

BROADBAND WORKING GROUP MEETING

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

January 19, 2017, 1 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Casady, Policy Chiefs Association of Nebraska
Bill Lundy, Nebraska State Firefighters Association
Lynn Marshall, NAEM
Matthew May, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Neil Miller, Sherriff's Association of Nebraska
Tom Nutt, Nebraska Association of County Officials
Lon Renner, Nebraska Public Power District
Julie Righter-Dove, APCO/NENA
Dave Sankey, Nebraska Public Service Commission
Russ Stanczyk, Nebraska State Patrol
Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, State of Nebraska
Debra Von Seggern, Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association
Jim Weeda, Nebraska Rural Electric Association

MEETING CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Sheriff Neal Miller, called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. He reminded those present that the meeting was being audio recorded and that the notice of the meeting was posted on the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar and that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available on site. Members introduced themselves for the roll call. There were 11 voting members present to conduct official business.

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: Sheriff Miller offered the audience an opportunity to identify themselves and the agencies they represent if they so desired: Cullen Robbins, Public Service Commission; Steve Cody, Otoe County Emergency Management, Cullen Robbins, NE Public Service Commission, Stan Shearer, Omaha Fire Dept., Phil Brazelton, Washington County Sheriff's Captain, Lesia Dickson FirstNet Regional Lead, Al Krause NET, Bob Nord, Omaha DotComm, Ben Leseberg EMS specialist DHHS, Tim Wilson, EMS Program manager DHHS, Steve Chase, Secretary of State's Office, Bob Wilhelm, OCIO.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 19, 2016 WORKING GROUP MEETING

Mr. Lundy moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Sankey seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

FIRST NET UPDATE & INTRODUCTION OF LESIA DICKSON, NEBRASKA'S FIRSTNET REGIONAL LEAD

Sheriff Miller introduced, Lesia Dickson, Nebraska's FirstNet Regional Lead. Ms. Dickson provided information about her background and experience with public safety.

The RFP status and communications regarding the RFL are on hold pending a legal challenge. A court ruling is expected by March 1st. The RFP has no specific requirements in regards to the technology. It is based on what are the state's public safety needs.

Once a court decision is made, the following next steps will occur:

- State Plans Development (From Contract Award to Governor)
 - Develop state plans and prepare for delivery
 - Release of draft state plans
 - Portals will open up on release of draft
 - State Plan draft reviewed by federal office
 - Feedback received back from states
 - Final prep for delivery to Governor
 - State plan delivered to the Governor (90 day review)
- Development of One Portal with Two Purposes
 - One for Public Safety Entities
 - Will include the following information: Costs, Service plans and procurement, coverage, devices and BYOD, basic services, true Priority (QPP), ICAM, FirstNet App Store, Local Control, PSE Homepage, App Development, Hosting and Cloud Services, In-Building Solutions, Deployable, Training, Customer Care and Cybersecurity.
 - One for the Governor
 - Would not be accessible to the public
 - More than likely the governance group

As states develop their plan, consideration should be given to the following areas. Priorities, People, Process, Path:

- What are the State Plan **priorities** for Nebraska
 - What issues, areas or objectives are most important for Nebraska?
- Who are the **people** that need to be briefed in advance of the state plan?
- By what **process** will the FirstNet state plan be evaluated?
- What is the **path** to the Governor?

States have their own spectrum of issues and needs. Some will need more financial assistance than others. Landline and 2way radios will still be critical devices. There will be a period of time when dual systems will be used during the implementation phase. Band14 will be available hopefully without additional costs to the hardware.

Lesia spoke about the opt-in/opt-out decision and requirements for a opt-out state to build their state system to conform to the requirements set by FirstNet so that Nebraska's equipment will work when other states enter Nebraska and when Nebraska travels to other states.

Jim Weeda observed the opt-out decision is saying to FirstNet that we think we can do it better than them, but we don't get any FirstNet dollars and have to build it with Nebraska dollars.

An opt-in state will still have a choice to build and enhance our infrastructure by building towers, enhance sites with generators, etc. Lesia said FirstNet would work closely with an opt-out state to help them be successful.

Lesia mentioned that some states think that if they opt-out that the state can keep the proceeds received from users of the system and/or the excess spectrum that may be leased to secondary users. Lesia said that is not the viewpoint that FirstNet has and that the profitable states revenue will and must be used to help build and sustain smaller less profitable states.

Matt May asked if the revenue distribution was part of the lawsuit that was filed? Lesia said she is not aware of all the aspects of the lawsuit or the particular issues raised within.

