

Nebraska SECC Meeting
Thursday, August 21, 2014
 1:00 PM CST
 Douglas County Civic Center
 Omaha, NE

1. Welcome & Review of Agenda – Jim Skinner

Member Name	Organization	Representing
Jim Skinner, Chair	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television
Jim Timm	Nebraska Broadcast Association	Broadcast Association
Paul Johnson	Douglas County Emergency Management	Emergency Mgmt
Alisia LaMay	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	NEMA
Brian Smith	National Weather Services	NOAA/NWA
Rod Zeigler	Rural Radio Network / KRVN	Broadcast Radio
Al Krause	Nebraska Educational Telecommunications	State Relay

Other Attendees: Janell Walther, Public Policy Center; James Duchesneau, NET; Jim McGee; Richard Dennis, KIOS-OPS; Jim Leedham, Salem Communication; Mark H. Voris, VSS Catholic Comm; Lynn Marshall, Sarpy County Emergency Management; Aaron Alward, Douglas County EM

Committee Members Absent: Lt. Carla Schreiber, LeeAnn Quist, Mark Stottler

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
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

2. Review of May 2014 Minutes – Janell Walther & Jim Skinner

Jim Timm made a motion to approve the May 2014 minutes as distributed. Alisia LaMay seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

3. SECC Elections

SECC elections for chair will be held at the next SECC meeting. Alisia LaMay nominated Rod Ziegler for SECC Chair. Al Krause nominated Jim Skinner for SECC Chair. Jim Timm

made a motion to close nominations. Brian Smith seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus. A vote will be held at the next SECC meeting.

Alisia nominated to retain Al Krause as the Vice Chair of the SECC. Jim Timm made a motion to close nominations. Paul Johnson seconded the motion. Rod Ziegler nominated to retain the Public Policy Center as the secretary for the SECC. Paul Johnson seconded the motion. The motions to retain the Vice Chair and Secretary until next year passed by consensus.

4. EAS Plan Update – Alisia LaMay and Rod Ziegler

The EAS Plan Working Group: Alisia LaMay, Rod Ziegler, and Carla Schreiber prepared a revised version of the EAS Plan for SECC review. The revised EAS plan focused on broadcast and included the FCC requirements. Procedural items will be created in new Standard Operating Procedures for EAS. The EAS Plan working group suggested a new working group begin working on the more detailed Standard Operating Procedures. Brian Smith volunteered to serve on this working group.

The 47 CFR Part 11 Section 21 requires a second EAN source. Rod Ziegler proposed that LP-1s are a secondary EAN source network, so he mapped out a way for a FM LP-1 broadcast stations in Nebraska to be able to receive a PEP/EAN feed from a source other than the Nebraska SP/SR network. This modification would meet the FCC requirements for a second EAN monitoring system; the primary being the State Relay System. This is tantamount to traditional daisy-chain EAS distribution which is less than ideal, but is adequate for a backup.

The National Weather Service is not considered an EAN source, as NWS is not connected to carry a *live* presidential message. IPAWS is not designed to distribute an EAN audio message either. Currently neither can be considered a second EAN source.

An LP-1 chain as a secondary EAN source will call for a significant change in the Nebraska EAS Plan. Each station and cable system will be required to monitor an LP-1 station as well as the State Relay Network. If the state plan can only require two local sources then the requirement to monitor NWR would change to being “highly recommended.” In effect LP-1 and NWR would swap positions in the priority of monitoring requirements.

Some stations and cable only monitor the minimum required and may not install receivers and antennas to monitor the three sources 1)SP/SR, 2)LP-1 and 3)NWR. The SECC likely cannot require monitoring three sources plus CAP/IPAWS. We would keep NWS/NWR in the EAS Plan as an optional third source. NWS is part of the Nuclear Power Plant Plan and is a source for Amber Alerts, making them an important monitoring source. A big concern is that some LP-1 stations do not interrupt coverage of emergency events with local EAS alerts. Jim Timm will review the question of requiring

three sources plus IPAWS with legal counsel. The Working Group will also review the question of NWS monitoring requirement.

