

## Nebraska State Emergency Communications Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 16, 2011 9AM to Noon, CDT

### SECC Minutes

**Attendees:** Bob Eastwood, LeeAnn Quist, Bob Huber, Jim Skinner, Ray Richards (via phone), Bob Richwine, Brian Smith, Rod Zeigler, Al Krause, Mark Stottler, Marty Riemenschneider, Janell Walther

Guests: Wendell Woody, Paul Johnson (via phone),

#### **New Members from Cable**

Currently, eight people sit on the committee. LeeAnn Quist is proposed to serve as the representative from the Nebraska Cable Association to make a total of nine members. End users and those who will be impacted by the EAS plan will need to be included in SECC meeting invitations so they may have input.

#### **Introduction of Ray Richards from NCOR**

Ray Richards is a member of the Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR) and from the Panhandle Emergency Management Region in Nebraska. He will serve as a non-voting member of SECC and will report to NCOR on SECC projects. NCOR assists with interoperability planning in Nebraska. There is also the Nebraska State Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) subcommittee that works with the build-out of interoperability projects. The interoperability project is being built out across Nebraska from west to east.

#### **Request from FCC for list of LP-1 and LP-2 stations**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requested the status of Local Primary One and Two Stations (LP-1 & LP-2) from Jim Skinner as Chair of the SECC. This request likely relates to the first EAS national test which is scheduled for November 9, 2011 at 1:00 PM CST (2:00 PM EST). In Nebraska, most stations monitor LP-1s, which is recommended but not required under Nebraska's state EAS plan. Nebraska does not have LP-2 stations. Jim Skinner will speak to the presently designated LP-1 stations regarding the FCC's request for contact information. The question is does the station plan to continue being classified as EAS LP-1 in the state plan. Also who is the best official management contact for national EAS purposes.

In the Nebraska State EAS Operational Plan, all broadcast and cable (except NET) are called "Local Primary" (LP) which is easily confused with the FCC required LP-1 stations for each region. To avoid confusion the SECC agreed that all local stations and cable systems should no longer have the label of LP. Suggestions for a new title to include in the state plan where as follows:

- "Local Broadcasters & Cable" (LBC)

- "All Broadcast & Cable" (ABC)

- "Nebraska Broadcasters and Cable" (NBC)

Currently the FCC Rules Part 11 are being rewritten. Rod Zeigler told the group that it is impossible to do a total update on our state plan until the new FCC Rules are ratified and clarified. The SECC agreed that we should update all that we can to be released October 1, 2011 to coincide with the new CAP requirements. The plan needs to be easily changeable as inevitable EAS practices will be updated regularly over the next few years.

## **Report on Grant Program**

A second round of grant applications will be accepted for cable providers and broadcasters with a new due date of August 26, 2011. This new deadline will still allow for a 50% rebate. All relevant, eligible equipment will be considered for reimbursement. NEMA requires the paid invoices with serial numbers and the address of installation for reimbursement.

## **Approval of SECC Procedures**

Each voting member may submit a designee to attend to vote in their place to make it easier to reach a quorum. The committee must agree on the designees. There are no term limits on the members, just on the elected officers. Bob Richwine made a motion to adopt the SECC Procedures as written. Rod Ziegler seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

The recommended members are as follows:

Broadcast TV Representative: Jim Skinner (Chair appointed by FCC)  
Cable TV Representative: Bob Richwine  
Radio Representative: Rod Ziegler  
NWS Representative: Brian Smith  
NEMA Representative: Bob Eastwood  
State Relay Representative: Bob Huber  
Local EM Representative: Larry Lavelle  
Broadcast Association Representative: Marty Riemenschneider  
Cable Association Representative: LeeAnn Quist

Bob Huber made a motion to ratify the listed nine voting members representing their entities. Bob Richwine seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Alternate Representatives:  
Cable TV Representative: Mark Stottler  
NWS Representative: Jim Meyer (not present)  
Relay Representative: Al Krause  
Cable Association Representative: Mike Drahota (not present)

Members may suggest an alternate by the next meeting. Bob Huber made a motion to approve the listed alternate representatives. Marty Riemenschneider seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Bob Huber made a motion to appoint the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center to serve as Secretary and perform secretarial duties for the SECC. Bob Richwine seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Bob Huber offers to serve as Vice Chair. Rod Ziegler motions to end the nominations. Bob Richwine seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Bob Eastwood made a motion to appoint Bob Huber as Vice Chair. Bob Richwine seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

## **Update from NWS on date for TOR Drill in 2012**

No significant progress on the TOR Drill scheduling for 2012 has been made due to the flooding issues across the state. This discussion will be postponed to the next SECC meeting.

*History note from May meeting JES. The Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers (NAEM) at their conference proposed March 19-23, 2012 as the Sever Weather Awareness week. This would put the real EAS TOR test on Wednesday March 21, 2012. NWS has proposed having the Awareness week the first week of April so Omaha and Council Bluffs do not have conflicting tests. Sioux City and South Sioux City have the same problem. Broadcasters and Cable find it difficult to participate in two such events two weeks apart both of which fire off EAS encoders. This problem is one of the reasons that some local stations do not put EAS Tornado warnings directly to air! Public safety is endangered rather than enhanced by the present testing system. The debate continues.*

Brian Smith reported that Douglas County requested NWS Valley to make sure that the "EVI" EAS Code for "Immediate Evacuation" be ready to send via NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) due to present flood dangers. It is important that the EVI and "FFW" for Flash Flood Warning be forwarded by broadcasters. The direct listenership to NWR is small. Most broadcasters should have the 2003 codes in their EAS box. New CAP equipment has all the newest codes. Brian Smith asked that broadcasters be encouraged to have EVI and FFW set as immediate forward in their EAS equipment. The current FCC Rules do not allow any EAS codes to be required except the EAN/EAT and tests. Jim Skinner and Marty Riemenschneider agreed to send such a request to as many stations as we could contact. Also to ask how many stations are set to carry immediately.

### **Future Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21 at 9 AM in Valley, Nebraska at the National Weather Service.

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Minutes submitted by Janell Walther and Jim Skinner 7/1/2011, To be posted at [www.NE-EAS.org](http://www.NE-EAS.org)