in their areas.

Bill Lundy suggested that identifying and using the county representatives as the vehicle to collect, gather and report the information back to the state would be helpful. He suggested that the volunteer fire chiefs, etc. would have other responsibilities and tasks that would limit responses if it were left for them to complete.

Ms. Decker reminded everyone that the ListSrv account is open to anyone who wants to be a recipient. Wilhelm also reminded everyone about the webpage <http://www.cio.nebraska.gov/ps-broadband-network-planning-project.html> and its content, as well as the FirstNet website at <http://firstnet.gov>. In addition Wilhelm offered to visit jurisdictions to do FirstNet presentations and spoke of the efforts that we had put forth with the conference bridge calls.

Wilhelm reported that Major Kyle Otte of NSP and Jim Sheets with the OCIO are going to Westminster, CO to the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) program for a conference on their activities.

Ms. Decker mentioned that we don't want to have meetings unless we have items to discuss or action items. As we identify information we need to collect for the FirstNet process we will develop a format for the collection of information that we can use to send around the state to

stakeholders to provide information on. We will test drive it through the Chair and Vice Chair and perhaps prior to the next meeting we will have this in draft form and can present it to the Working Group for their approval.

## **QUESTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS**

Lynn Marshall commented that public works shouldn't be overlooked in these surveys as they have their own AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locator). Sheriff Miller reported Kearney has included public works in their system as well as school buses which both would have significant roles on a bad day.

Pat Gerdes asked if there had been any discussion of how to involve non-fire affiliated EMS entities as he thought there were several. Wilhelm advised we had initially reached out to the Nebraska EMS Association prior to the Kearney Workshop but those efforts weren't productive. Wilhelm spoke about a meeting in the last several weeks with Dr. Rice, the State EMS Physician Medical Director, associated with DHHS and with Doug Fuller the Southeast EMS Coordinator with the Division of Public Health. They were excited about the opportunities FirstNet presented for EMS and are eager to be involved. He also mentioned he is scheduled to speak at the Nebraska EMS boards June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Tom Casady restated his concern that we need to go out of our way to make sure that Omaha Police and Fire have been kept up to date on FirstNet and know that they are welcome to be at the table as we move forward. He felt due to the size of the agencies and the population of the state that they represent it was critical to connect with them. Lynn Marshall said that Mark Conrey has talked about the FirstNet project at their Tri-County regional meetings. Wilhelm said that he would contact both Omaha Fire and Police to make certain they know they are invited to participate.

Neil Miller asked if there was a map of the whole state of Nebraska with the coverage so we can put the counties together so we can look at it statewide for a planning tool. Wilhelm will contact our OEC contact Jim Lundsted to see. Bill Lundy suggested that if such an electronic map exists that we put that on the webpage as well. Someone asked if the OCIO was going to work with the other state agencies to gather information and the answer was yes.

Next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

There were no other questions or comments from the Working Group or the Public.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 P.M.

