

Nebraska SECC Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013
2:00 to 4:00 PM CST
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Lincoln, NE

Minutes

- **Introduction and quorum**

Attendees:

Member Name	Organization	Representing
Jim Skinner, Chair	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television
Bob Huber, Vice Chair	NET	State Relay
Rod Ziegler	KRVN, NRRRA, PEPAC	Radio
Bob Eastwood	NEMA	State Emerg Mgmnt
Brian Smith	National Weather Services	National Weather Service
Larry Lavelle	Sarpy County Emergency Management	Emergency Management
Cpt. Kevin Knorr	Nebraska State Patrol	State Patrol
Marty Riemenschneider	Nebraska Broadcast Association	Broadcast Association

Other Attendees: Alisia LaMay, NEMA; Sue Krogman, NEMA; Janell Walther, Public Policy Center; Paul Johnson, Douglas County Emergency Management; Al Krause, NET / State Relay; Lt. Carla Schriber, Nebraska State Patrol

Committee Members Absent: LeeAnn Quist & Mark Stottler

- **Minutes from last SECC meeting**

Larry Lavelle made a motion to accept the Nov. 1, 2012 minutes with the change on page 2 that NEMA *will be* installing statewide IPAWS in the State EOC. Rod Ziegler seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

- **SECC Representation from NSP and Cable Engineers**

The SECC would like a technical representative from Cable. Jim Skinner will contact the Society of Cable Television Engineers (SCTE) for a recommendation for a representative. Mark Stottler is the backup representative since Bob Richwine resigned last year.

Lt. Carla Schreiber serves as the Emergency Preparedness coordinator for the Nebraska State Patrol, and her involvement in NEMA is well suited for the SECC Group. Cpt. Kevin Knorr recommended that Lt. Schreiber serve as the representative from the State Patrol to the SECC; Cpt. Knorr can serve in Lt. Schreiber's absence. Bob Eastwood made a motion to approve Lt. Schreiber as the primary representative from the Nebraska State Patrol and Cpt. Knorr as the back-up representative to the SECC. Rod Ziegler seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

- **Review New IPAWS Plan prepared by NEMA – Alisa LaMay, NEMA**

Paraclete (made by Interop) version 8.0 can support IPAWS. NEMA will upgrade the Paraclete servers around Nebraska when the system is ready for IPAWS. NEMA will serve as the replication server after Interop Solutions contract is complete.

Currently, a Paraclete server is being evaluated in the FEMA lab: Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC). NEMA has specified the minimum standards for IPAWS in the state. Interop will be including additional features such as mapping capabilities, pre-recorded messages (both written and audio), and the standards for a power plant exercise or event. The Nebraska IPAWS program will not be implemented until all the bugs are worked out.

Currently, Nebraska has Paraclete system in place without IPAWS in many locations throughout the state. Paraclete can be expanded to all 93 counties as they are ready. Currently Buffalo County is the only county with a COG (Collective Operating Group) Identification Number for generation of IPAWS messages, but another system than Paraclete is being used.

Most emergency situations which require public notice need to be originated from the County Emergency Managers. Counties can request assistance from NEMA if required. Statewide IPAWS activation may be sent for events such as governor's messages or potentially Amber Alerts.

NEMA & FEMA had a webinar for County Emergency Managers outlining Nebraska's requirements for IPAWS. Other Nebraska webinars may be needed as the system matures. A Statewide test is planned once evaluation of Paraclete is completed by JITC/FEMA. NEMA will need assistance finding local WEA contacts for cell phone carriers.

There are no WEA test codes available, rather it can only be evaluated from actual WEA alerts. NEMA will need the help of SECC to share this information. Carriers are listening to the demands of the customer base who want WEA alerts, however testing is a serious concern for wireless carriers. WEA and EAS messages both use IPAWS, so running a good EAS Required Monthly Test (RMT) through IPAWS will be the first step in showing that a Nebraska IPAWS message will work.

(Note from Chair: The primary concern of the SECC is EAS, but the committee is seeking to help with WEA as it can.)

IPAWS Plan

The Nebraska State IPAWS Plan has been coordinated with the FEMA IPAWS Plan. Statewide messages can be authorized by the Governor and coordinated through NEMA and supported by NSP. The state plan is a dynamic document, but this draft reflects the current intentions for the plan. Locals / Counties can release their own alerts. The Nebraska State Patrol can send out their own alerts if they apply for a COG Identification. If there is a need for a statewide alert, NEMA would be involved already. NEMA does not have a standardized template for messages for the counties to use. Alisia will add the Nebraska State Patrol to Item II.B in the IPAWS Plan. The state IPAWS Plan and the State EAS Plan will be an annex to the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), they are intended to operate in tandem. The NEMA IPAWS plan is a framework by which all local agencies can use in their Standard Operating Procedures.

