

**AGENDA**  
**NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**  
**Hamilton Telecommunications**  
**1006 12th Street**  
**Aurora, Nebraska**  
**Thursday, July 25, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m.**

10:00 a.m. 1. Roll call; meeting notice; Open Meetings Act information.

2. Public comment.

3. **November 8, 2018 and March 14, 2019 meeting minutes. [Motion to approve.]\***  
*(Attachment 3)*

4. Reports from the advisory councils and Technical Panel.

10:05 a.m. a. Technical Panel report – Ed Toner.

i. Enterprise projects. *(Attachment 4-a-i)*

1. Enterprise project status dashboard report.

2. **Enterprise project closures: (1) Oracle Fusion project, Dept. of Administrative Services; (2) Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) project, Dept. of Education; and (3) Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) project, Nebraska Council of Regions. [Motion to close projects.]\***

ii. Technical standards and guidelines.

1. **Proposal 18-06, amend GIS imagery standards. [Motion to approve.]\*** *(Attachment 4-a-ii-1)*

2. **Proposal 19-01, amend street centerline standards. [Motion to approve.]\*** *(Attachment 4-a-ii-2)*

3. **Proposal 19-02, amend address point standards. [Motion to approve.]\*** *(Attachment 4-a-ii-3)*

10:30 a.m. b. GIS Council report – John Watermolen. *(Attachment 4-b)*

10:50 a.m. c. Education Council report – Tom Rolfes.

i. **Membership nominations. [Motion to approve.]\*** *(Attachment 4-c-i)*

ii. Network Nebraska and digital education updates.

11:05 a.m. d. State Government Council report – Ed Toner.

11:15 a.m. 5. Update: Rural Broadband Task Force – Anne Byers. *(Attachment 5)*

11:30 a.m. 6. Adjourn.

\* Indicates an action item.

The Commission will attempt to adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order and timing of items and may elect to take action on any of the items listed.

Meeting notice was posted to the [NITC website](#) and the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on June 13, 2019. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on July 17, 2019.

[Nebraska Open Meetings Act](#)

**NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

Varner Hall - Board Room  
3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska  
Thursday, November 8, 2018, 10:00 a.m. CT  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, Chair  
Shane Greckel, Greckel Farms, LLC  
Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools  
Dorest Harvey, US Strategic Command/J84  
Dan Spray, Precision Technologies, Inc.  
Gary Warren, Hamilton Telecommunications  
Walter Weir, University of Nebraska

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Senator Bruce Bostelman, Nebraska Legislature; LaShonna Dorsey, Mutual of Omaha; and Tom Nutt, Phelps County Commissioner

**ORDER; ROLL CALL; MEETING NOTICE; AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION**

The chair, Ed Toner, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Roll call was taken. Seven members were present. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on October 4, 2018. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on November 2, 2018. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the wall of the meeting room.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF THE JULY 12, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

**Commission Harvey moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Spray seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: 7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstained. Motion carried.**

There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF THE PROGRESS REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE**

Each even-numbered year, the NITC provides a progress report to the Governor and Legislature. A copy of the draft report was included with the meeting documents.

**Commissioner Greckel moved to approve the 2018 Progress Report to the Governor and Legislature as presented. Commissioner Haack seconded. Roll call vote: Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, Spray-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: 7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstained. Motion carried.**

**REPORTS FROM THE ADVISORY COUNCILS AND TECHNICAL PANEL**

**TECHNICAL PANEL REPORT**

*Ed Toner*

In the absence of the Technical Panel chair, Kirk Langer, Commissioner Toner provided the report.

**Approval of the Recommendations on Technology Investments for the 2019-2021 Biennium**

The project proposals were reviewed following the process set forth in NITC § 1-202. A copy of the draft report was included with the meeting documents.

The chair offered an opportunity for any agency with a project proposal to address the commission. There were no comments from the agencies.

Members discussed the Department of Administrative Services' proposal relating to the fusion project. Commissioner Toner has recently been appointed to serve as Interim Director of Administrative Services. He assured the Commission that he is aware of the concerns and will be working closely with the project team to ensure that the concerns are addressed.

**Commissioner Warren moved to approve the Recommendations on Technology Investments for the 2019-2021 Biennium. Commissioner Spray seconded. Roll call vote: Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: 7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstained. Motion carried.**

**Draft Report on the Status of Enterprise Projects.** Commission members were provided a copy of the draft report for informational purposes. No action was necessary.

#### **Approval of Proposal 18-04, GIS Standards for State Agencies**

John Watermolen, GIS Coordinator, introduced the proposal.

**Commissioner Harvey moved to approve Proposal 18-04. Commissioner Weir seconded. Roll call vote: Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Toner-Yes, Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Spray-Yes. Results: 7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstained. Motion carried.**

#### **Approval of Proposal 18-05, repeal section 5-102**

Section 5-102 related to the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement Home Use Program. The program is no longer available to state employees.

**Commissioner Warren moved to approve Proposal 18-05. Commissioner Haack seconded. Roll call vote: Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, and Harvey-Yes. Results: 7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstained. Motion carried.**

#### **GIS COUNCIL REPORT**

*John Watermolen*

**Approval of Membership Nominations.** The GIS Council has two membership nominations for renewal:

- Eric Herbert, representing Omaha Metro
- Chuck Wingert, representing Natural Resource Districts

**Commissioner Haack moved to approve the GIS Council's membership nominations. Commissioner Harvey seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: 7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstained. Motion carried.**

Mr. Watermolen proceeded with a demonstration of the NebraskaMap 3.0 preview. Mr. Watermolen entertained questions from the Commission.

#### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT**

*Anne Byers*

The council will be meeting on November 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the Public Service Commission. Ms. Byers briefly reviewed results and provided links to the 2018 Nebraska Rural Poll and the 2018 Digital Readiness Survey. Ms. Byers entertained questions from the Commission.

## **EHEALTH COUNCIL REPORT**

*Anne Byers*

The eHealth Council met on October 15. At the meeting, the council approved the charter for the Data Governance Work Group. Kathy Cook, Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Health Department, has volunteered to serve as co-chair. The council approved her nomination.

**Approval of Membership Nominations.** The eHealth Council has nominated two new members. Jan Evans from Blue Cross and Blue Shield Nebraska has been nominated to replace Rama Kolli who was also from Blue Cross and Blue Shield Nebraska. In addition, the eHealth Council nominated Jina Ragland from AARP to replace Robin Szwanek who is also from AARP. The eHealth Council approved their nominations via e-mail vote. Their bios are on the following page. Ms. Byers asked the Commissioners to approve their nominations.

**Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the eHealth Council membership nominations. Commission Warren seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: 7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstained. Motion carried.**

## **EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT**

*Tom Rolfes*

**Approval of Membership Nominations.** The council has the following membership renewals for the commission's approval for the 2018-2020 term:

**Higher Education:** Mary Niemiec representing the UN System; Greg Maschman representing Independent Colleges & Universities; Tom Peters representing the Community College System; and John Dunning representing the State College System

**K-12 Education:** Gary Needham for Educational Service Units; Dan Hoelsing representing administrators; Alan Moore representing school board members; and Burke Brown representing public school teachers

**Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the Education Council's membership nominations. Commission Warren seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: 7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstained. Motion carried.**

**Network Nebraska and Digital Education Updates.** The Education Council promoted the Nebraska State Cyber Security Conference on September 27, 2018 and co-sponsored the Cyber Resiliency Workshop on September 28, 2018. Both had good attendance and there was considerable interest to hold another workshop possibly in the spring around the date of the NETA conference.

Libraries are holding open houses and ribbon cutting ceremonies for the SPARKS grant recipients. Governor Ricketts was in attendance for the Verdigre open house on October 16 and plans to travel to Bayard on November 16.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL REPORT**

*Ed Toner*

Ed Toner shared the Strategic Initiatives Status Report. Commissioners had no questions.

## **UPDATE: RURAL BROADBAND TASK FORCE**

*Ed Toner*

Mr. Toner reported that the task force has met three times. At the first meeting on September 24, the task force discussed the charge to the task force, the current status of broadband availability in Nebraska, and the need to define "rural." The second meeting on October 15 focused on the federal Connect

America Fund and the Nebraska Universal Service Fund. The Rural Broadband Task Force had its third meeting on November 7. The meeting focused on three topics: Broadband technologies, the costs of building rural broadband networks, and what other states are doing. Three subcommittees have been formed to examine issues related to the Nebraska Universal Service fund, broadband data, and broadband technologies. The next meeting will be held on December 10. The meeting will focus on public-private partnerships. Information on the Rural Broadband Task Force is available at <https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov>.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Spray moved to adjourn. Commissioner Greckel seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

The meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by the NITC Managers, Office of the CIO/NITC

## **NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

Thursday, March 14, 2019, 10 a.m. CT  
Varner Hall-Lower Level  
3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska  
**MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, Chair  
Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools  
Dorest Harvey, US Strategic Command/J84  
Gary Warren, Hamilton Telecommunications  
Walter Weir, University of Nebraska

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Senator Bruce Bostelman, Nebraska Legislature; Shane Greckel, Greckel Farms, LLC; Dan Spray, Precision Technologies, Inc.; LaShonna Dorsey, Mutual of Omaha; and Tom Nutt, Phelps County Commissioner

### **ORDER; ROLL CALL; MEETING NOTICE; AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION**

The chair, Ed Toner, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Roll call was taken. Five members were present. A quorum was not present to conduct official business. The meeting proceeded with informational items.

The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on February 14, 2019. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on March 6, 2019. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the south wall of the meeting room.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

No action was taken. Approval of the minutes was postponed until the July meeting.

### **REPORTS FROM THE COUNCILS AND TECHNICAL PANEL**

#### **TECHNICAL PANEL**

Kirk Langer, Chair, Technical Panel

Mike Winkle, NET General Manager, retired in December. Ling Ling Sun is his replacement on the Technical Panel.

#### **Enterprise project status dashboard report.**

Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA). At the last Technical Panel meeting, the NeSA project provided a report. Members recommended working with the vendor to locate testing servers on Network Nebraska.

Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment System. Mr. Toner provided an update on the project.

Oracle Fuzion. The Technical Panel recommended closure of this as an enterprise project because the agency has ended the project.

The OCIO has been in discussions about project reviews and project monitoring. The OCIO will work with the Technical Panel to recommend amendments to the technical standards and guidelines.

Commissioner Haack indicated that the NeSA test results did not get to schools until a couple of months later than expected. Mr. Haack was concerned that the project shows green status when, as an end user, the district has experienced interruption issues. Mr. Langer noted that the project status is self-reported by the agency. Mr. Toner stated that these are issues that need to be addressed as part of the improvements in the monitoring process.

Approval of the closure of the Department of Administrative Services' Oracle Fusion project as an enterprise project was postponed until the July meeting.

## **GIS COUNCIL**

John Watermolen

Mr. Watermolen provided a written report as part of the meeting materials. The Council has been updating Road Centerline and Street Address standards to reflect the national standards. The Nebraska Public Service Commission using these standards for Next Generation 911. The following agency items were highlighted.

### **Office of the CIO**

- Continue to populate the updated NebraskaMap site to get ready to roll out at the Nebraska GIS/LIS Symposium April 23.
- There have been several bills that have GIS or mapping mentioned in them or where GIS could be used to help with the bill. Some of the bills are LB 261, 549, 591 and 657
- The OCIO has been asked to provide a session on the state's GIS Enterprise deployment at ESRI's Southwest User conference in Denver.

### **Department of Transportation**

- Migration from Geomedia users over to ESRI has been started and has support of DOT leadership.

### **Secretary of State**

- Nebraska is a pilot state for a GeoElections project to help create best management practices for utilizing GIS with election management. Nebraska's project is to use the built in mapping module for the existing voter registration system.

### **State Surveyor**

- They are the lead with the Public Land Survey System and getting all survey data control points into a PLSS fabric. OCIO is coordinating efforts with the State Surveyor to get State Records Board funding in order to get better surveys, which will create more accurate parcel data, which contributes to better voting precinct boundaries and other administrative boundaries in counties. Buffalo County is the pilot project if the funding is approved.

### **Rural Broadband Task force**

- Members are using an Operation Dashboard that was developed to show speeds from cell phones.

### **Department of Revenue**

- Statewide parcel data refresh
- Sales tax rate application and supporting tables for Streamline Sales Tax project- Working with the Department on this web application. A side benefit from this project could be a single authoritative source for municipal boundaries and annexations which could be shared with other state agencies

Approval of Proposal 18-06, amend GIS imagery standards was postponed until the July meeting.

## **EDUCATION COUNCIL**

The Education Council has met once on Dec. 19 since the last NITC meeting. The February 20 meeting was cancelled due to weather and several members met over Zoom to begin devising a Network Nebraska customer satisfaction survey.



