

SECC Meeting
Thursday, July 21, 2011
Minutes

Attendees:

Member Name	Organization	Representing
Jim Skinner, Chair	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television
Bob Huber	NET	State Primary/Relay
Larry Lavelle	Sarpy County Emergency Mgmt/911	Local Emergency Management
Bob Eastwood	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	NEMA
Marty Riemenschneider	Nebraska Broadcast Association	Broadcast Association
Mark Stotter	Great Plains Communications	Cable TV
LeaAnn Quist	Great Plains Communications	Cable Association
Brian Smith	National Weather Services	National Weather Service

Other Attendees: Al Krause, NET; Janell Walther, Public Policy Center; Dave Kline, KVNO;

On the phone: Paul Johnson; Douglas County Emergency Management, Mardell Hergenrader NEMA (for a short segment of the meeting)

Absent but excused: Rod Zeigler, KRVN Radio.

Report on Grant Program

\$25,275 in reimbursement requests have been submitted so far. Mardell Hergenrader, NEMA, must receive a copy of the purchase order by August 30, 2011; the paid invoice must be submitted by the end of October. Delivery of equipment must occur by September 30, 2011. For organizations wishing to submit for additional equipment, all equipment attached to or disturbing any ground will require an Environmental & Historic Preservation Review. Generators were discussed as a need, but there is not enough time to do environmental studies and order any generators.

Cable & Local Alerts

The proposed state EAS plan requires local broadcasters to be excluded from the Emergency Alert System (EAS) interrupt by Cable systems. For example, the EAS should not interrupt a meteorologist explaining the situation on a local broadcast station. However, a lot of current Cable equipment is not capable of excluding the local station. With the addition of Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), Local Broadcast and Cable stations will be able to include all relevant counties which can be very difficult in the legacy EAS system.

Updating the State Plan

Rod Ziegler and Jim Skinner continue to work on the State Plan. According to the 2007 plan, the National Weather Service, the Governor, and the Adjunct General can send statewide EAS alerts. Local Emergency Communications Committees (LECC) will establish a local EAS plan for the regional Emergency Operations Centers. Douglas County expressed an interest in creating an LECC, which will

include emergency managers, 911 centers, and local broadcast and cable representatives. Previously, there was a Metropolitan Communications Committee for the Omaha area. SECC will explore making LECCs for each of the Emergency Management Regions in Nebraska. Emergency managers will be able to use HazCollect and IPAWS through the new FEMA system. Using HazCollect, people can create messages, but the service requires a registration.

Previously, NEMA sent hardcopies of the State Plan to all Local Broadcast and Cable (LBC) stations. NEMA will plan on continuing to provide hard copies to LBCs (approximately 300 entities) whenever there is a major revision. The EAS State Operational Plan will also be posted on the NE-EAS.org website. It is important to keep an up-to-date mailing list of all the LBCs in Nebraska.

Local Primary Stations & LP-1s

Currently a Local Primary (LP) station is every broadcast and cable entity in the state of Nebraska except NET, which is the state primary/relay (SP/SR). KVNO is both an LP and an SR. But, Local Primary does NOT mean the station is a Local Primary One (LP-1). LP-1 is an FCC designation for a few special stations that other LBCs can (or should?) monitor.

To reduce confusion the new State Plan will eliminate the LP designation. The new name will be Local Broadcast and Cable stations (LBCs). Currently, there are 18 LP-1 areas covering the state (40 stations!). The 18 areas may be consolidated after looking at coverage and compared to the eight Nebraska Emergency Regions.

It is recommended by Jim Skinner and Rod Zeigler that LP-1s be FM Stations. In the event of an emergency FM will have the greatest coverage so other LBCs for monitoring with EAS equipment. TV and AM Radio should NOT be designated in the state plan as LP-1.

The need for a secondary LP-2 designation is up for debate. Possibly an AM station in each area could be given an LP-2 designation as a backup to the LP-1s.

Severe Weather Awareness Week 2012

It makes sense to have similar times for Severe Weather Awareness week for TOR testing between Iowa and Nebraska because of the population centers. While SECC does not do work with sirens, SECC will decide whether to have a TOR EAS Test. It is important to have the time be consistent for the entire state as well as with Council Bluffs. It is possible to have the TOR Test at a different time than Severe Weather Awareness Week.

FCC Part 11 Comments

SECC Members and their respective organizations should submit comments to Jim Skinner on the FCC Part 11 by mid-August. The website and key discussions will be sent to the SECC.

Moving & Updating the Website

The website is currently being migrated to the UNL PPC web site?. However, only the Public Policy Center can update the site. The PPC IT Team is quick to respond to updates to the website once it is fully established.

Future Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 18, 2011 at 3:00 PM at the Embassy Suites in La Vista, NE to coincide with the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Convention.

Minutes submitted by Janell Walther, 7/28/2011, Edited by Jim Skinner 7/29/11 To be posted at www.NE-EAS.org.