

**SECC Meeting
September 10, 2016
NET, Lower Level Conference Room
1 PM – 4 PM**

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

1. Call to Order

- a. Rod Zeigler called the meeting to order at 1:11 PM.

Member Name	Organization	Representing
Al Krause	Nebraska Educational Telecommunications	State Primary
Troy Harris	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	NEMA
Jim Skinner	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television
Jim Timm	Nebraska Broadcast Association	Radio/Television
Rod Zeigler, Chair	Rural Radio Network / KRVN	Broadcast Radio
Jeromy McCoy	Nebraska State Patrol	State Patrol
Brian Smith	NOAA / NWS	National Weather Service

Members not in attendance: Paul Johnson, EM, Ray Richards, NPSCC

Other Attendees: Phillip Brown, Great Plains Communications; James Duchesneau, NET; Quinn Lewandowski, PPC; Janell Walther, PPC, Secretary.

2. Approval of March 10, 2016 Minutes

Jim Timm made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes as noted: update NBA's representing agency as Radio/Television; update Item 5 to read "regional NPT" rather than "national NPT," update the CAP sentence to read "The SECC would like CAP to be in Nebraska, when available. Al Krause seconded the motion; motion was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of June 9, 2016 Minutes

Jim Timm made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes as noted: update Dave Klein's agency from Cox Communications to KVNO, and update NBA's representing organization to Radio/TV. Jim Skinner seconded the motion; the motion was approved by consensus.

4. Discussion of EAS/ SECC changes

a. ETRS (EAS Test Reporting System)

Several new changes have come down from the FCC recently. Some locations were licensed with the incorrect latitude and longitude. One cable representative was concerned about FRN registration in all counties covered. Everybody doing the ETRS in Nebraska was following the 2007 plan. Rod Zeigler asked if there were questions on the ETRS Form 1. There is no way to include FEMA PEP equipment on the form. Al Krause completed the form for the FRN's for the University and for the State. He submitted NET's ETRS Form 1 to the FCC without issue. Rod Zeigler noted that one common question was about the geographic zone; and the FCC said to refer to the State Plan. Rod advised any that asked to describe their coverage area in that blank. One potential issue is that the September 28th National Test is in the middle of the Society of Cable and Technical Engineers Annual Conference. So many entities submitting ETRS Form 2 in one day may cause website problems for the FCC.

b. National Test

There is a National Test on September 28th at 1 PM Central. By 11:59 PM EDT after the test, each participant must fill out Form 2 which asks if you received the alert, and if you forwarded it. Form 3 must be completed before Nov. 7th and has more detailed questions. This NPT will mimic an EAN. If individual's have trouble accessing the system, recommend that they continue to try to access the site. The FCC is working with everybody. The last National Test didn't work, but it helped to assess technology. DHS/FEMA learned that there was a need to replace the old switch, and since then new equipment has been installed. Jim Skinner asked if it was possible to for IPAWS to send out the alert to all 20,000 participants at once. It's likely to be successful since it is broadcasting one code to multiple systems.

c. Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) in Nebraska – Troy Harris

OCIO and NEMA has partnered with Alert Sense to provide IPAWS capability in Nebraska. The Paraclete contract expired in May, and the state did not renew the contract. Those with Paraclete can still use it, but will need to set up their own contracts with Interop Solutions. Alert Sense provides IPAWS with CAP formatted alerts. Everyone with alerting authority should get certificates in the next two weeks, and they will be activated in the system. NEMA will notify Emergency Managers of this change as well. Two state agencies (NEMA and NSP) have alerting authority, and they will be issued certificates to issue alerts first. Alert Sense will provide support and paperwork help with NEMA and Local

authorities for alerting. After everyone completes their paperwork, 3 months later they will receive their alerting authority. AMBER alerts will go through Alert Sense also.