**Network Nebraska Initiative update:**

- Network Nebraska as a scalable network meeting the needs of education entities
  - RFP 6004 bids were opened on February 15 with 45 circuits seeking fiber service. Thirteen bidders responded and State Purchasing is pursuing signed contracts with 10 of the 13.
  - The University of Nebraska is in the process of renewing one of our two major internet contracts with a price reduction of 77% starting July 1, 2019. This contract rate will decrease from \$.86/Mbps/month to \$.20/Mbps/month.
  - Internet bandwidth demand for 2019-20 will be up 27% when compared to this current year.
  - Two major RFPs are being developed for Fall 2019, one to address backbone infrastructure in northeast Nebraska and the second, a major rebid of over 300 fiber circuits last procured in 2016.
  - The process to aggregate invoicing of fiber WAN circuits to K12 entities is underway with about 100 of 225 circuits opting in this first year. This will enable the OCIO to pay their monthly bills, coordinate E-rate filing on their behalf, and then bill the post-discount portion to school districts through the Network Nebraska invoice system on a recovery schedule of their own choosing.
  - Membership growth for 2019-20 may only include one or two education entities.
- Education Council as Communication Hub for Network Nebraska
  - Both the Network Nebraska Advisory Group and the Education Council's task group have asked for help from the OCIO's Public Information Officer to develop materials to communicate to current and prospective Network Nebraska members, tailored to administrative, technical, and instructional audiences. That work is underway.
  - Development work is happening on the annual survey of participants. The Education Council wants to gauge customer satisfaction, make sure that Network Nebraska is meeting their needs, and to also solicit suggestions of future value-added services.
- On the Security and cloud computing components action item
  - The University of Nebraska and the Network Nebraska Advisory Group are considering a new suite of network monitoring tools from Global NOC, which is a third party network management service out of the University of Indiana. Network Nebraska would purchase the Software as a Service and the University of Nebraska engineering staff would implement the tools and train our Tech Directors how to use them
  - The ESU Network Operations Committee recently spent the day with University of Nebraska engineers in order to organize the State's IP addressing blocks under an effort called Efficient IP.

**Digital Education Initiative update:**

- To address technical challenges for students transitioning from secondary to post-secondary education
  - We will be scheduling Gabrielle Banick of the P16 Initiative to meet with the Education Council at one of their upcoming meetings to explore best practices and efforts that are already underway throughout the State of Nebraska.
- Expand awareness and address the need for equity of access as it relates to digital education
  - The Sparks grant that affected the public libraries of Bancroft, Bayard, Genoa, Imperial, Verdigre and Wymore is drawing to a close in June. All six libraries were able to establish a homework hotspot with two new desktop computers and achieve fixed wireless access with their local school district, and increased their internet speeds for students by 400-1500%. These hotspots will stay in place after the grant concludes.
  - RFP 6004 that was mentioned earlier included nine public libraries and bid their infrastructure two ways—fiber service directly to Network Nebraska, and fiber service to their school district. 100Mbps awarded bid prices ranged from \$275/month up to \$1,035/month, which points to the diversity of pricing and level of costs that libraries would need to assume to achieve significant bandwidth. Library Commission self-reported data show that 80% of our public libraries in communities under 2500 have less

than 25Mbps available, and only 33% of our public libraries are applying for E-rate funding.

- On March 7 SuAnn Witt from the Nebraska Dept of Education represented Nebraska at a Congressional Briefing on the transformation of the Educational Broadband Services spectrum, which is 2.5GHz. The FCC is in the process of rulemaking whether to allow windows for new licensing for education entities, the first since 1995, or to auction off the spectrum to the highest bidders. Nebraska currently has 30 EBS licenses, 22 of which are committed to long-term leases with providers, and the other 7 licenses are not located to address Nebraska's digital divide. In areas like the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Northern Michigan University has implemented a public/private partnership wireless network that serves 25,000 students with a wireless 4G/LTE network that is fueled by the University's internet.
- On Tuesday, Senator Udall from New Mexico re-introduced a bill in the Senate that would direct the FCC to make Wi-Fi on buses an eligible service. If the Senate and companion House bill is approved and signed into Law, the FCC could presumably make this an eligible service as early as July 2020. In some states, the wireless provider only provides a VPN conduit back to the statewide network which would alleviate data caps and also allow for filtering of content onto the buses.
- And finally, the Education Council would appreciate the opportunity to bring digital divide and Homework Gap issues before the Rural Broadband Task Force. We think that as homework and education becomes more and more internet-dependent that the lack of home access for 15-20% or 50-60,000 of our public K-12 students is becoming a very critical problem.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL**

Ed Toner, Chair

Mr. Toner discussed the results of the OCIO's annual customer satisfaction survey.

## **UPDATE RURAL BROADBAND TASK FORCE**

Ed Toner, Chair

The Rural Broadband Task Force has met five times and is on track to submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature by November 1, 2019. Since the last NITC meeting, the task force met on December 10 to discuss public/private partnerships and middle mile costs. A subcommittee to address public-private partnerships was formed. The February 15 agenda included panels on right of way issues and broadband funding. The next meeting is scheduled for March 29 at University of Nebraska Eastern Nebraska Research Center near Ithaca. There will be presentations on how technology and broadband are being used in agriculture.

Commissioner Warren stated that the state should do more "aggregation" of broadband demand by inviting public power districts to aggregate their telecommunications needs in an RFP. Ed Toner and Tom Rolfes have met with representatives of NPPD and the NREA to explore this option.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Haack moved to adjourn. Commissioner Weir seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 a.m.

The meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by the NITC IT Managers.

# Projects Status Dashboard

## June 2019

### Enterprise Projects - Current

Agency/Entity	Project	NITC Designated
Department of Health and Human Services	New Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS)	7/8/2009
Department of Education	Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)	7/8/2009
Nebraska Council of Regions	Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN)	3/15/2010
Department of Health and Human Services	Medicaid Eligibility & Enrollment System	10/28/2014
Office of the CIO	Centrex Replacement	7/12/2018

### Project Closure Report

Agency/Entity	Project	Reporting Started
Nebraska Council of Regions	Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN)	3/15/2010

**Note: Status is self-reported by the agency**

Project Storyboard: 02 Centrex Conversion (65060012)

Project Manager	Kortus, Julie	Status Report Date	6/7/19
Project Type	Major Project	Status	Approved
Stage	Design	Progress	Started
Total Estimated Cost	\$2,800,000.00	Estimate to Complete	
Actual Cost To Date			

Project Dates		
	Start	Finish
Plan	10/10/17	2/14/20
Baseline	10/10/17	6/30/20
Days Late	-137	-137

Status Report Indicators		
Overall	!	➡
Schedule	!	➡
Scope	!	➡
Cost and Effort	!	➡

**Project Description**

To secure the most cost efficient Hosted Voice Over Internet Protocol Telephony (VOIP) Services. This solution will replace the State’s Centrex service throughout the State of Nebraska. The purpose of the project is to provide phone service that includes the most up-to-date VOIP features and functionality as a hosted service with equipment ownership, maintenance and service remaining with the Contractor.

**Key Accomplishments**

**Status Report Update**

Sites which need additional bandwidth to have acceptable voice quality have been sent out for circuit bids. Most circuit upgrades have been ordered.

ALLO's team has begun assisting with the background work that the State's Voice team is performing to prepare the sites (floor plan, checking for Ethernet jacks in conference rooms, etc).

