

Nebraska State Emergency Communications Committee
December 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes
 1:00 PM CDT Meeting

Common Acronyms	
CAP	Common Alerting Protocol
COG	Collaborative Operating Group
EAN	Emergency Action 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
NPSCC	Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council
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: 1:02 PM CDT

Member Name	Organization	Representing	Present
Al Krause	Nebraska Educational Telecommunications	State Primary	X
Philip Brown	Great Plains Communications	Cable	X
Troy Harris	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	NEMA	X
Paul Johnson	Douglas County Emergency Management	Emergency Management	X
Jeromy McCoy	Nebraska State Patrol	Law Enforcement	X
Nick Paden	Cox Communications	Cable	
Ray Richards	Scottsbluff Co. E 911 Communications	NPSCC	
Jim Skinner	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television	X
Brian Smith	NOAA/ National Weather Service	Weather Services	X
Jim Timm	Nebraska Broadcast Association	Radio/Television	X
Rod Zeigler, Chair	Rural Radio Network / KRVN	Broadcast Radio	X

Other Attendees: Quinn Lewandowski, UNPPC, Secretary

Item 2 Approval of September Minutes

Jim Skinner motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting. Jimm Timm seconded the motion; the motion passed by unanimously.

Item 3 Final Report on Multi-lingual Survey

Quinn Lewandowski of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center presented the results of the Nebraska EAS Multi-lingual Survey. It saw a sharp increase of submissions, as expected, towards the end of October and early November. As of the final analysis of the survey, 227 organizations were represented by 212 survey responses. The results are listed below.

Primary Language Broadcast (n=212):

English – 97.64%

Spanish – 2.36%

Other – 0.00%

Broadcast, at any time, programming in languages other than primary language (n=212):

Yes – 6.13%

No – 93.87%

If you broadcast other languages other than your primary language, what are they? (n=14):

Spanish – 92.86%

Vietnamese – 7.14%

English – 0.00%

Other – 0.00%

Currently provide EAS reports in multiple languages (n=212):

Yes – 1.42%

No – 98.58%

If you are an English only station, do you plan to make EAS alerts in any languages other than English? (n=202):

Yes – 4.95%

No – 95.05%

Item 4 Blue Alert Update

The FCC will likely officially add Blue Alerts into the Nation's EAS. At which time, it will be up to each individual state on how they want to use blue alerts. Beyond its probable adoption by the FCC, there are no further updates on this matter at this time.

Item 5 New State EAS Plan Report

The Nebraska EAS Plan was accepted by the Federal Communications Commission. The SECC reviewed the plan, went through a small discussion on certain sections, addressed questions by members, and completed minor edits.

Al Krause motioned to approve the 2017 Nebraska EAS Plan with the discussed minor corrections. Jim Skinner seconded the motion; the motion passed by unanimously by roll call vote.

Rod will now take the plan to the next meeting of the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council (NPSCC) for approval. After the NPSCC approves the plan, the SECC will have to implement the plan with broadcasters and cable operators statewide. The SECC will wait until the NPSCC gives its approval on the plan before finalizing the effective date and implementation plan.

Item 6 In-State Alerts via IPAWS

There will soon be a RWT to test the in-state alerts via IPAWS. After a successful propagation of a RWT, there will also be a RMT to test the alert. There have been some issues with the alerts recently. There have been some alerts not reaching their intended targets, alerts reaching beyond their intended geo-fence, and a few other issues. All issues are being retested and corrected.

Item 7 Discussion of Old Business

The group pause to recognize the years of hard work that the committee put in to finally have an FCC approved State of Nebraska EAS Plan. Election of officers for the SECC was conducted for the vice chair and secretary positions.

Jim Skinner nominated Al Krause to continue on for another two year term as vice chair. Troy Harris seconded the nomination, and there were no further nominations for the vice chair position. Al Krause was elected vice chair unanimously by roll call vote, with no dissensions or abstentions.

Al Krause nominated Quinn Lewandowski to continue on for another two year term as secretary. Jim Timm seconded the nomination, and there were no further nominations for the secretary position. Quinn Lewandowski was elected secretary unanimously by roll call vote, with no dissensions or abstentions.

Item 8 Discussion of New Business

Jeremy McCoy reported that the endangered missing advisory will likely come into effect in the next month. These endangered missing advisories will be a broad requirement that will be distributed via email to broadcasters. When broadcasters receive these advisories they will determine how they wish to follow-up.

Item 9 Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Nebraska State Emergency Communications Committee was set for Wednesday, March, 14th at 1:00 PM. Details will be posted on www.ne-eas.org

Item 10 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 PM CDT.