Silver Alert (an alert for a person of lower mental faculties who is missing) doesn't yet have a code in EAS. A Civil Emergency Message went out once in Pottawatomie County previously, but it was misconstrued in the EAS, though it was clarified via audio. If we do testify, the AMBER system has rigid standards. Troy suggested that other alerts like Silver, go through the same rigid procedures, in part to prevent too many alerts. Counties and EM Regions have their own FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standard) code. Others are considering *Blue Alerts*, which is if a law enforcement officer is shot and individuals are searching for the shooter. However, there is an argument that these color-coded alerts don't have a place on the EAS system. Rather, local partnerships can be made as well. Jim Timm would like to gather feedback from the NBA membership and board to inform opinions. Law enforcement's view is helpful to understand the potential for these types of alerts. There will be additional discussion on alerting use and requirements. Nebraska requires alerting authorities to publish a plan or standard operating procedures to describe what, how, and who has authority to create alerts. It is always a requirement to take the IPAWS course. Alerts are changing rapidly.

d. Multi-Lingual Alerting (LPFM/TV/Cable/Broadcast)

The FCC said that they want Multi-lingual alerting and that the SECCs are going to request from every cable and broadcaster to ask 1) What languages do you provide alerts in, and 2) If not, then why not? The SECC has to request this information and add it to the state plan to note which languages all EAS alerts are in and provide ongoing maintenance for the list. The SECC has one year to complete this task (from the publication time at the OMB). The SECC has to gather this information, put it in the state plan within 6 months after the year of information gathering. At that time, the FCC will review all of the information to see if there is enough reporting being done in foreign languages in these areas. Rod Zeigler spoke with John King, the FCC attorney for us; one concern is that broadcasters and cable companies *may* be assigned which languages to broadcast alerts in.

In Minnesota, they do one EAS in English with the full script. The EAS box comes back with the English, Spanish, or other languages with one right after another without the full alert. This may take a long time for each languages, which can be difficult for getting out full alerts and interrupting programming. WEA poses a good solution to this because individual phones can translate.

Our difficulty will be making contact with every cable and broadcast operator in the state for LPFM, LPTV, Broadcast Radio, Cable, and others. The FCC has a list

of all the cable and radio operators in the entire state that we can pull. These include all the cities that are covered with cable and who their cable operator is, and gives an address, but does not include contact information for each station. Larger cable companies are not in the state may cause a challenge to our data collection. The executive director of the Nebraska Cable Association left and there is no intention to replace that position. These roles are dwindling. Jim Timm went to the public service commission to find an in-state contact, and that was a challenge. LPFM's can also cause issues because they can be harder to reach. Al Krause recommended talking to Chuck Ramold, and Jim Timm had some contacts in his organization that he can handle conversations with them.

Online alerting can cause its own issues with more uses of Roku, Sling TV, and others.

Next Steps: Rod Zeigler will generate the contact list. Janell and Quinn will create an online survey and contact script to review at the next SECC meeting. Rod will submit an agenda item to Quinn to get on the NSPCC agenda to review these changes to the SECC's work.

e. New State Plan

Other states have been reviewed and approved over the summer, but no new plans have been reviewed since then. We have submitted a recent EAS Plan to the FCC. We are missing a second, separate EAN source to every broadcaster and cable. Suzanne Goucher from Maine has the same problem, and they consider CAP to be a secondary source. Antoine Johnson, FEMA-IPAWS, said that CAP is an EAN source. In our last EAS plan, we put in that our second EAN was CAP, and we haven't heard anything back from there. When the online plan comes up, we'll review our plan again. Nebraska needs a functional plan that meets the FCC requirements. The FCC will come out with a template in the next year, we assume.

f. New FCC Information

There is a new FCC handbook available; it is on the SECC website and the FCC website. There is no Spanish-language handbook available at this time.

5. Discussion of Old Business

There were challenges with State Relay alerts in Omaha. KVNO is the primary relay into Omaha. These items need to be in the LECC plan for Douglas County.

6. Discussion of New Business

Rod Zeigler received notification of AWARN webinar on September 13th, 2016th, 1-2 CDT. Some areas have implemented other alerting models using ATSC 3.0. It could be possible in the future that you don't need to turn your radio/cell on in the future, the alert will come over automatically; Japan uses this for tsunamis and earthquakes.

7. Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next SECC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 14th** at 10:00 AM via conference call (unless a template shows up).

Jim Timm nominated for Rod Zeigler to continue as chair of the SECC. Troy Harris seconded the nomination.

Jim Skinner nominated Al Krause to continue as vice chair of the SECC. Troy Harris seconded.

Jim Skinner nominated the Public Policy Center to continue as secretary for the SECC. Troy Harris seconded the nomination.

No other nominations were made. Votes will be held at the next SECC.

8. Adjournment

Al Krause made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45. Jeromy McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was passed by consensus.