

**Nebraska SECC Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 15, 2012**  
**1:00 to 4:00 PM CST**  
**Cornhusker Hotel – Olive Branch Room**

**Minutes**

- **Introduction and quorum**

*Attendees:*

Member Name	Organization	Representing
Jim Skinner, Chair	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television
Bob Huber, Vice Chair	NET	State Relay
Rod Zeigler	KRVN, NRRRA, PEPAC	Radio
Bob Eastwood	NEMA	State Emerg Mgmnt
LeaAnn Quist	Great Plains	Cable Association
Brian Smith	National Weather Services	National Weather Service
Larry Lavelle	Sarpy County Emergency Management	Emergency Management
Kevin Knorr	Nebraska State Patrol	State Patrol
Mark Stottler	Great Plains	Cable Engineers (sub)

*Other Attendees: Al Krause NET, Mark Dekraai, Public Policy Center; Andra Backer, Public Policy Center; Paul Johnson, Douglas County Emergency Management; Sue Krogman, NEMA, Alisia LaMay, NEMA; Manny Centeno, FEMA; Assistant from FEMA.*

*Committee Members Absent: Bob Richwine, Marty Riemenschneider (excused).*

- **Minutes from last SECC meeting**

At the last meeting, the SECC voted to add a representative, Kevin Knorr, from the Nebraska State Patrol to the committee. Other items included Brian Smith, NWS, proposed new dates for RMT so they didn't coincide with the weekly test. Severe Weather Awareness Week was moved to match with Iowa. There was a presentation about the DAS-EOC. Rod Ziegler proposed the involvement from a wireless company representative.

Larry Lavelle made a motion to approve the May 2012 meeting minutes as posted on [www.NE-EAS.org](http://www.NE-EAS.org) . Bob Huber seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

- **EAS State Plan submitted to FCC July 10, where are we?**

*Note: a copy of the submitted plan is on the website [www.NE-EAS.org](http://www.NE-EAS.org).*

Our plan looks good and is likely to be approved as is. Once the plan is approved by the FCC, we will update the cover to reflect the approval date. The FCC encouraged us to place the plan online, so it is posted on the NE-EAS.org website. Jim Skinner will send

out the plan on the SECC Listserv as soon as it is approved. If members have not joined the EAS Yahoo group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nebraskaeas/> or contact Jim Skinner or Bob Eastwood.

- **NWS generating an RMT, update from Brian Smith**

Brian Smith reported that the NWS software is being manipulated to send a Nebraska RMT. It will be ready November 8, 2012 at 2:00 PM. The next SECC meeting date will be moved to accommodate this RMT (see last item). The National Weather Service will be the originator of the Required Monthly Test not civil authority as has been the case.

- **Activity on [www.NE-EAS.org](http://www.NE-EAS.org) website** (University of Nebraska Public Policy Center)

The web tracking system for the NE-EAS.org site broke, but the Public Policy Center attached Google Analytics to the site, so Janell Walther will have a report at the next meeting and will continue to do so at future meetings. The FCC website linked to the NE-EAS.org site. NEMA will link to the SECC and EAS Plan.

- **Is the SECC ready to recommend CAP generating equipment to NEMA?**

In Nebraska, NEMA will decide on IPAWS approval. The SECC will incorporate Local EAS plans into the state plan over time. County EMs will have better tools available to send an EAS message through IPAWS. Bob Eastwood said that NEMA is in process of developing a statewide IPAWS plan and procedures. Online training from FEMA is available to learn IPAWS, IS-247.a.

Jim Skinner will speak about CAP/EAS messages and the need for LECCs at a Nebraska EM meeting in December. Jim Skinner will submit an email proposal soon to NEMA to use DAS-EOC to generate CAP messages both state-wide and for local EMs. The committee agreed it appears to be the best solution that the SECC knows of, and it is relatively inexpensive.

- **Report on NEMA move of facilities**

Bob Eastwood reported that NEMA is moving into the new site, which is a four-story building in the military department at the Lincoln Airport. NEMA operates in one of the stories. One building is still under construction.