The SECC considered if KRVN should become the State Primary 2 (SP-2) since they will be the origination point for the secondary EAN Source and are a PEP station. The SECC opted not to create an SP-2 at this time since we do not know of other states that use that designation. Rod will research the question and report at the next meeting.

Other considerations for the EAS Plan Working Group:

- LECCs are not mentioned in the EAS Plan as written. They could be added in the future Standard Operating Procedures and/or as part of the organization and responsibilities. The CFR mentions that local plans in that they encourage the development of LECCs and LECC plans. The EAS Plan Working Group will consider this addition.
- Page 7, Paragraph 2: EAS Activation delay time for RMTs is 15 minutes for LP-1s and 60 minutes for LB/Cs.
- Web links in the state plan should only go to the www.NE-EAS.org website so that changes to the links do not need to be made inside the state plan.
- EAS Plan Part IV, 2nd Paragraph: Cite FCC requirement 47.CFR.11.2.A for the last sentence.
- There are occasional instances where the State Relay is not mentioned, but perhaps should be.
- Consider modifying or deleting Section IV, Paragraph 4 & first sentence in paragraph 5.
- Footnote 3: This note should be part of the Standard Operating Procedures rather than the Plan.
- Use cable-casters or cable systems / broadcasters or broadcast stations for consistency throughout the document.
- Page 6, Paragraph 4: Consider adding appropriate wording for LP-1 monitoring assignment: LP-1s must monitor all counties in their coverage area.
- Review if FCC approval of the SECC Chair should be reflected in Section II “Authority.”
- Define ADR as “Cancel Emergency Messages” since that is the primary use by NWS of the ADR EAS code.
- The state will ask local emergency management to put the required and recommended codes in their Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP).

The EAS Plan Working Group will review the suggestions and changes, and present a revised version prior to the next meeting. If acceptable, this plan may be voted on at the next SECC meeting.

5. Website Update – Janell Walther

There is some question as to how the website should be maintained. The SECC will keep up to date meeting notes and times as part of the website. However, categorical items such as monitoring assignments and plans should receive SECC approval. Rod Ziegler will submit corrections to the LP-1 monitoring assignment to Jim Skinner. Since LP-1 monitoring is not currently required, we will hold off from supplying any more updates to the FCC until accepted by the committee. Janell will post the NOAA All-Hazards Radio and SP/SR monitoring assignments on the website. Minutes will be posted only after approval by the whole committee. Drafts will be shared via email.

The 2007 EAS Plan was generally accepted by all broadcast communities. Rod Ziegler made a motion to remove the 2012 EAS Plan from the website and keep the 2007 EAS Plan as the most recently accepted plan. Al Krause seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

6. SECC Charter Update – Janell Walther

The current SECC Charter and Procedures do not reflect the new assignment under the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council. Janell Walther will make the suggested changes, adding proposed policies for website maintenance and EAS approval into the SECC Charter & Procedures. The proposed changes will be emailed prior to the next meeting for review.

7. Douglas County Emergency Alert (EA) Plan – Paul Johnson & Aaron Alward

The Douglas County EA Plan was approved by the Douglas County LECC, but it will need adjustments when the new State EAS Plan is approved. The Douglas County plan empowers the Local Emergency Communication Committee (LECC) to work with responders and broadcasters on alerts. Once Douglas County is approved for COG (“Collaborative Operating Group”) status, they can send alerts from their Emergency Operations Center. IPAWS and WEA offer wide dissemination. Douglas County uses PING4 to issue alerts for hyper-local and mobile alerts. If they become a COG, then Douglas County will switch the HazCollect monitoring, though they do not yet have an EAS box installed. Douglas County also has Alert Sense (MyState USA), and can be used for WEA and internal alerting. They can also use Alert Sense for IPAWS.

8. Member Comments

August 3, a Civil Emergency Message (CEM) was accidentally sent out for the Cooper Nuclear Plant, but it did not go out on EAS. Brian Smith has followed up with the forecaster and the emergency manager. They suspect it went out on WEA in Nemaha and Richardson County.

9. Future Meetings

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, November 13 at 1:00 PM in Lincoln. Location and date to be confirmed.

***Update: The meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 1:00 PM at the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency in Lincoln, NE.*