Wilhelm brought up that some Nebraska responders are asking what they can do to prepare for FirstNet at this time with all the unknowns that are out there. Lesia said the first thing is to not short change you Land Mobile Radio as it is mission critical voice and will continue to be mission critical voice into the future, so sustain your LMR although FirstNet will offer non mission critical voice. Lesia said if you are looking at investment in data and mobile communications.

She said that in IOC 1 of the RFP, the initial steps after the award is issued, it identifies the ability for a partner to start offering services right away. So as we move through the phases of building this network band 14 is going to come up in various levels over some time but it won't be everywhere at once. There will be a timeframe when multiple networks will be in play such as FirstNet and your current carriers and their competitors. Lesia encouraged agencies that were replacing equipment, such as vehicular data communication modems, due to end of life issues to consider acquiring devices that will accept dual chipsets. You can run a carrier of your choice but it will have a band 14 slot in it. Then when band 14 is available and if you choose to go on the network you won't need to get new equipment. Obviously the dual chip equipment will be more expensive but it gives you options, such as if you go to band 14 and don't like it then you can always go back to your old carrier without having to get new equipment.

Matt May asked if FirstNet has opened it up so that agencies can use band 14 now and Lesia said no because band 14 isn't being presented as available at this time.

Jim Weeda asked that when band 14 is available and you are using it but drive out of the band 14 coverage area is there roaming possibilities onto other carriers? Lesia said that this was a possibility but at this time without a partner it is impossible to say with any certainty. In this scenario if you buy persistent connection modems with dual bands then you could move from band 14 to your other carrier if you have subscribed.

Lesia said that jurisdictions need to be thinking ahead about this when they are spending money and looking at budget cycles. With a life expectancy of 3 to 5 years on this type of equipment it is important to consider this in their plans.

Sheriff Miller asked if FirstNet put out a certification standard for vendors and equipment manufacturers who are advertising FirstNet products (like buy me now and activate me later) to adhere to ensure band 14 will work on those devices advertising as band 14 capable. Lesia said she would have to defer on answering that, but the 3PPG standard is what it was built around although there may be some nuances that she isn't aware of so she will have to check.

Lynn Marshall asked about standards and BYOD. Ms. Dickson indicated she would need to defer to other staff and get back to us. She indicated this is part of the portal and that it does have its challenges. It is too early to know what the incentives would be. WIFI may be very instrumental. How do you vet people to make sure they should have access to band 14? Possibly there could be grant funds available but we just don't know.

Bill Lundy commented that if the economy of scale plays into the devices being built with dual band capability it may not be more expensive for a responder to buy a BYOD for access credentials to band 14. Lesia said there is also speculation of having every device having band 14 and set up so that if they weren't a responder that only 9-1-1 calls would go out over band 14 somewhat assuring that a 9-1-1 call from a congested area would get out when an incident was unfolding.

Lesia said that one of the areas to look at for mitigating costs would be to have a band 14 modem in a vehicle, such as a fire truck, then you use it as a WIFI hub then you can bring any kind of a device from a volunteer or responder. This diminishes carrier band usage because they are WIFling to the band 14 modem. She sees WIFI hubs as being a big budget saving activity. Bill Lundy thought this was going to be widely used.

What she needs now is a clear view of:

- State priorities
- who are the people that need to be briefed in front of the state plan release
- specific people we need to talk to
- what process will the plan be evaluated
- what is the path to the governor

Lynn Marshall raised the questions as to how the military will be involved/contacted. Lesia said FirstNet has people that are in touch with Federal Government entities. She said we could set up a meeting of federal partners. Lynn said we have the National Guard. It was suggested to invite them to be a member of the work group. Tom Nutt said that he sits on the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council and he knows emergency management state wide and the Guard are involved and they are briefed through the NPSCC as well. Matt May suggested that we add the Guard to our group and let them bring a representative in so we could start that conversation. Sheriff Miller deferred to Wilhelm to look at this to see if it was possible and bring that up at the next meeting.

Bill Lundy wanted the notional Portal document sent out. Wilhelm said he would email it out to the members and cautioned that these are just icons at this time and are not active until the portal is activated.

Jim Weeda said he was on the Gurley Fire Department and the tone at that time was that FirstNet was just a government program to get their money. His point was that we needed more information to help them change their opinion.

Debra Von Seggern said it is important to let people know that the portal's appearance may change between now and roll out.