- **Local EAS Plans and how do we encourage them?**

Larry Lavelle spoke on the Omaha metro EAS Plan that is currently in draft form. Larry reported State EAS Plan with the Local EAS Plan need to be in agreement. The local plan will be complete within three months, and will be shared with local elected officials. The FCC identifies local plans as subsets of the State EAS Plan, so the SECC will also need to view the local plan, and post it on the NE-EAS website.

We will continue to encourage Local EAS Plans through the Local Emergency Communications Committees. As capabilities for EAS increase, local EAS plans become more and more important. We would like to incorporate EAS into the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). LEOPs have a communications section where EAS plans are addressed. The LEOP procedures are being updated to incorporate IPAWS. Al Berndt appointed Dan Hiller at NEMA to ensure that the LEOPs incorporate IPAWS.

- **Election of SECC Officers in November**

The normal cycle for SECC officers is two years. The SECC will have an election at the November 2012 meeting for the new term beginning in 2013. Jim Skinner's employer (KPTM/KXVO TV) has approved him to run for SECC Chair again. Bob Huber is the SECC Vice Chair. The UNL Public Policy Center serves as the secretary for the committee. No other nominations were proposed. The present officers will be the slate for November.

- **Other new business**

The first successful CMAS message was sent in Colfax and Dodge County on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to a Verizon Android phone.

- **Schedule next SECC meeting**

The next SECC Meeting will be held on November 1, 2012 at 1:00 PM at the new NEMA Offices. Attendees must send Bob Eastwood their full name, driver's license number, date of birth, and company affiliation to come onto the base. Please send this information to Bob Eastwood at least one week prior to the next meeting.

**Business Meeting is adjourned at 2:26pm.**

Manny Centeno from FEMA/IPAWS spoke to the Nebraska SECC and guests. His primary message is that sending CAP and CMAS messages through IPAWS is a powerful tool for the states. Many companies make hardware and software solutions. FEMA runs a Laboratory to test the options for generating CAP & CMAS Alerts. Nebraska is encouraged to present the needs and come to DC/Virginia and test the systems being considered. FEMA is available to help the state Emergency Management and SECC to find the best solution for sending emergency messages through IPAWS Open.

Minutes prepared by Janell Walther and Jim Skinner

## Presentation from Manny Centeno FEMA/IPAWS

- **(Addendum to the minutes by Janell Walther for information purposes). Contact Jim Skinner if you would like to hear the audio recording.**

FEMA does a lot of work with states and territories to help them in their EAS development. Manny presented that they are not really changing anything with CAP (Common Alerting Protocol) and IPAWS – it is a transport medium that can work over internet or IP and transfers the information.

The FCC has the same rules, same as before the Nov. 11 test. Now, we have the internet for dissemination of EAS messages. Nebraska is working on origination tools for EAS, and that is a huge element in the process. Before technology, the concentration is how you really originate like how messages are selected to get out. One of the important pieces is to flesh out best practices for dissemination and consider the message, content, psychology of alert and warning, reaction of the public, and reassurance after the event (seldom used). We are learning from the new CAP and its evolution. We will get the EAS messaging pulled together through engagement, cooperation, and exercising. The state government can begin originating messages, even test messages because it can provide the EAS participants the confidence they need to use the system. National Weather Service does pretty much all alerts around the country, which is good. Some states to EAS regularly, other not at all. You can also work with your counties to do it.

National EAS Test can be used as a template because it applies to the state level, with the only difference is we use the Emergency Action Notification code. There is no other method to leverage broadcast and cable to get messages to the public. CAP doesn't squawk, CAP doesn't talk; and IPAWS integrates different alert and dissemination methods such as cell phones, signage, sirens, electronic telephone notification, and EAS. Radio and TV will most likely be working after a disaster, more likely than cell phone, internet, or twitter. One important factor to the National Test was successful cooperation. FEMA worked with multiple organizations, using a phased approach to do this test and get the word out. Engagement is very important. They partnered primarily with FCC and NOAA. NOAA is the biggest user of EAS, so they had a lot to share about origination. The National Test was a success and they achieved the success of evaluation as far as assessing the readiness and effectiveness of the EAS, and FEMA urges every state to do this as well. We want to come up with shared testing and exercising plans. Data gathering is still in progress. We will look to find common issues, identify litigation approaches, talk to communities, and then discuss a future date for the next national test date. FEMA monitored 182 stations, 11 markets, 83% aired the EAN. The preliminary results from FCC are encouraging, system can work, and we just have to make it work. 60 of 63 PEP stations transmitted the EAN Header tones were clean, audio is clean until the repeat of message tones. Tones overlapped dialogue on recording.