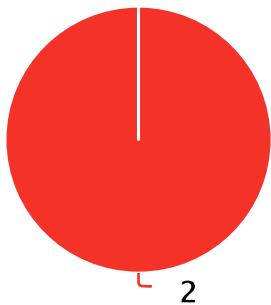
ALLO used a third party to spin up the servers and create the root certificate. The root certificate was turned over to the State to begin testing on 4/24/2019.

The Mitel telephones began displaying error messages on the test telephone screens when the certificates were pushed to them. The errors appeared to display as a result of the telephone using a port that was not configured for 802.1x. After retesting on a configured port, the error messages no longer appeared. A decision was made to enable 802.1x on all ports prior to phone installations and to proceed with the OCIO installation.

The phones were installed at the OCIO on May 29 and 30. Multiple telephones are receiving error messages. As of 6/7/2019 the error messages are still present. ALLO is working with the OCIO and Mitel to discover the cause of the messages. No further installations will be scheduled until the error message issue is resolved.









**Upcoming Activities**

Issues by Priority      Risks by Priority











Current Issues					More Issues...	
Issue			Priority	Status	Target Resolution	Owner
Overlap of service				Open	12/31/19	Kortus, Julie
Rates				Open	11/30/18	Kortus, Julie
Dependency on Network Resources				Open	2/14/19	Kortus, Julie
Current Risks					More Risks...	
Risk	Probability	Impact	Priority	Status	Target Resolution	Owner
Bandwidth				Open	2/14/19	Kortus, Julie
Billing Developer being reassigned to another project				Open	2/28/19	Kortus, Julie

Project Storyboard: Medicaid Eligibility & Enrollment System

Project Manager		Spaulding, Don		Status Report Date		6/7/19		Project Dates			Status Report Indicators			
Project Type				Status		Approved			Start	Finish	Overall			
Stage		Build		Progress		Started		Plan	6/1/18	4/30/22	Schedule			
Total Estimated Cost		\$81,200,000.00		Estimate to Complete		77.98%		Baseline	6/1/18	4/30/22	Scope			
Actual Cost To Date		\$63,318,485.00						Days Late	0	0	Cost and Effort			
Project Description								Key Accomplishments						
<p>The Affordable Care Act (ACA) included numerous provisions with significant information systems impacts. One of the requirements was to change how Medicaid Eligibility was determined and implement the changes effective 10/1/2014. As a result of the lack of time available to implement a long-term solution, the Department of Health and Human Services implemented a short-term solution in the current environment to meet initial due dates and requirements. This solution did not meet all Federal technical requirements for enhanced Federal funding but was approved on the assumption that a long-term solution would be procured. An RFP was developed and procurement has been completed with Wipro selected as the Systems Integrator for the IBM/Curam software.</p>														
Status Report Update								Upcoming Activities						
<p>Gartner, Inc. has been hired to conduct the assessment of the EES II project, and began work 06/04/19. Gartner’s objectives are to provide 5 deliverables, including an environmental assessment, a comprehensive alternatives analysis, and a roadmap with actionable recommendations for implementing an Eligibility and Enhancement modernization project.</p>														
<p>The final roadmap is to be delivered by the end of August, 2019.</p>														
Issues by Priority				Risks by Priority				Current Issues						
								No matching records were found						

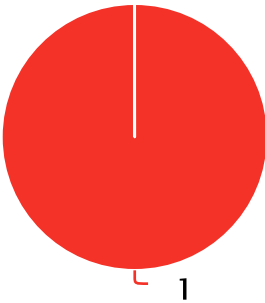
Project Storyboard: Medicaid Management Information System Replacement Project (MMIS)

Project Manager	Spaulding, Don	Status Report Date	6/5/19	Project Dates			Status Report Indicators		
Project Type	Major Project	Status	Approved		Start	Finish	Overall		
Stage	Build	Progress	Started	Plan	7/1/14	5/31/19	Schedule		
Total Estimated Cost	\$113,600,000.00	Estimate to Complete	14.74%	Baseline	7/1/14	5/31/19	Scope		
Actual Cost To Date	\$16,748,930.00			Days Late	7	7	Cost and Effort		
Project Description				Key Accomplishments					
<p>Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC) has undertaken a strategic transformation toward a vision for a Medicaid enterprise that is fundamentally data-driven. This project supports the programmatic shift by giving the stakeholders access to claims and clinical data and appropriate analytic tools. This project of building a comprehensive data management and analytics (DMA) platform is aligned with the CMS modular approach to building system and operational capabilities. The current system consisting of legacy MMIS and Truven DW/DSS has several limitations that warrant the need to re-engineer the data management and analytical operations. The DMA system is envisioned to be the core repository for the State to address all its information and data needs.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Completed deliverable reviews, and acceptance activities for the Operations Privacy and Security Plan, and User Support Plan.</li><li>Completed deliverable expectation document (DED) reviews for multiple deliverables.</li><li>Concurrent deliverable reviews are ongoing for many items, including Third Party Cyber Security Assessment, Data Retention and Archive Plan, User Documentation, and Operations Readiness Plan, among others.</li><li>The State is continuing to work with Deloitte to refine content and functionality for previously rejected DDI contract deliverables, which lacked completeness for acceptance.</li><li>Continued DMA Managed Care Entity (MCE) outreach and planning efforts.</li><li>The State completed a review of RFP requirements internally and with Deloitte to finalize what is required for go-live.</li><li>Continued development efforts towards the remaining RFP DDI scope.</li><li>The State UAT execution is in progress. The UAT test case authoring is near completion.</li><li>Continued Medicaid Enterprise Certification Lifecycle (MECL) Review 2 (R2) certification efforts including certification criteria mapping, delivering Certification Evidence Documents (CEDs) for checklist items to IV&amp;V, and collecting evidence.</li><li>The State completed an analysis of the MECL R1 mapping to the RFP requirements to confirm that certification requirements will be implemented at the appropriate time.</li><li>Continued organizational change management (OCM) activities including hiring a new resource as OCM lead, OCM Project Posters, surveys, and weekly briefs, among others.</li><li>Completed Training plan review with Deloitte and continued review of training materials; including job aides and web based training (WBT) modules.</li></ul>					
Status Report Update				Upcoming Activities					
<p>The DMA project completed its initial discovery, requirements, creation of user stories and majority of development activities in concert with systems integration partner and vendor, Deloitte Consulting, LLP.</p> <p>The project is delayed primarily due to longer than anticipated timeframe for development of functionality. The State is actively working with the vendor towards establishing a revised DDI schedule considering the remaining content for CMS certification and RFP requirements to be developed prior to go-live. Regular project activities continue to progress, including but not limited to User Acceptance Testing (UAT), relevant deliverable reviews, some sprint ceremonies, and release reviews, among others.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Work with Deloitte on a new DDI schedule and go-live date.</li><li>Complete Deliverable and DED review, acceptance and approval activities for upcoming and in-flight work products.</li><li>Complete quarterly and monthly reviews of requisite deliverables.</li><li>Complete the next stage of a rolling, monthly updated, 120-day forward-looking project plan window.</li><li>Finalize Third Party Cyber Security Assessment, Data Retention and Archive Plan, User Documentation, and Operations Readiness Plan, among others.</li><li>Review and garner State approval on past Releases, and plan for verification of upcoming release(s).</li><li>Finalize go-forward interface control documents.</li><li>Continue organizational change management (OCM) activities.</li><li>Work on upcoming Operational readiness activities including go-live planning.</li><li>Finalize HIA end users list with feedback from State Management.</li><li>Conclude UAT test case and script development for recent release(s).</li><li>Continue DMA Truven migration and sunset planning.</li><li>Continue to work on training activities and go-forward plan with Deloitte.</li><li>Complete UAT test case execution to ensure the product functionality meets contractual requirements and State's expectations.</li><li>Complete the Project Partnership Understanding (PPU) updates and submit to CMS.</li><li>Continue MECL R2 certification planning and documentation efforts using CMS's Medicaid Enterprise Certification Toolkit (MECT) framework.</li></ul>					

