

**Nebraska State Emergency Communications Committee**  
**September 20, 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 |
| 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: 1:04 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 June Minutes**

Jimm Timm motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting. Phil Brown seconded the motion; the motion passed by unanimously.

### **Item 3 Report on Multi-lingual Survey**

Quinn Lewandowski of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center presented the preliminary results of the EAS Multi-lingual Survey. It is expected that we will see a sharp increase of submission towards the end of October and early November. The EAS Multi-lingual Survey will close on November 6, 2017. As of the last analysis of the survey, one-hundred seventy organizations were represented by 138 survey responses. The preliminary results are listed below.

#### **Primary Language Broadcast (n=138):**

English – 98.55%

Spanish – 1.45%

Other – 0.00%

#### **Broadcast, at any time, programming in languages other than primary language (n=138):**

Yes – 7.97%

No – 92.03%

#### **If you broadcast other languages other than your primary language, what are they? (n=12):**

Spanish – 91.66%

Vietnamese – 8.33%

English – 0.00%

#### **Currently provide EAS reports in multiple languages (n=135):**

Yes – 1.48%

No – 98.52%

#### **If you are an English only station, do you plan to make EAS alerts in any languages other than English? (n=127):**

Yes – 6.3%

No – 93.7%

Quinn will finalize the draft after the completion of the survey and present it at the December meeting, as well as place a link to the survey on SECC website.

### **Item 4 AMBER Alert Update**

A two day planning workshop was held to further improve AMBER alerts. The proposed improvements take about an hour off the current and ideal alerting time. Guardians no longer have to have a signed release, and a verbal release over the phone is now acceptable. Other proposed improvements include the guardians being able to submit an online form.

### **Item 5 Silver Alert Update**

Any legislation related to Silver Alerts has been put on hold for the time being.

**Item 6 Blue Alert Update**

No update was available to report. Awaiting for FCC decision

**Item 7 National Test Discussion**

Next Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:20 PM the National Periodic Test will occur. With the hurricanes, there is a rain date of Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>

**Item 8 New EAS Plan Report**

The SECC resubmitted the plan that was submitted two years ago. The plan was reviewed and the FCC provided feedback in possible changes to the plan.

The SECC has since submitted two other plans addressing the feedback they received from their original plan and eliminated redundancies from the original 2015 plan. No word yet on if either of plans have been accepted by the FCC yet.

There was discussion about what will be action steps by the SECC after the FCC officially accepts one of Nebraska's EAS Plans. Preliminary discussions of the amount of time would be ideal for implementing an accepted EAS plan. It was recommended that the SECC use a 60 day time frame to allow stations to become compliant to an accepted EAS plan.

**Item 9 Approval of 2018 RMT Schedule**

Troy Harris motioned to approve the 2018 RMT Schedule. Jim Skinner seconded the motion; the motion passed by unanimously with no abstentions or dissensions.

The 2018 Nebraska EAS RMT Schedule has been approved. All tests are schedule for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. This approved schedule can be found on the Nebraska EAS website ([www.ne-eas.org](http://www.ne-eas.org))

All Nebraska broadcasters and cable systems are encouraged to have a representative on the Nebraska EAS email list where you will receive updates on EAS tests and alerts. Go to [www.NE-EAS.org](http://www.NE-EAS.org) to register.

**Item 10 Discussion of Old Business**

No discussion of any other old business was held.

**Item 11 Discussion of New Business**

The federal government passed the SANDy Act into law. This law gives recognition to broadcast and cell phone engineers as first responders. This will allow broadcast and cell phone engineers easier access into Federal disaster areas.

A provision was accepted allowing an extension to cell companies on certain deadlines related to Wireless Emergency Alerts. This extension was granted as some of the small cellphone companies could not comply with the deadlines.

A new alert criteria was established for a "Tornado Emergency" alert. A tornado emergency is an enhanced version of a tornado warning, which is used by the National Weather Service (NWS) in the United States during significant tornado occurrences in

highly populated areas. Although it is not a new warning type from the NWS, issued instead within a severe weather statement (or in rare cases, in the initial tornado warning), a tornado emergency generally means that significant, widespread damage is expected to occur and a high likelihood of numerous fatalities is expected with a large, strong to violent tornado.

These enhanced warnings are intended to convey the urgency of the weather situation to the general public, who are advised to take safety precautions immediately if they are in or near the projected path of a large tornado or its accompanying thunderstorm; tornado emergencies are usually identified following the preceding storm summary in the tornado warning product, which itself will denote visual or radar confirmation of "a large and extremely dangerous [or destructive] tornado" that is ongoing; precautionary action statements in the product also recommend that people in the storm's path find shelter in an underground shelter or safe room to protect themselves from the storm, if available.

On Nov. 14th, NOAA will host an integrated warning team (IWT) workshop at the UNO student union. Media, EM community, and broadcasters are invited to attend and discuss how we can improve warnings.

**Item 12 Scheduling of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was set for December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1:00 PM CDT via conference call. Phone: 1-866-423-8755, Passcode: 277659.

**Item 13 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 PM CDT.