FEMA is working on sorting through 14,000 reports. The JITC lab did 11 samples through the country including places with and without a PEP station to avoid tilting results to monitor EAN. The JITC lab provided an immediate snapshot of an overall success. The original message was clean for the first few seconds until there was feedback caused by an unknown technical issue at the PEP distribution level that has since been corrected. Moderating continues to be an issue to look for local technical issues, tuner failures, or other issues. Rules and procedures are ongoing issues. When we send the EAN and four seconds later there was a set of tones, a lot of EAN machines shut off. Another device held the EAN for 3 minutes. These are not EAS rules, but those have very blurry that we're urging for the commission to clarify including message accessibility -- how fast it goes across the screen, color, size, duration, etc.

Testing in all aspects is critical to the success of EAN – it is important to keep circuits tested and active. We need to promote ourselves as emergency broadcast stations, tell the community what the test is about, they're doing it for free as a PSA. Branded Wireless Emergency Results is now a brand name and it's testing well. We need a push from cable and broadcasters to sell that message, because the public does not understand the EAS process. Public outreach was a failure in the national test. EAS is a loosely managed system of individual operators – there is no system, there are profiles and protocols in place. We need to properly set expectations as a cooperative, volunteer effort.

Many states do not yet have CAP origination suite or tool yet, including Nebraska. FEMA is working to identify the requirements. Connectivity is not consistent around the country. It is important to know how you are going to use a tool and why you're going to use it. At IPAWS lab, they have every EAS device and origination tool, and this can be used for training, exercise, and discovery. These services are free, and can give you hands-on inspection of technology. FEMA is working to test out the parallel running of EAS systems through NOAA traditionally and through EAN. One will arrive to the CAP box first. If the message is a duplicate, we hope the system will notice that and not play both messages. There are multiple companies out there marketing for EAS generation. It is important to be careful of being locked in with a system that has recurring fees, contracts, and options – simplicity is best.

All tools have an origination page that is accessed through a secure login. One logged in, you can create templates. With an EAS device, recording each CAP message required is entirely too time-consuming. Templates with generic messages that are easy to edit are optimal. We are pushing for developers to think about characters to make operators jobs easier. Description element in CAP that has you write a headline is limited to 90 characters more or less. Next, we hope to provide the next revision of EAS Best Practices Guide

includes psychology of alerting, when to use, how to best form a message, lexicon terminology as well as a lexicon dictionary of words makes translation easier.

Manny provided a trial of message. Polygons assist with geo-targeting, but the only geotargeting systems you can use right now are signage, cellular towers, highway signs and sirens. There is a disconnect between the origination tool and the use now. When you build a template, you can choose what type of template you need (e.g. Amber Alert); there are event codes you can work out in advance. You should limit them to the ones you will use. All the fields have drop down menus for status, urgency, severity, uncertainty. The expiration is extremely important – if you want to update during the original alert, the CAP box may disregard a “duplicate” message. You will want to keep your message flexible. All vendors and brands of alerts must be cleared by FEMA, but not all companies are equal. The original purpose of CAP was standardization. FEMA urges testing, but there is no test code for cellular phones; every message is live. Sending a test is a reassurance to the customer that their equipment is working properly, so it’s up to the public to decide if they like it or not. To send a message, type in a headline, alert, and then the actual message, then hit “next” and review. Once you click “submit.”

Important considerations are connectivity and security issues. It is important to continue the engagement that Nebraska now has. Nebraska should continue to test the system thoroughly. To integrate this program, you need a device to originate (software); you may use what you have. You need connectivity to hit IPAWS servers. There’s a range of products available. Simple ones, like the DAS EOC will easily connect you, but it may only do a certain thing. It is important to determine your needs.