Project Storyboard: Medicaid Management Information System Replacement Project (MMIS)









Issues by Priority

Risks by Priority



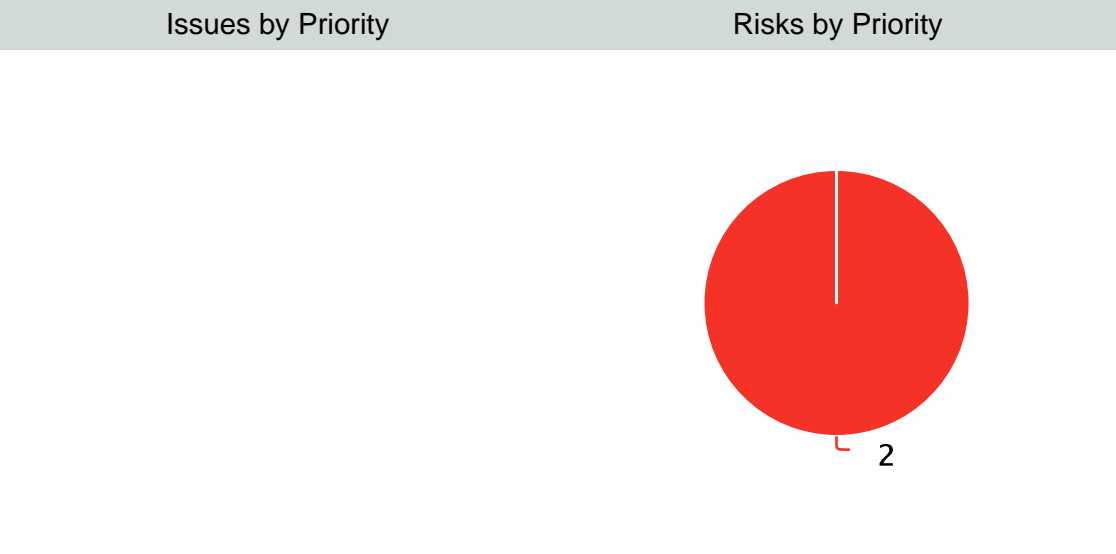
Current Issues				More Issues...
Issue	Priority	Status	Target Resolution	Owner
DDI Schedule Variance		Work in Progress	6/30/19	Agarwal, Ankush







Project Storyboard: Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN)

Project Manager	Krogman, Sue	Status Report Date	4/8/19	Project Dates			Status Report Indicators	
Project Type	Major Project	Status	Approved		Start	Finish	Overall	 
Stage	Launch	Progress	Completed	Plan	10/1/10	8/31/19	Schedule	 
Total Estimated Cost	\$12,500,000.00	Estimate to Complete	96.00%	Baseline	10/1/10	8/31/19	Scope	 
Actual Cost To Date	\$12,000,000.00			Days Late	0	0	Cost and Effort	 

Project Description	Key Accomplishments
The Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) is a project that will connect a majority of the Public Safety Access Points (PSAP) across the State by means of a point to point microwave system. The network will be a true, secure means of transferring data, video and voice. Speed and stability are major expectations; therefore there is a required redundant technology base of no less than 100 mbps with 99.999% availability for each site. It is hoped that the network will be used as the main transfer mechanism for currently in-place items, thus imposing a cost-saving to local government. All equipment purchased for this project is compatible with the networking equipment of the OCIO.	

Status Report Update	Upcoming Activities
Tower work is just beginning again after the blizzards and flooding across Nebraska. Many sites are still under water, so, adjustments are being made to locations. Router work still continues to try and address some issues.	



Current Risks						More Risks...
Risk	Probability	Impact	Priority	Status	Target Resolution	Owner
Finding adequate towers to locate the NRIN system on				Open	5/6/16	Weekly, Andy
MOUs and Lease Agreements				Open	5/6/16	Weekly, Andy



Project Storyboard: Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA- Reading, Math, Science and Writing)

Project Manager	Heneger, Jeremy	Status Report Date	4/8/19
Project Type	Major Project	Status	Approved
Stage	Launch	Progress	Completed
Total Estimated Cost	\$9,781,606.00	Estimate to Complete	100.00%
Actual Cost To Date	\$9,781,606.00		

Project Dates		
	Start	Finish
Plan	7/1/17	6/30/19
Baseline	7/1/17	11/30/18
Days Late	212	212

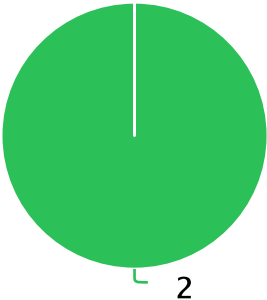
Status Report Indicators		
Overall	<div></div>	<div></div>
Schedule	<div></div>	<div></div>
Scope	<div></div>	<div></div>
Cost and Effort	<div></div>	<div></div>

Project Description	Key Accomplishments
Legislative Bill 1157 passed by the 2008 Nebraska Legislature required a single statewide assessment of the Nebraska academic content standards for reading, mathematics, science, and writing in Nebraska's K-12 public schools. The new assessment system was named Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA), with NeSA-R for reading assessments, NeSA-M for mathematics, NeSA-S for science, and NeSA-W for writing. The assessments in reading and mathematics were administered in grades 3-8 and 11; science was administered in grades 5, 8, and 11; and writing was administered in grades 4, 8, and 11.	

Status Report Update	Upcoming Activities
<p>Request to change the name of the project to "Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) Formally (NeSA)"</p> <p>NSCAS testing window opened March 18, 2019. ACT will open April 2, 2019. The 2019-2020 State Assessment contract renewal process is moving forward as the NDE State Board of Education will begin to review the updates and recommendations from the commissioner during the April "Work Session" portion of the monthly State Board Meeting. Approval of next year's contracts will be done during the May State Board of Education meeting.</p>	

Issues by Priority

Risks by Priority



Current Risks

More Risks...