Members commented that there needs to be more awareness about FirstNet with the stakeholders and recommended conducting more informational sessions, at conferences, state meetings, etc. Ms. Dickson recommended using the "Opt in Opt Out" document for informational purposes.

REPORT ON MUNIRA JAFFAR'S STATE PLAN REVIEW PROGRESS

Munira Jaffar is the consultant working on the review of Nebraska's State Plan. The Phase I activities report was included in the meeting materials. Her work will be done in three phases:

- Phase I: A review and familiarization with FirstNet, Nebraska's broadband plan and information that Nebraska submitted to FirstNet during the data collection phase
- Phase II: Focus on the evaluation of the draft plan proposed by FirstNet and follow-up interaction and consultation with FirstNet regarding any concerns or issues with the draft.
- Phase III: Final assessment and evaluation of the Nebraska state plan that FirstNet will deliver to the Governor's office.

Work Group members had positive feedback regarding the report.

SCHEDULED "METRO TYPE" MEETINGS FOR CENTRAL I80 CORRIDOR AND THE PANHANDLE REGION

The Metro Omaha meeting last month had approximately 20 persons were in attendance. There was good discussion and interaction. At the last work group meeting, members suggested to take the informational meeting outstate.

Wilhelm and Ms. Dickson have scheduled the following meetings in western and mid-Nebraska.

- Bridgeport, Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 2:00 p.m.(MT) at the Prairie Winds Community Center
- Kearney, Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 10:00 a.m. (CT) at the Ramada Inn

Approximately 80 invitations have been sent to Nebraska Game & Parks, State Patrol, law enforcement agencies and emergency responders. Working Group members were encouraged to attend.

Lynn Marshall commented on the Tri-County meeting and thought there were agencies and faces there that previously hadn't been involved in FirstNet discussion. He said that he appreciated those Working Group members who attended.

BRIEF ON FALL SPOC MEETING

Mr. Wilhelm and Jayne Scofield, Administrator, OCIO Network Services attended the FirstNet SPOC Fall Meeting in November. SLIGP has a de-obligation of excess funds. It is anticipated to be about \$40 million nationally. States were to determine what they anticipate their balances. Nebraska will have an approximate unspent balance of \$700,000. NITA is planning to put out a FFO to be distributed to the states with a different formula to engage in additional planning activities planning for deployment of FirstNet over a 12-month period. Wilhelm will be meeting with the NITA Federal Finance officer on February 8th to discuss this further.

Lynn Marshall wanted to know if this group would be involved planning and identifying what our gaps are out there as far as delivering the message as far as a little more public outreach.

Members suggested the following recommendations:

- Conduct more for public awareness outstate such as 911 Goes to Lincoln where the system can be demonstrated. Ms. Dickson informed the work group that the federal office will need to issue an STA, and to keep in mind the office does not issue too many.
- Conduct more information sessions at statewide conferences
- Develop a social media presence.
- Involve the media,
- Ed Toner wanted members to send us any ideas they have on outreach and our budget activities.
- Neal Miller thinks there will be more interest when information comes forward from FirstNet.

Matt May wondered if we can do some type of demonstration

Debra Von Seggern felt that we had to do more to get the word out as the EMS world doesn't know very much about FirstNet.

Tom Casady said if we did a demonstration on what broadband services public safety is using today the media would be extremely interested in it and this would help get the word out. Tom said we have very little social media presence. He said 60,000 people follow OPD.

Jim Weeda thought social media might hit the younger members of some of these agencies whose older leadership don't view broadband technology as favorably as younger members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stanley Shearer said that for the last four years they have had a technical conference in Omaha for public safety. This year they are changing the direction to being more statewide focus and they were leaning towards FirstNet. He said there are enough vendors who are moving towards FirstNet/broadband.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY MARCH 30, 2017 @ 1:00 P.M. IN THE LIGHTHOUSE ROOM OF THE COUNTRY INN & SUITE AT 5353 N. 27TH.

Ms. Dickson informed the work group that Mr. Toner visited the first demo of FirstNet with a tablet and hotspot during his vacation to Texas. It was at Texas A&M. Ed said in their use of broadband they would run hotspots through their cruisers and talked about the experiences this technology has provided. In one case the officers sought shelter in a building while a tornado was in the area and the cruiser camera caught the tornado moving through and this was sent to the communications center for real time information. Ed said that Brazos County reported that the push to talks and usage time on the LMR system was reduced as the broadband applications increased and deputies and dispatchers communicated more via their broadband devices.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Sheriff Miller adjourned the meeting at 3:02.

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