

# Nebraska State Emergency Communications Committee

March 10th, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Conference Call 1:00 PM to 4:00PM (or earlier) CST

Common Acronyms	
CAP	Common Alerting Protocol
COG	Collaborative Operating Group
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
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** - Rod Zeigler called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

Member Name	Organization	Representing
Al Krause	Nebraska Educational Telecommunications	State Primary
Jim Skinner	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television
Jim Timm	Nebraska Broadcast Association	Radio/Television
Paul Johnson	Douglas County Emergency Management	Local EM
Rod Zeigler, Chair*	Rural Radio Network / KRVN	Broadcast Radio
Brian Smith	NOAA / NWS	National Weather Service
Jeromy McCoy	Nebraska State Patrol	State Patrol

*Members not in attendance:* Troy Harris (NEMA), Bryan Smith (NOAA), Ray Richards (Emergency Management)

*Nonmember Attendees:* Janell Walther, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center; Jerry McQuaid; Tom Smith, Region 44 Emergency Management; Nick Padin, Cox Communications

## **Item 2. Approval of Dec. 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Jim Timm made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Al Krause seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

## **Item 3. Report from Jim Timm on NASBA conference**

Jim Timm reported on the recent NASBA conference in Washington, D.C. He asked Admiral Simpson about the process for pending EAS plans. He reported that the EAS plan guidelines

would be a hybrid based on what was already submitted and upcoming guidelines. Admiral Simpson did not offer a timeline for next steps. Nebraska is currently awaiting review of our EAS plan.

#### **Item 4. Discussion on current EAS NPRM**

The FCC opened topics on not only state plans but also EAS delivery systems. There is some discussion of redundant delivery systems. There is also consideration of multi-lingual EAS; however, there was a discussion at the NASBA conference of allowing individual broadcasters to choose what languages they would like to broadcast. The EAS community is waiting for further information from public comments on the NPRM's and the FCC.

#### **Item 5. Discussion of 2/24/16 NPT Test**

The regional NPT test went well. The instances of issues came up when EAS boxes were mis-programmed. Al Krause, NET, reported that all comments he heard were positive. Al Krause and Rod Zeigler reported the comments about the NPT to Al Kenyon. There were comments of improved audio through the NPT test. The SECC would like CAP to be in Nebraska, when available. Some outside agencies asked if the test could be cancelled for their state. The SECC would like to send any alert messages, such as the need to cancel an RMT, to notify of any changes of tests or activities. Jim Timm regularly provides an update to managers and engineers to notify them of alerts; he would like for them to have early access to notification. NEMA currently sends alerts, and NET is the agent sending alerts for them.

Jim Timm will send Janell Walther the email lists so she can be keeper of contacts as needed. Al Kenyon will suggest to FEMA that they need a communication “alert” to notify organizations if an alert is cancelled or share information about national emergency messages.

#### **Item 6. Discussion of 2016 TOR Waiver**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, Iowa and Nebraska will use live Tornado Codes for severe weather week. If weather precludes this TOR alert, then the TOR live code will be on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Iowa and Nebraska's alerts were 10 minutes apart last year. The alert will likely be held at 10 AM.

#### **Item 7. Confirmation of New Members**

Jeromy McCoy is the new representative from the Nebraska State Patrol. Jim Skinner made a motion to approve Jeremy McCoy as the NSP representative. Al Krause seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Nick Paden reported that he is attending today's SECC meeting on Cox Communication's behalf. He will check with Curt Stamp to find if there will be a regular representative from Cox Communications to serve as representation of the cable industry.

Rod Zeigler suggested the LP-FM's are not represented on the group. Jim Timm said there was not a state association of LP-FM organizations. Zeigler tabled the discussion for a future meeting.

#### **Item 8. Old Business**

The Weather Service is not listed as providing a monthly test on our current monthly test schedule. SECC suggested that NWS could not regularly be the originator, so no alert originator is listed.

#### **Item 9. Discussion of New Business**

Jim Skinner asked about NEMA's search for a new CAP system. There was a survey about use of alerting and current use of the Paraclete system. Jim mentioned that CAP works well for television where text matches the audio.

#### **Item 10. Scheduling of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM via conference call.

#### **Item 11. Adjournment**

Rod Zeigler adjourned the meeting at 1:59 PM.