Risk	Probability	Impact	Priority	Status	Target Resolution	Owner
District Infrastructure	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	Open	2/8/19	Weekly, Andy
Technology Readiness	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	Open	2/8/19	Weekly, Andy

## **Project Lessons Learned Form**

General Information					
Project Name				Date	
Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) Point to Point Microwave Network connecting Nebraska PSAP's				05/01/2019	
Sponsoring Agency					
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)					
Contact	Phone	Email		Employer	
Sue Krogman	402-471-7429	<a href="mailto:sue.krogman@nebraska.gov">sue.krogman@nebraska.gov</a>		Emergency Management	
Project Manager	Phone	Email		Employer	
Sue Krogman	402-471-7429	<a href="mailto:sue.krogman@nebraska.gov">sue.krogman@nebraska.gov</a>		Emergency Management	
Project Start Date	7/1/2012	Report End Date	6/30/2019	Project End Date	6/30/2021
Key Questions				Explanation	
1. Did the scope of the project change? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				Funding issues as well as tower placements and structures.	
2. Did the project meet the expectations of the stakeholders? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				Yes.	
3. Did the project costs exceed the budget provided? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				No.	

Cost Management			
Show the actual expenditures compared to planned levels. Break the costs into other categories as appropriate.			
2013-2016			
Budget Item	Budget at Completion (BAC)	Actual Costs (AC)	Cost Variance (CV = BAC – AC)
Salaries			0
Contract Services	12,000.00	9,500.00	2,500.00
Hardware			
Software			
Training			
Other Expenditures*			
Total Costs	12,000.00	9,500.00	2,500.00
Other Expenditures include supplies, materials, etc.			

<b>Significant Project Milestones</b> Insert additional lines as necessary.					
Milestone	Met	Not Met	Original Date	Actual Date	Impact (if late)
Panhandle Signoff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6/2012	6/2012	
East to West Connection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12/2016	2/2017	
Regional Functionality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6/2016		Waiting on equipment, contractor and Region.

**What went wrong during the project and recommendations to avoid similar occurrences in the future**

Provide a summary of what went wrong during the project, including the problem or issue, the impact and the recommendation to avoid those occurrences in the future.

Through the life cycle of the entire project, there were several challenges that needed to be addressed. The primary challenge was the reliance off the contractor as well as the amount of grant dollars received on an annual basis. There has not always been enough dollars to keep the contractor actively employed, so, other jobs took precedence over this one and, as a result, delays on construction have been huge.

A key recommendation for the future would be to incent the desired outcomes through either statutory requirements or fiscal support for meeting the expectations.

**What went right during the project and how similar projects may benefit from this information**

Provide a summary of what went right during the project, including the success or accomplishment, the impact and how future projects may benefit from this information.

As the network is still not complete, the primary goal for accomplishment is the installation. Operations in areas where connectivity is complete is functional and the network is working as anticipated.

**NITC Reporting/Process Improvements and Recommendations**

Use this section to insert NITC Enterprise Reporting improvements and recommendations.

I think the reporting process worked well. There were just enough "in-person" meetings and keeping a timeline of progress on this has been beneficial to all parties.

**Additional Comments**

Use this section to insert comments / concerns not included in any other section.

This project, once completed, will be a huge asset to the public safety community for the entire state. The network has been challenged on multiple occasions and corrections were made with minimal configurations and equipment replacement.

Attachment 4-a-ii-1

TO: NITC Commissioners

MEETING DATE: July 25, 2019

SUBJECT: Proposal 18-06, amend GIS imagery standards.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Proposal 18-06.

BACKGROUND: This item seeks approval of revisions to the existing GIS imagery standards by adding a new addendum to the standard. The addendum will address issues relating to license/subscription imagery.

The GIS Council recommend approval of the proposal by a vote of 17-0-0.

The Technical Panel posted the proposal for a 30-day comment period; no comments were received. The panel recommended approval of the proposal by a vote of 5-0-0.

RECOMMENDED BY: Technical Panel  
GIS Council

**State of Nebraska**  
**Nebraska Information Technology Commission**  
**Technical Standards and Guidelines**

**Proposal 18-06**  
**Final**

A PROPOSAL relating to imagery standards; to amend section 3-204; and to repeal the original section.

Section 1. Section 3-204 is amended by adding the following addendum:

Addendum 1: License/Subscription Imagery Standards

A1.0 Description. NITC imagery standard to address any imagery licensing or commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) imagery subscription funded with state funds. Since the imagery is not a custom collection, it needs to be best available. The imagery needs to be high enough quality to be able to derive accurate street centerlines and address points (for example, to be able to digitize centerlines and address points on 12" imagery).

A2.0 Standards. For any imagery solution that is subscription based or licensed model, the vendor must meet the following specifications.

A2.1 Image resolution. Minimum standard of 12" or 30 cm.

A2.2 Horizontal accuracy. Provide the horizontal accuracy expressed as RMSEr or CE90 and CE95. Must document if the imagery meets NENA standards (draft or published). Must provide documentation on how the horizontal accuracy was determined.

A2.3 Environmental. Environmental specifications such as cloud cover and snow/ice, bit depth and sun angle, need to meet NITC imagery standard sections 1.2.1.1, 1.2.1.4, and 1.2.1.5 and be documented.

A2.4 Metadata. Provide metadata on the imagery collection. Metadata needs to follow the NITC metadata standards or at a minimum FGDC compliant metadata.

Metadata should accompany individual tile sets.

A2.5 Projections. Define what the data project is. The most common for Nebraska is Web Mercator WGS84, Nebraska State Plane NAD 83 Feet or UTM NAD 83. Nebraska is covered by UTM Zones 13, 14 and 15. Most of the state is UTM 14. NITC imagery standard is reference in section 1.2.7.

A2.6 Datum. Define the datum used. The datum should meet the NITC imagery standard referenced in section 1.2.7

A3.0 Guidelines. The following are items to be considered for any contract or Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding subscription or licensed imagery.

A3.1 Accessing the imagery.

A3.1.1 Is the imagery available to be downloaded or streamed?

A3.1.2 If downloaded, what is the timeframe that the imagery can be downloaded or provided on hard drives and the format?

A3.1.3 If the imagery is streamed, what format will the REST service be? (For example, WMS, WTMS or other format.) Is the REST service tiled?

A3.1.4 Is a viewer also provided? If so, are there associated costs?

A3.1.5 Can the imagery be downloaded through the REST service?

A3.2 Cost, terms and restrictions of the license or subscription.

A3.2.1 Is there an option for a 4<sup>th</sup> band to achieve Color IR? If so, at what cost?

A3.2.2 Are there options for higher resolutions, such as 3", 6", 15cm, or other resolutions? If so, at what cost?

