

**Nebraska Public Safety
Broadband Working Group Meeting**
May 20th, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.
Lancaster County Extension Education Center
444 CherryCreek Road Suite C
Lincoln, NE

Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Brenda Decker- Acting 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
Stuart Redwing-Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
Larry Voegele- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

ROLL CALL/OPEN MEETING NOTIFICATION

Sheriff Neil Miller (Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum of voting members were present. The meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Planning Project Page](#) and on the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on April 23rd, 2015. The agenda was posted to the Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Planning Project on May 15th, 2015.

INTRODUCTIONS/OPENING COMMENTS

Sheriff Miller started introductions. Each working group member stated their names and the entity they were representing. Sheriff Miller's opening comments were related to the Congressional Hearing on FirstNET and the pace of the project. Senator Deb Fisher was a part of the Congressional Hearing and Sheriff Miller spoke with Senator Fisher about FirstNet and related the conversation to the Working Group.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Scott Cordes moved to approve the November 5th, 2014 minutes as presented. Kyle Otte seconded. Roll Call vote: Casady-Yes, Cordes-Yes, Hand-Yes, Lundy-Yes, Marshall- Abstain, Miller- Yes, Nutt-Yes, Otte-Yes, Righter-Abstained, Schnell- Yes Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-2. Motion Passed.

PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Public attendees shared information about who they were and their agencies. These people included: Jayne Scofield- OCIO, Rosalia Solis- OCIO, Shelly Holzerland- 911 Director for Fremont/ Dodge Counties & NESCA, Al Krause-NET, Bob Huber- Director of Network Distribution for Nebraska Educational Telcom, Raymond Ryan- Radio System Supervisor for City of Lincoln, Ashley Mueller- Nebraska Extension, Jake Carrel- Beatrice Fire & Rescue, Sue Krogman- NEMA, Barb Liska- Seward CO 911, David Galvan- Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Kevin Briggs- NDOR, Chris Laird- Lancaster Co. Sheriff, Michael Terkildsen- NDOR, Troy Harris- NEMA, Brad Lahm- Cass Co. Sheriff's Office, and Stan Shearer- Omaha Fire Department.

REPORT ON FIRSTNET INITIAL CONSULTATION MEETING

The FirstNet initial consultation meeting took place in Kearney, Nebraska on March 18 & 19. Sheriff Miller started the discussion about the consultation indicating that the meeting showed that Nebraska is already doing several things with broadband technology. There were presentations that showed how access to broadband could make it easier for public safety to do their jobs and access information that they would not normally be able to get without broadband applications. Sheriff Miller also mentioned that FirstNet representatives have indicated that they are coming back to Nebraska again in the first part of July to ride along for approximately 4 days to collect more information. The outcome may be a FirstNet video featuring public safety broadband use in Buffalo County.

Brenda Decker added that Nebraska had a better attendance rate for our consultation than FirstNet has seen in other states. Nebraska had over 120 attendees, where other states indicated they were lucky to get 50 people to attend. One other thing that Nebraska did was to have our consultation in the middle of the State. In addition to making it closer for many of the attendees, it gave the staff from FirstNet an opportunity to experience what rural meant for our state.

Bob Wilhelm stated that Nebraska had several excellent presentations during our consultation. In addition to Sheriff Miller's presentation on what they are doing in Buffalo County with broadband applications, Chief Ike Brown from McCook did a presentation on the information that he received at the APCO meeting in Dallas the week before the consultation meeting. The APCO meeting was centered on the mesh between E911 and FirstNet. Chief Brown is very involved in the aspects of NEXTGEN 911, and serves on the E911 committee with the Public Service Commission as well. Matt May from the Winnebago Tribe gave a presentation on the state of communications in their jurisdiction and how they envision they would use FirstNet technology and applications on Tribal grounds. And Stan Shearer with the Omaha Fire Department presented the Omaha Fire and Rescue uses of broadband applications as they provide fire and EMS services to their citizen.

Sheriff Miller discussed the categorizing of the areas of the States that FirstNet has proposed. In addition to the categories of rural and urban, a new category was established called frontier. These designations of the category are established through an algorithm that looks at a combination of population and public safety answering points. The frontier areas would have very little new coverage and many would be dealt with through the use of portable units. There has been a great deal of push back from the states on this new category of frontier.

