

Nebraska SECC Meeting
Thursday, May 29, 2014
 1:00 PM CST
 Nebraska Education Telecommunications
 Lincoln, Nebraska

I. Introduction and quorum

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 PM.

Attendees:

Member Name	Organization	Representing
Jim Skinner, Chair	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television
Marty Riemenschneider	Nebraska Broadcast Association	Broadcast Association
Lt. Carla Schreiber	Nebraska State Patrol	Nebraska State Patrol
Paul Johnson	Douglas County Emergency Management	Emergency Mgmt
Alisia LaMay	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	NEMA
Brian Smith	National Weather Services	NOAA/NWA
Al Krause	Nebraska Educational Telecommunications	State Relay

Other Attendees: Janell Walther, Public Policy Center; Jim Timm, Nebraska Broadcast Association; Brad Gaunt, Sprint-Kansas City (via phone); James Duchesneau, NET

Committee Members Absent: Rod Zeigler, LeaAnn Quist, Mark Stottler

Common Acronyms	
CAP	Common Alerting Protocol
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
NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
NWS	National Weather Service
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
WEA	Wireless Emergency Alerts

Jim Timm of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association was introduced; Mr. Timm will serve as the SECC representative for NBA, replacing Marty Riemenschneider.

II. Minutes from last SECC meeting

Lt. Schreiber made a motion to approve the March 2014 meeting minutes. Marty Riemenschneider seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

III. SECC Elections

The SECC procedures call for an election every two years for the three officers: chair, vice chair, and secretary. The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center has served as secretary as a non-voting position. Bob Huber served as the Vice Chair, and he stepped down this year. Jim Skinner has served as the Chair for the last two years. Marty Riemenschneider agreed to chair a nominating committee for November election to help follow that process and be comfortable with the leadership.

IV. NEMA Updates – Alisia LaMay

NEMA is still looking for a Communications Officer; they hope to have a person hired by August so she or he can present to the broadcasters and attend the SECC meeting in August.

Brian Smith announced that NOAA received a HazCollect application from NEMA, and NWS Omaha approved it. However, it has not been approved by the Central region yet.

V. EAS Plan Updates – Lt. Carla Schreiber & Alisia LaMay

The EAS Update committee began looking at the EAS Plan appendices and is making updates based on the feedback. The EAS Plan update should be ready for review at the next SECC meeting. No major changes are proposed at this time. Once the SECC approves the plan, it will be presented to the NSPCC and then sent for review with the FCC.

VI. NASBA Position on Spanish Emergency Alerts / Multi-language EAS - Jim Timm

On May 21, the FCC released a request for public comment to amend the EAS rules to require the use of designated hitter stations to have Spanish or other language emergency information. At this time, local or state EAS alerts are not required in English by the FCC so requiring them in Spanish would be a huge change. Discussions around funding have not been brought up to date; this was a large consideration of wireless providers for WEA, who are voluntarily participating and handling the cost.

The National Alliance of State Broadcast Associations (NASBA)'s legal counsel submitted a public comment to the FCC supporting Spanish EAS but explaining that the current proposal is not practical. The Nebraska Broadcast Association (NBA) backed NASBA's position, as did most other states. The Nebraska SECC supports the NBA/NASBA position but has not submitted a comment to the FCC at this time.

VII. Other New Business

a. Web Update – Janell Walther

Individuals continue to visit the NE-EAS.org website. Janell will work with NET to add a link for the EAS logs from NET Radio via the NET EAS twitter feed.

b. Low-Power FM update – Alisia LaMay & Marty Riemenschneider

Low Power FM (LPFM) stations were not all aware they need to have EAS equipment receiving EAS messages. An update on potential LPFM EAS grant

funding for equipment is not available at this time. Nebraska was the first state to have funding available for EAS CAP equipment in 2011. Some LPFMs rebroadcast an FM-HD2 or an AM station, so their EAS required equipment may already be included in those instances.

c. Douglas County LECC Update – Paul Johnson

Douglas County is on the verge of releasing a county Emergency Alert Plan (EAP). Douglas County has put in a request for IPAWS COG. The SECC does not need to work out how the local is managing their alerts, but we need to encourage the counties to work with broadcasters to make sure there are good procedures for local EAS alerts. The SECC will work with and encourage all counties in the state to be part of an LECC. After the Douglas County EAP is released, the SECC hopes to provide other counties a set of best practices.

d. NSP – Lt. Carla Schreiber

The Nebraska State Patrol is already authorized as an IPAWS COG, but they have no plans at this time to use it unless other systems go obsolete or go down. As a COG, there are options to explore potential AMBER and other alert avenues. For now AMBER Alerts will continue to go through NWS.

e. Tower Updates - James Duchesneau

The University of Nebraska Omaha has decided to take down the broadcast tower on their campus. NWS/NWR will need to find a tower with space and for an appropriate cost. KYNE Public TV Channel 26 is planning to move onto a downtown Omaha tower.

f. TOR Alert Request – Jim Skinner

The official request for the 2015 TOR Alert for Severe Weather Awareness week has not yet been made to the FCC.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next Nebraska SECC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 1:00 PM at Douglas County/Omaha Civic Center. Paul Johnson will give a brief tour of the Emergency Operations Center following the meeting.

IX. Adjourn

Al Krause made a motion to adjourn at 2:34 PM. Jim Timm seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.