A3.2.3 What are licensing restrictions with the subscription? (For example, is the imagery available to state agencies, political subdivisions, and viewable to the public?) Can the imagery be used in mobile collection applications?

A3.2.4 What happens to the imagery and access to the imagery after the contract expires or is terminated?

A3.2.5 What happens to prior versions of imagery? (For example, may prior versions be made available to the public for free?)

A3.2.6 Can the vendor provide an evaluations sample of the imagery of Nebraska to review during an evaluation period?

Sec.2. Original section 3-204 is repealed.

Sec.3. This proposal takes effect when approved by the commission.

Attachment 4-a-ii-2

TO: NITC Commissioners

MEETING DATE: July 25, 2019

SUBJECT: Proposal 19-01, amend street centerline standards.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Proposal 19-01.

BACKGROUND: This item seeks approval of a new GIS standard for street centerlines. The existing standard would be repealed in its entirety and replaced with the new language of the proposal. The new standard would adopt by reference the national standards for street centerlines published by the National Emergency Number Association. Also, subsection (2) includes two additional attributes that are optional.

The GIS Council recommend approval of the proposal by a vote of 19-0-0.

The Technical Panel posted the proposal for a 30-day comment period; no comments were received. The panel recommended approval of the proposal by a vote of 4-0-0.

RECOMMENDED BY: Technical Panel  
GIS Council



**State of Nebraska**  
**Nebraska Information Technology Commission**  
**Technical Standards and Guidelines**

**Proposal 19-01**  
**Final**

A PROPOSAL relating to GIS data; to amend section 3-205; and to repeal the original section.

Section 1. The following provisions constitute a revised section 3-205:

3-205. Street centerlines.

(1) The commission adopts by reference sections 2, 3, and 3.1 of the NENA Standard for NG9-1-1 GIS Data Model (National Emergency Number Association, NENA-STA-006.1-2018, June 16, 2018, [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nena.org/resource/resmgr/standards/nena-sta-006\\_ng9-1-1\\_gis\\_dat.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nena.org/resource/resmgr/standards/nena-sta-006_ng9-1-1_gis_dat.pdf)) for GIS data that consists of street centerlines.

(2) The following are optional additional attributes for street centerlines:

From Road Level	FromLevel	O	P	1
To Road Level	ToLevel	O	P	1

FromLevel: Specifies the 'elevation' of a segment FROM node (start point). This field does not require actual elevation in terms of real-world measurements. The value is only used to determine whether a turn is allowed from one street to a street that intersects it in a 2-dimensional space, similar to floors in a building. Nodes at the lowest level would be assigned 0, with overlapping nodes representing additional level(s)/overpass(es) will be assigned the next sequential integer value accordingly.

ToLevel: Specifies the 'elevation' of a segment TO node (end point). This field does not require actual elevation in terms of real-world measurements. The value is only used to determine whether a turn is allowed from one street to a street that intersects it in a 2-dimensional space.

similar to floors in a building. Nodes at the lowest level would be assigned 0, with overlapping nodes representing additional level(s)/overpass(es) will be assigned the next sequential integer value accordingly.

Sec.2. Original section 3-205 is repealed.

Sec.3. This proposal takes effect when approved by the commission.

Attachment 4-a-ii-3

TO: NITC Commissioners

MEETING DATE: July 25, 2019

SUBJECT: Proposal 19-02, amend address point standards.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Proposal 19-02.

BACKGROUND: This item seeks approval of a new GIS standard for address points. The existing standard would be repealed in its entirety and replaced with the new language of the proposal. The new standard would adopt by reference the national standards for address points published by the National Emergency Number Association.

The GIS Council recommend approval of the proposal by a vote of 19-0-0.

The Technical Panel posted the proposal for a 30-day comment period; no comments were received. The panel recommended approval of the proposal by a vote of 4-0-0.

RECOMMENDED BY: Technical Panel  
GIS Council

**State of Nebraska  
Nebraska Information Technology Commission  
Technical Standards and Guidelines**

**Proposal 19-02  
Final**

A PROPOSAL relating to GIS data; to amend section 3-206; and to repeal the original section.

Section 1. The following provisions constitute a revised section 3-206:

3-206. Address points.

The commission adopts by reference sections 2, 3, and 3.2 of the NENA Standard for NG9-1-1 GIS Data Model (National Emergency Number Association, NENA-STA-006.1-2018, June 16, 2018, [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nena.org/resource/resmgr/standards/nena-sta-006\\_ng9-1-1\\_gis\\_dat.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nena.org/resource/resmgr/standards/nena-sta-006_ng9-1-1_gis_dat.pdf)) for GIS data that consists of address points.

Sec.2. Original section 3-206 is repealed.

Sec.3. This proposal takes effect when approved by the commission.

July 5, 2019

To: NITC Commissioners

From: John Watermolen, State GIS Coordinator  
Kea Morovitz, Chair, GIS Council  
Michael Preston, Vice-Chair, GIS Council

Subject: GIS Council Report

## **GIS Council Updates**

At the May 1<sup>st</sup> GIS council meeting, the Council discussed GIS resources regarding Flood Response- what resources was utilized and coordinated between agencies and counties. At the end of May we met to discuss how to better coordinate resources and documented take a ways, which includes- List of Imagery providers, list of drone provider, predefined datasets that are ready to have data added as a rest service

## **Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI) Updates**

### **Nebraska Statewide Imagery Program**

We are awaiting the approval of the amendments from the NITC Commissioners. I have received an unsolicited bid for an imagery subscription. The imagery would be 12" imagery. The cost is \$800,000 and could be spread out over 3 years. I have sent this out to state agencies, Natural Resource Districts, Municipalities and Counties for their consideration.

### **Nebraska Street Centerline and Address Program**

OCIO has worked with PSC to merge all county street centerline data together. We are waiting for the updated standards to pass with the NITC Commissioners

### **Nebraska Statewide Elevation Program**

The state has complete coverage of LiDAR data and NRCS is in the process of recollecting data to bring it up to the same quality level as most of the state data that has recently been collected. The OCIO, state agencies, local governments and the university has finished with surveys to help Federal agencies involved in terrestrial, ocean and coastal mapping are gathering information to improve the availability and consistency of 3D elevation data (topographic and bathymetric) for the United States and its territories. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are sponsoring the study. The results of the study will help agencies develop and refine future program alternatives for better 3D elevation data to meet many federal, states, and other national business needs. We did work with UNL to try and create a seamless statewide DEM that could be hosted in NebraskaMap

### **NebraskaMap**

NebraskaMap live site averaging 200+ views per day. Unfortunately we don't have previous version metrics, except that we have 2-3x the amount of data in this version as compared to the previous

version and getting more data from other agencies such as the Nebraska Forest Service and also coordinating NFS and PSC because they are both working on an updated Fire District Boundary

## **OCIO and State Agency GIS Updates:**

Below is a brief update on several ongoing work. I will also be providing a presentation during the meeting to show how GIS is used by several agencies.

