

Nebraska State Emergency Communications Committee
March 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes
 11 AM CDT Conference Call

Common Acronyms	
CAP	Common Alerting Protocol
COG	Collaborative Operating Group
EAN	Emergency Action 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: 11:05 AM

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
Philip Brown	Great Plains Communications	Cable
Paul Johnson	Douglas County Emergency Management	Emergency Management
Brian Smith	NOAA/ National Weather Service	Weather Services
Jeromy McCoy	Nebraska State Patrol	Law Enforcement

Members not in attendance: Nick Paden, Cox; Ray Richards, NPSCC

Other Attendees: Janell Walther, PPC, Secretary; Quinn Lewandowski, PPC; Tom Smith, Region 44 Emergency Management; Ed Czarnecki from Digital Alert Systems

Item 2 Approval of December Minutes

Jim Timm made a motion to approve the minutes with the updated to note that *The NPT did go out via the NET live web stream*. Jim Skinner seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Item 3 Alerts Datacast Via HDTV (Jim Skinner)

Jim Skinner introduced Ed Czarnecki of Digital Alert Systems to share information about the Ohio EAS process (See attachment for presentation). The idea of the project was to use digital television bandwidth to transmit CAP messages from FEMA using public broadcast stations nationwide to PEP stations, down converted from CPA to FSK using tech protocol and then out to the daisy chain. FEMA, for several reasons, terminated the project in 2010. Next, the storms in 2012 took out portions of the internet grid from Ohio to the East Coast, which brought about the need for this project again using more open source technology because there was concern that alert messages were not getting through the internet. Ed presented the Ohio Emergency Alert System model, wherein an alert message is put through broadcast signals to IPAWS, CAP decoders, and individual HDTV receivers to ensure the delivery of the CAP message even if the internet is down. When the message hits IPAWS, the message is encapsulated and sent statewide. At the state EOC, there is a DASDAC aggregator and then pushed out to broadcasters. If you have a DASDAC receiver already, you just need an update license for \$250. If you have something else, DAS has delivered a tool to mirror or pull the IPAWS emulator over the internet that is sent via Datacast. It has full redundancy to IPAWS and the state CAP system with satellite power at 1/10th of cost. The process runs aggregator to broadcaster to LP1 station. 90% of commercial broadcasters (78% of all broadcasters) are carrying this now. So, they have been able to replicate this project to provide a background to IPAWS at very low cost. The intent is not to compete with state CAP systems; rather this provides a non-internet data transport system. A CAP messages with embedded audio and multiple languages will be possible 1 MB in size, so it could take several minutes to push through the system.

Item 4 Alert Sense (Paul Johnson)

A few years ago the OCIO went out for competitive bid for an alerting tool that can send out alerts that are on typed into a computer. There is an internal alerting tool – for organizations/individuals that are enrolled on the system group, and an IPAWS platform for public alerting. The WEA alerts can be generated from these alerts. Paul suggested that it would be beneficial for AlertSense to provide a webinar for the SECC so that we can understand how to utilize it as a tool in Nebraska since it is being provided for all the counties via a contract with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Paul is willing to set up a webinar if it is of interest. Paul and Troy will work on scheduling an in-person meeting in September.

Item 5 Discussion of 2017 RMT Origination

Can NEMA originate an RMT using the new technology like IPAWS? Troy responded that they probably could since they are a COG, but they don't know if they are ready to do it yet even though they have the capability. Several individuals are training to send an RMT at NEMA; they think they could do those alerts in six months though not as a primary. Rod suggested that if they want to run a test, the RMT would be a good option for testing when they are ready. Currently, NET originates the RMT alerts. NWS has also sent these alerts in the past. We often don't publish who the RMT alert is coming from

since multiple organizations have the ability to do so and we want to test those differences. If NWS sends the alerts, they will also set off weather radios.

NWS will originate the May 16th, 2017 test at 10:00 AM (Central). The RMT origination discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Item 6 FCC Update (Multi-lingual Data Base)

We'd have to create our own database of contacts and it is often difficult to find the correct people. It was suggested to the FCC that they should do this study via the contacts they already have. We are trying not to have to do it if possible; we will make a decision about how to move forward in June.

Item 7 Discussion of Old Business

The state EAS plan was resubmitted to FCC, so we are waiting to hear back from the FCC.

Item 8 Discussion of New Business

Rod was elected president of the National Broadcasters Association; it should not impact the SECC.

Jim Timm provided an update from the EAS Forum, which is part of the State Leadership Conference, held on February 27, 2017, and includes representatives from EAS, FEMA, and others. Jim Skinner will send notes and updates from the meeting. The FCC requested that Nebraska SECC resend the latest version of the state EAS plan. The FCC acknowledged that they received it and we are now closer to getting it approved. The other item discussed was about contacting agencies about the multi-lingual plan. If the FCC could handle this survey rather than a volunteer putting this together. The FCC has not committed to doing that, but Jim Timm did make that suggestion.

Rod congratulated Jeromy McCoy on his promotion! Jeromy McCoy will continue to serve on the SECC in support of his Amber Alert work.

There will be a tornado drill on March 29, 2017 across Nebraska and Iowa. We received a waiver to use the actual TOR code. There will be a test watch at 10:00 AM and test warning at 10:30. Previously, the warnings were staggered, but this year, the TOR Warning tests will be sent all at 10:30. The TOR code will not activate the WEA since it is a test warning, but it will activate the weather radios and other EAS sources. Two alternate dates are planned in case of severe weather.

Janell announced that Quinn Lewandowski will take over for her. Jim Skinner made a motion for Quinn to take over a secretary. Al Krause seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Item 9 Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled June 14th, 2017 at 11 AM via conference call.

Item 10 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.