

Nebraska SECC Meeting
Wednesday, August 14, 2013
1:00 PM CST
LaVista Conference Center

Minutes

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 Association
NWS	National Weather Service
RMT	Required Monthly Test
RWT	Required Weekly Test
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
WEA	Wireless Emergency Alert

1. Introduction and quorum

Attendees:

Member Name	Organization	Representing
Jim Skinner, Chair	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television
Bob Huber, Vice Chair	NET	State Relay
Rod Ziegler	KRUN, NRRRA, PEPAC	Radio
Bob Eastwood	NEMA	State Emergency Mgmt
Jim Myer	National Weather Services	National Weather Service
Aaron Alward	Sarpy County Emergency Management	Emergency Management
Lt. Carla Schreiber	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; Al Krause, NET/ State Relay; Lynn Marshall, Sarpy County Emergency Management; Jim McKee, Nebraska Dept. of Roads

Committee Members Absent: Bob Richwine, LeeAnn Quist, Marty Reimenschneider

Rod Ziegler made a motion to designate Jim Myer as the official back up representative for Brian Smith, National Weather Service. Bob Eastwood seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

2. Review of June minutes

Jim Skinner, Chair, summarized the minutes from the June 2013 meeting. The Nebraska State Patrol is completing paperwork to become an authorized COG; FEMA will sign the Memoranda of Understanding. Alisia has tested the equipment for emergency alerts through IPAWS. Jeromy McCoy of the Nebraska State Patrol coordinates AMBER Alert messages. The Nebraska AMBER Alert process is very streamlined.

To use EAN on Premier Radio Network, a receiver must have an open port. Otherwise, Premier Radio must provide a system-wide override to send an EAN.

Rod Ziegler made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2013 meeting with the typographical errors corrected. Bob Eastwood seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

3. RMT / RWT

Alisia Lemay will provide a demonstration of IPAWS and Paraclete messages on Sept. 4, 2013 at NEMA. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Alisia so she can be sure to register attendees with the gate staff. To date, there has been a 99.25% success rate on message sending, including text-to-speech messages. Failures were related to sending attachments. Alisia will share this demonstration information with local emergency managers, LP-1 stations, and others. Jim will send the LP-1 contacts to Alisia.

The required monthly test (RMT) is scheduled for Sept. 17, and the RMT is dependent on how the demonstration works. Marty Reimenschneider offered to set up a survey for broadcasters to see how the RMT was received and gather feedback. To receive the message, broadcasters will need to have their Text-to-Speech (TTS) turned on. In Wisconsin, 70% of stations received a TTS message – 47% found the audience acceptable, 21% did not air the message, 6-7% reported silence.

Unlike RMTs, RWTs (Required Weekly Tests) do not require a log, so they can be sent more often as a test. SAGE and DASDAQ systems do not allow for lexicon manipulation even though emergency alert providers like CodeSpear do. IPAWS will push out nuclear alerts related to Cooper and Ft. Calhoun stations.

4. AMBER Plan Updates – Bob Eastwood and Bob Huber

The AMBER Plan Committee met and discussed whether AMBER Alerts should be regional or statewide for both broadcasters and phones. Currently, Nebraska operates using a statewide AMBER system. Only thirteen AMBER Alerts have been issued in Nebraska. The AMBER Plan Committee decided to keep AMBER Alerts state-wide to allow for maximum dissemination. The Committee also decided that time of day did not matter for AMBER Alert messages since they are sent so rarely. The AMBER Plan Committee discussed the presence of “dots” in the audio and how to prevent dots from the audio in TTS communication. CAP messages are expected to be cleaner. Character limitations are partially important when it comes to WEA and EAS alerts. AMBER plans will directly inform the stat EAS plan.

5. EAS Plan

Several revisions have been made to the EAS plan since it was submitted in July 2012. The changes are noted attached to these minutes in an Appendix. In particular, the FCC has requested that the phrase “multi-channel video providers” be used to indicate multiple sources including cable, broadcast, and internet-provided television. In the plan, we will encourage the monitor of the National Weather Service and LP-1’s. While we anticipate requiring the monitoring of LP-1s, LP-1 monitoring is not required at this time. Bob Eastwood will add the alert originator into Section 10. The EAS Plan will be sent to SECC members with the changes highlighted. Members can vote to approve via email; once finalized the revised plan will be presented to the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council, made up of state and regional representatives, for their concurrence.

6. Old Business

At the last meeting, we discussed wanting a representative from cellular companies to sit on the SECC. Sprint noted that they have a national representative who can discuss WEA. The SECC will invite the national representative to participate in the next meeting.

7. New Business

Bob Huber will be made the Interim Chief Technology Officer at NET; as such he recommends his back-up representative, Al Krause, sit on the SECC. The SECC will vote on the change in representation at the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 5 at 1:00 PM at the Department of Roads in Omaha.

Update: The meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, December 12 at 1:00 PM at the Department of Roads in Omaha.