REPORT ON SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT MEETING IN RESTON, VA

Brenda Decker and Bob Wilhelm then spoke about the first FirstNet Single Point of Contact (SPOC) meeting in Virginia on April 14th & 15th. This meeting was held by FirstNet with SPOC's to discuss the topics that States wanted to get in front of the FirstNet Board. There were three items that Nebraska wanted addressed: 1) The "rural", "urban", and "frontier" discussion. It appears that the definition that FirstNet proposed to use for rural came out of the Rural Electrification Act. By using that definition, FirstNet needed to define a new term and that is where we believe the term frontier was established. Looking at Nebraska's based map, it appeared that all Federal and the tribal lands in Nebraska immediately became frontier, as well as other large areas. 2) The definition of "eligible users", and 3) What kind of authority will the State have/be responsible for in who and when people can access the network. The Act allows the states to define eligible users that meet the criteria of "anyone who is responsible for or able to respond to a public safety incident". There were many people who questioned what that really meant. For example, when there is a community that is being affected by a tornado or a disruptive event where Public Safety needs to be contacted, they may designate a school as a place of shelter. Therefore the school becomes an entity that is responding to a Public Safety incident. The question becomes, does that then make the school an eligible user? At the meeting FirstNet responded and said in this case, the school would be a non-governmental organization (NGOs). FirstNet would allow the State to designate the appropriate "responders" at the school as eligible, but not the entire school. Questions of who would "turn the users on" and "turn them off" are still to be determined. There also need to be discussions as to what level of access a participant will be able to have. A volunteer firefighter is an example where they would not be able to call home on a weekday to receive a grocery list, but they should be able to get to the broadband network while responding to a fire. So the question is again, how are we going to be able to turn this network on and off, who is going to be responsible for that, who's going to say when the network is available and when isn't it available.

Brenda reported that FirstNet has now declared that we are in phase 2 of the grant. In Reston there was training about what could and could not be done with phase 2 of the money. The most significant thing that phase 2 does is that it triggers the start of data collection. FirstNet provided information on what data they are requesting from each State. The Office of the CIO is putting together a survey to start asking for the data as requested. FirstNet also discussed the State decision process as they currently envision it. The plan will go to the Governor, but will most likely not be what we are expecting as a plan. The plan will be a synopsis of what they intend to cover and where Nebraska will be day one. It was described as a plan on how the State and FirstNet are going to interact with each other. It will also begin a negotiation process with each state on what the RFP missed for coverage and this is when FirstNet will discuss any state assets that could be used. The bid will not start asking for vendors to use state assets, FirstNet doesn't believe that would work with the bid process. FirstNet also understands that they are not going to drop a plan on the Governor and that he/she is going to say Yes or No within 90 days. When a plan does come into play, it is going to be at a very high level and that is when the negotiating between the entities starts. The data collection will have a lot of information for FirstNet, but the process will not be complete until the Governor either opts in or opts out.

Gene Hand asked if there was any discussion on letting states bid their own network because states know what resources they have. Brenda replied that there was no discussion about each state doing their own bidding. What was discussed was that an RFP is being developed and FirstNet would like involvement from each State in that RFP so that we can help address our pieces to the RFP. The only caution with being involved is that if you are involved with the development of the RFP you cannot be involved with the decision making process. Bob Wilhelm said that if you want to develop your plan then

you opt out. You will need approval from the FCC to ensure that your plan will meet the requirements of FirstNet and the national radio access network. Based on the information provided in Reston, Nebraska believes that there will be a second consultation within a year.

Sheriff Miller asked both Brenda Decker and Bob Wilhelm if the FirstNet build out will start from ground zero with new infrastructure being built or will existing infrastructure come into play. Bob Wilhelm stated that the Federal Government expects carriers will be the bidders on this RFP. It would be impractical if not impossible to build FirstNet without using some existing infrastructure. There are discussions on how the carriers will be able to lease out the excess bandwidth that Public Safety isn't using at various times as incentive for commercial carriers to become involved.