All WEA cellular alerts operate via polygon technology now, rather than by county. Cellular carriers policy is that if a cell site coverage is substantially in the polygon, that cell site will receive the alert. National Weather Service Alerts and WEA polygon notification (capable through IPAWS) can cross

county and state lines. Governance regarding county lines will need to be addressed to ensure that EAS or WEA messages sent from counties are not duplicative.

The question was raised as to whether the local emergency communication plans should be approved by the local LP-1. If the LP-1 is expected to respond in a particular way it would be important to notify the LP-1 of the plan and inform them of the EAS codes they should have turned on. Likewise, this tells Emergency Managers which codes broadcasters will not carry. NEMA does not require a signature on local plans but communication with broadcasters is essential for Local EAS Plans to be effective.

- **FCC for State Plan – Jim Skinner, Chair**

The Nebraska State EAS Plan is still pending a response from the FCC. Jim Skinner will ask them in person on Monday. Since our previous page has no signature on it, in the future we should include wording that says “Thirty days from submission to the FCC, we will consider this plan approved unless changes are requested.”

KNCY Nebraska City is being added as an LP-1 in the State EAS Plan. This opens the door for a Local EAS Plan to call for Cooper Nuclear Power Plant to send emergency information via EAS to KNCY as a center point. The SECC does not mean to dictate the local procedures but simply desires to offer an EAS LP-1 in the area if that can be incorporated by emergency personnel in local plans.

- **EAS Hacking Nationally and FCC Communications – Jim Skinner, Chair**

The hacking incident on EAS equipment in three other states was not via IPAWS. FEMA believes that the hacking into the system was by someone who knew the equipment very well. DASDAC was the brand of alerting that was hit. EAS systems can cause a lot of damage if hacked, so stations and cable systems have been working to secure EAS boxes.

This event did not cause a panic, but helps us prepare to be more secure in the future. The Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 74 website has been unsuccessfully attacked by code, showing this is a constant threat.

- **NWS Sending RMT in March – Jim Skinner, Chair & Brian Smith, National Weather Service**

The last EAS RMT with NWS statewide came last November, and it had some problems because the messages from the different offices didn’t match. Brian Smith suggested a simplification of the process for the March 19 RMT would be to have only the Valley NWS Office send the alert. Then NET as the State Relay would forward that alert statewide. Stations need to make sure they can accept an RMT from NWS as the source.

- **Weather Awareness Week - Brian Smith, National Weather Service**

For the first time, this year Nebraska and Iowa will do TOR drill the same day and time. It is part of the Severe Weather Awareness week. A special waiver from the FCC is required to do a real code TOR test. The storm prediction center will issue a Tornado Watch, followed up by the warnings from each office.

The Real Code TOR test is controversial. For one thing TV Broadcast & Cable visually show the alert as real. A deaf person or someone watching with the sound down would NOT hear that this is a test.

- **Website update – Janell Walther, Public Policy Center**

The Public Policy Center continues to do updates on www.NE-EAS.org for the SECC. The URL is actually held by Jim Skinner. The site hosts meeting announcements and the State EAS Plan, so the FCC is able to link to the site. The website also lists the Nebraska RMT schedule. In the last three months, there were 244 visits to the website, with an average duration of 1:16 (more than one minute).

- **Other Old Business**

The Nebraska Public Safety Communication Council (NPSCC) approved the SECC as an official working group. The NPSCC will be sent updates on the state EAS plan and minutes from SECC meetings. Janell Walther is our primary representative to the Council.

FEMA was out to visit KRVN, and signed-off on the operational EM facility, so that KRVN can be on the air even in a large-scale disaster.

- **New Business**

No new business.

- **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 23 at 1:00 PM, likely held at DOR / NSP dispatch location in Omaha. In August, SECC will work to coordinate with the Nebraska Broadcasters meeting.

Common Acronyms	
CAP	Common Alerting Protocol
CMAS*	Commercial Mobile Alert System (* Now called WEA)
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 Association
NWS	National Weather Service
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
WEA	Wireless Emergency Alerts (to cell phones)