

Nebraska State Emergency Communications Committee

December 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Conference Call
1:00 PM CST

Common Acronyms	
CAP	Common Alerting Protocol
COG	Collaborative Operating Group
EAN	Emergency Alert Notification
EAS	Emergency Alert System
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Standard
IPAWS	Integrated Public Alert & Warning System
LECC	Local Emergency Communications Committee
NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
NWS	National Weather Service
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
SP/SR	State Primary / State Relay Network
WEA	Wireless Emergency Alerts

Item 1 Call to Order - Rod Zeigler called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Member Name	Organization	Representing
Al Krause	Nebraska Educational Telecommunications	State Primary
Jim Skinner	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television
Jim Timm	Nebraska Broadcast Association	Cable
Paul Johnson	Douglas County Emergency Management	Local EM
Rod Zeigler, Chair*	Rural Radio Network / KRVN	Broadcast Radio
Brian Smith	NOAA / NWS	National Weather Service
Lt. Carla Schreiber	Nebraska State Patrol	State Patrol

Other Attendees: Janell Walther, Phillip Brown (Great Plains Communications)

Item 2 Approval of Sept. 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Al Krause made a motion to approve the minutes as published Jim Skinner seconded the motion. A vote was held by roll call vote; the motion passed by consensus.

Item 3 Report from Std. Op. Procedure Comm.

No report is filed from the committee. Rod Zeigler will contact the committee for a report at the next meeting.

Item 4 Decision on 2016 RMT Schedule

Rod Zeigler presented a proposed Required Monthly Test (RMT) schedule for 2016, which follows a similar schedule to 2015.

JANUARY	19	AT	10:00 AM
FEBRUARY	16	AT	11:00 PM
MARCH	15	AT	10:00 AM
APRIL	19	AT	11:00 PM
MAY	17	AT	10:00 AM
JUNE	21	AT	11:00 PM
JULY	19	AT	10:00 AM
AUGUST	15	AT	11:00 PM
SEPTEMBER	20	AT	10:00 AM
OCTOBER	18	AT	11:00 PM
NOVEMBER	15	AT	10:00 AM
DECEMBER	20	AT	11:00 PM

There is not a set initiator of the monthly tests for 2016. Jim Skinner suggested that National Weather Service be involved in the testing process. Brian Smith indicated that the previous time a live-voice backup was sent, but it does not have an option for whole state. Jim Skinner reported that some stations sent two RMTs (in Lincoln and Omaha), so the counties did not always match and any receiver getting both events sent both RMTs. The goal is to have only one Nebraska code sending the RMT.

Jim Timm made a motion to approve the proposed RMT schedule. Al Krause seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus via roll call vote of all member attendees.

Item 5 Discussion of 2016 TOR Waiver – Brian Smith

Brian Smith proposed a tornado test waiver during Severe Weather Awareness Week (March 21-25, 2016). He proposed the date of March 23, 2016 between at 10 AM – 11 AM for the drill day with a backup drill day scheduled for March 24, 2016. The TOR Test waiver will be held in conjunction with Iowa's schedule. Rod Zeigler will request this test waiver from the FCC.

Item 6 Discussion of Old Business

Rod Zeigler reported that there was an RMT delay due to severe weather last month. This delay was well-received.

Item 7 Discussion of New Business

- WEA Rules – Brian Smith, NOAA
 - Brian Smith reported that the FCC is involved in Wireless Emergency Alerts as is the National Weather Service. There will be a notice of proposed rulemaking. There is consideration of providing instructions for individuals like how to shelter in place. There is also consideration of narrowing the reach of emergency alerts by geographic location. Training considerations for WEA are also being considered. The FCC would like us to share this with public safety partners to comment. For the news release, please visit:

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1119/DOC-336483A1.pdf. For the notice, visit:

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1119/FCC-15-154A1.pdf. To view the notice and public comment site, visit:

<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=60001311617>.

- Rod Zeigler noted that the focus of EAS thus far has been a focus on broadcast and cable, and many individuals now have cellular phones. He suggested that members of the SECC visit the public comment period. Jim Skinner asked if cellular companies were on board with alerts and messages. Paul Johnson indicated that he will comment on behalf of emergency management; in particular, the extended character count may provide effective alerts. There was some discussion of multilingual EAS alerts.
- CAP System & EAS for Deaf & Blind Community Discussion – Jim Skinner
 - Jim Skinner reported that NEMA is moving ahead with choosing various vendors for the FEMA alerting system. Many vendors are available for this service. Jim Skinner. Mr. Skinner shared that there is a priority to make these messages available to the deaf and blind community. Currently, channels at his stations do not carry EAS outside of required alerts for EAS (like Presidential Alert), with the exception of the news channel (Fox 42) chose to invest in emergency crawls and text to speech audio for items like Amber alert. If the CAP system is complaint, the stations can carry more information. Jim Skinner said that he reported this information to Troy Harris at NEMA to share. Jim Skinner indicated that he is encouraging NEMA to make EAS alerts available to the deaf and blind community. Previously the SECC shared with NEMA the abilities that CAP was required to have and capabilities in cable and broadcast industries.
- Lt. Schreiber’s replacement on the SECC will be Jeremy McCoy.
- Rod Zeigler thanked Lt. Schreiber for her insight, expertise, and service to the SECC and the State of Nebraska.

Item 8 Scheduling of Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 10 at 1:00 PM via conference call.

Item 9 Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 2:13 PM.