Sheriff Miller reported that he went to Vail, CO earlier this year for a demonstration of a band 14 LTE network being used at a downhill ski event. The network covered the whole area of Vail to Beaver Creek. It was a huge event where many people attended from all over the world and Colorado used the opportunity to demonstrate a FirstNet-type service for Public Safety teams to use. Some of the technologies demonstrated were push to talk devices, the ability to take pictures of things and send them out to groups, and mounted cameras that snapped photos of people walking by that was paired with FBI facial recognition technology. The connections were impressive and the public safety users had a hands on experience. Sheriff Miller contrasted this experience with an event that has been going on for the past 8 years in Kearney called Cruise Night. During Cruise Night, the cellular use in the area has a tendency to become completely overwhelmed, making it impossible to move any data. Public Safety in this country is becoming so dependent on moving data that they need better access and priority than competing with citizens who are sending pictures, texting, etc. The Colorado demonstration showed that the citizens that were sending pictures and texting had no impact on Public Safety using band 14 technology.

SLIGP GRANT EXTENSION AND PENDING SLIGP GRANT BUDGET MODIFICATION

The State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) related to FirstNet was established with an ending date of July, 2016. Nebraska received \$1.5 million and the grant required a 20% match in funding from the State for the grant. Nebraska's match was an in-kind match, meaning that we could use non-grant funded employee/volunteer salaries and expenses. FirstNet has announced that the grant ending date has been extended to February 2018. Each state, including Nebraska, will be required to submit a modified budget showing the new plan for fund expenditures. To date Nebraska has spent approximately \$145,000 of the grant funds. A new budget is required to be submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) by June 23, 2015.

FIRSTNET DATA COLLECTION PLAN BRIEF AND NEXT STEPS

Bob Wilhelm gave an update on Nebraska's plan for data collection. The initial date to provide the completed data to FirstNet was July 31st, 2015. However, that deadline has been changed to September 30th. FirstNet has provided a list of items that they need in order to provide the bidders with a reasonable expectation on the volume of use and the number of users. The critical data has been identified for the first survey collection. A secondary list of items is due later this year that will assist with coverage and business plans. The Office of the CIO is planning on taking the following steps to acquire the information needed:

- A programmer from the Office of the CIO has compiled the information list requested from the Federal government into an online survey. Four agencies, NPPD, Sarpy County EMA, Buffalo County Sheriff, and Lincoln/Lancaster County, have volunteered to beta test the tool. We are

asking them to fill out the survey and provide us with feedback on improvements and/or issues. Once the survey is ready, a request will be sent to all first responder agencies in the state. Tom Nutt suggested using the county designated representatives to help with getting the agencies in their counties involved.

- As Nebraska anticipates this will be a phased deployment, it most likely will be necessary to conduct meetings around the state in order to get local stakeholder input and direction. The phased deployment and coverage objectives should be made by the public safety users, not a state agency.
- FirstNet is requesting that each state provide a description of proposed incremental deployment phases (they suggest a minimum of 5) that would achieve the state's desired coverage objectives. The final FirstNet deliverable may request maps that clearly identify each incremental deployment phase.
- FirstNet is requesting validation of the coverage objective baseline, with gaps and issues identified regarding the current FirstNet baseline map. Bob indicated that FirstNet has been clear that their document isn't really a coverage objectives baseline but a map showing the presence of data. The State will need to review this document and adjust the map accordingly, including identification of changes made.

The plan seemed to garner a positive consensus from the working group members.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE CHARTER

The current charter of the Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Working Group has a quorum requirement for meetings that states: "A quorum consists of at least 50% of the voting membership." That means that with our current membership on the working group, at least 8 members need to be present to have a meeting where votes are taken. Last month we had to cancel the Working Group meeting due to the fact that we could not meet our quorum. With only quarterly meetings scheduled, we have the potential to run into a problem if a decision needs to be made and we can't get a quorum. Each member has the ability to designate an alternate, however, even then we seem to have some entities that are never able to make it. The question before the Working Group was, could we establish a mechanism that allows for non-participants to be removed from the Working Group if there was a consistent practice of non-participation and how long is consistent?

After a considerable amount of conversation, Tom Casady made a motion to add a section to the charter as:

6.5 Meeting Attendance requirement

If a member and/or their designated alternate miss two consecutive meetings, their entities/organizations will no longer be represented on the Working Group.

Gene Hand seconded the motion. The Working Group's additional discussion on this motion made it clear that to no longer be on the Working Group does not mean that they would no longer be involved in FirstNet, but just that they would not be on the Working Group. There was also discussion that an alternate attending was not considered missing a meeting. Sheriff Miller suggested that instead of removing the entity for missing consecutive meetings, that the member should be removed and replaced with someone who would attend the meetings. After the discussion, Tom Casady amended his motion to state:

6.5 Meeting Attendance requirement

If a member and/or their designated alternate misses two consecutive meetings, their agency/organization/entity will be asked to remove the member and appoint a different representative to the Working Group.

Gene Hand reaffirmed his second. Roll Call Vote- Casady- Yes, Cordes- Yes, Hand- Yes, Lundy- Yes, Marshall- Yes, Miller- Yes, Nutt- Yes, Otte- Yes, Righter- Yes, Schmit- Yes. Results: Yes- 10, No- 0, Abstained- 0. Motion Passed.

Bob reminded the Working Group that this change to the charter would be put in front of the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council (NPSCC) at their next meeting for final approval. Lynn Marshall suggested that it might also help attendance if meetings were scheduled further in advance, perhaps for the year, so people could get the dates on their calendars well in advance of the meetings. Bob agreed that this was a good idea and he would explore getting meetings scheduled for the year.

REVIEW FIRSTNET/BROADBAND COMMENTS IN THE PROPOSED STATEWIDE COMMUNICATION INTEROPERABILITY PLAN (SCIP)

Bob Wilhelm reviewed the process that was used to incorporate the public safety broadband work into the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). Sue Krogman (NEMA) and Mike Jeffres (OCIO) worked with the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) to host a workshop where the State rewrote and updated the information in the State SCIP. In the materials sent to the Working Group was a copy of the draft comments related to public safety broadband that are proposed to be added to the SCIP. Bob went over the highlights of the comments and reiterated that this was a requirement of the FirstNet grant. Neil Miller moved to accept the draft broadband SCIP comments. Gene Hand seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote- Casady- Yes, Cordes- Yes, Hand- Yes, Lundy- Yes, Marshall- Yes, Miller- Yes, Nutt- Yes, Otte- Yes, Righter- Yes, Schmit- Yes. Results: Yes- 10, No- 0, Abstained- 0. Motion Passed.

DISCUSSION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR (CURRENT TERMS END MAY 2015)

Sheriff Miller has been the Chair for the first year of this Working Group and Tom Casady served as the Co-Chair. According to the Working Group charter, after a year the Co-Chair will move up to Chair position. This means that the Working Group needs to elect a new Co-Chair. As this item was discussed, it was determined that the Charter does not put any restrictions or limitations on who could be the Co-Chair. Bob Wilhelm indicated that Sheriff Miller could be Co-Chair for a year and then move up the following year to Chair if that was the desire of the group and Sheriff Miller was willing to serve. Gene Hand moved to nominate Tom Casady as Chair. Kyle Otte seconded the nomination. Roll Call Vote- Casady- Yes, Cordes- Yes, Hand- Yes, Lundy- Yes, Marshall- Yes, Miller- Yes, Nutt- Yes, Otte- Yes, Righter- Yes, Schmit- Yes. Results: Yes- 10, No- 0, Abstained- 0. Motion Passed. Gene Hand then nominated Sheriff Miller as the Co-Chair. Bill Lundy second the motion. Roll Call Vote- Casady- Yes, Cordes- Yes, Hand- Yes, Lundy- Yes, Marshall- Yes, Miller- Yes, Nutt- Yes, Otte- Yes, Righter- Yes, Schmit- Yes. Results: Yes- 10, No- 0, Abstained- 0. Motion Passed.

Tom Casady will be the Chair when current terms end in May 2015, and Sheriff Miller will be the Co-Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sheriff Miller opened the floor for public comments. One of the audience members had attended the Kearney presentation. He stated he thought it was extremely enlightening and strongly recommends anyone who hasn't been very involved or hasn't had the opportunity to see what Sheriff Miller is doing in Kearney, they should try to take the time to see it. He felt it is a real world application of the potential of broadband and that it will help people understand the point of FirstNet. Sheriff Miller pointed out that Kearney is waiting to see what FirstNet wants to film regarding Buffalo County's capabilities/uses and hopefully that video will be able to reach a wider audience. He went on to state that a lot of times

the questions asked are why would I want to use that, what are the reasons for broadband, why is it important to me, why do I care. His answer is that broadband will allow his deputies to do everything that they can do in their office in their patrol car. This allows them to efficiently do their jobs while being on the street interacting with the community.

Gene Hand mentioned the mobile pulse application they were using to measure broadband last fall is going out of business. They did collect a lot of data to show where the commercial services are located and that this information has been mapped. The Public Service Commission is trying to continue this data collection as much as possible.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:50 P.M.