### **Nebraska Enterprise Geographic Information System (NEGIS):**

The OCIO GIO team has rolled out the Production Environment to state agencies for us. It is working well and DOT has stated how it is a game changer, especially getting applications up in a short amount of time. They have been using it for flood information out related to road damage. During the roll out we included change management processes, highlighted workflows and ease of developing applications.

### **Nebraska GeoElection Pilot Project:**

Working with Sarpy County and the Secretary of State's office, we are making good progress on the project and will complete the assigned tasks and present the finding in August

### **Articles and shout outs about GIS in Nebraska:**

There has been several articles written in regards to GIS activities in Nebraska, which are highlighted below:

#### **Articles about NebraskaMAP and Open Data Portal:**

Article Interview with Ed about GIS

<https://www.enterprisedigi.com/data-analytics/articles/nebraska-geographic-information-system>

Review of Nebraska Map:

<https://spatialreserves.wordpress.com/2019/05/26/nebraskas-new-digital-hub-and-geospatial-data-portal/>

ESRI article which will be published sometime August.

Article in the Omaha World Herald about History Nebraska and DOT using GIS to collect archeological information after the flood events

At the ESRI User Conference in San Diego, Nebraska was mentioned during a Special Interest Group session regarding the increase in collaboration among state agencies.

### **Meeting with agencies:**

I continue to visit with state agencies every few months to continue discussions and any GIS needs. I have conducted an agency maturity assessment for many agencies.

### **OCIO GIO Team:**

We have a new employee starting July 22<sup>nd</sup>. She comes from Game and Parks and has done some really useful mobile applications. We look forward to her contributions for assisting state Agencies

We hosted an Open House for state agencies on July 16th

**Department of Transportation- Consolidation and Integration:**

This is an ongoing process with their transition to a single GIS solution. DOT is the biggest user/tester of NEGIS

**OCIO Public Service Commission Agreement:**

Are working with PSC to see where the GIO can help with Next Generation 911

**Liquor Commission:**

Created a demonstration and presented to the Liquor Commission to help them visualize all their permits. Waiting on a response to see if they are open to continuing with the project

**Department of Revenue:**

We have just finished with this year's statewide parcel data refresh and my team is working with the Sales Tax division to create a new sales tax rate finder tool. We have made good progress towards a replacement.

**Game and Parks Commission:**

We have been meeting with the Game and Parks Commission on projects they are working on and if there is a way for us to share resources

## Title: Nebraska ArcGIS Hub Site Bridges Gap Between Citizens, Government

The Nebraska Office of the CIO (OCIO) provides a wide range of technology services to state agencies, boards, and commissions. One of the OCIO team's objectives is to provide innovative technology solutions that increase transparency and enhance collaboration. Recently they developed NebraskaMAP, an ArcGIS Hub open data site that allows individual state agencies to share information with each other and the public on a range of issues including health, farming, transportation, and the environment.

The searchable, [user-friendly site provides access to shared GIS data and](#) public web-mapping applications developed by state agencies. John Watermolen, State GIS Coordinator for the Nebraska Office of the CIO, says his goal is to create "a sustainable, efficient, and functioning GIS ecosystem that provides a clearinghouse for quality Nebraska data," and NebraskaMAP helps provide this to users in one centralized location.

To support the launch of the newest version of NebraskaMAP, the OCIO employed software that facilitates data sharing and connects government and citizens around important issues.

### Challenge

Before launching the latest release, version three of NebraskaMAP, the OCIO faced several significant challenges. In the previous version, the team struggled with the ongoing addition of new data. The software used to build version two made it so any data from contributing state agencies had to be manually uploaded—resulting in difficulties keeping information up-to-date. The upload process was tedious and pushing data into the software environment required a number of steps.

Watermolen says, "No one really understood the process or had the time to publish the data, so no one really contributed [to the site] and a lot of the data ended up being stale. You really couldn't determine if it was current or not."

The OCIO sought a technology solution to not only streamline the process of uploading and keeping information current, but also increase collaboration among state agencies.

### Solution

The OCIO selected ArcGIS Hub to launch the new version of NebraskaMAP. Watermolen and the GIS team were familiar with the product and knew that it had the features needed to integrate data and streamline operations. ArcGIS Hub provides a two-way engagement platform designed to connect governments and communities around policy initiatives to tackle pressing issues and share data, thereby increasing transparency.

The new primary geodatabase under OCIO is read-only and offers several views of data from state agency databases. Geodatabases are a way to store and manage geographic information



in ArcGIS Online, a complete cloud-based mapping and analysis software solution. This data is then published and available to view on the open data site. Information is categorized on the website in 18 different categories and has a simple toolbar for quick searching.

State agencies now operate under one umbrella using ArcGIS Enterprise, a software product used to design maps and apps as well as manage data, conduct analysis, and share work. In the past, state agencies each had individual licenses for ArcGIS Enterprise and were working independently, making it difficult to share information.

The new ArcGIS Hub site serves as a shared resource and enables easier management of information. All ArcGIS Enterprise server licenses have been consolidated and exist within the OCIO, basically facilitating the creation of their own ecosystem.

“The recent refresh of NebraskaMAP creates the opportunity for state agencies to share timely, geographic data with taxpayers and our government stakeholders,” says Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the State of Nebraska. “It functions to automatically integrate the data from different agencies so that the information is authoritative and more consistent than what other sources can provide.”

## Results

Stakeholders have seen a number of benefits since the implementation of ArcGIS Hub, with traffic to the site averaging more than 200 hits per day. ArcGIS Hub has enabled participating state agencies to contribute their own data using their own geodatabases.

According to Watermolen, this gives agencies improved control over their data, allowing them to do things like edit, change schemas, or determine privacy settings. Any changes are automatically pushed to the main enterprise geodatabase, helping ensure all data published is the most current the agency has.

He adds that having data on one site has eliminated duplicate requests for agencies. Data from multiple sources is accessible in one place, simplifying the user experience. For example, instead of a user asking several different agencies for information, data is now viewable in one place and gives the public a “one-stop shop.”

“It's one place that the public can come to get accurate data and help be better informed, make better decisions, and have the best data available for any of their projects,” says Watermolen.

The Nebraska Office of the CIO retired two virtual servers after the adoption of ArcGIS Hub, translating to financial savings for the agency of \$1,700 a year. In addition, staff doesn't need to spend time updating data on the open data site because it's done automatically, saving time and allowing them to focus on other priority projects.

Additionally, ArcGIS Hub aided the agency in its “IT consolidation,” putting all state agencies on the same platform and all servers in the state data center. Having one central place for data increases the efficiency of operations and makes it easier to manage and coordinate data.

Now Nebraska state leaders are looking to expand the use of ArcGIS Hub. “The ability to input tabular data and add documents has caught the eye of our CIO,” says Watermolen. “If different agencies participate in this manner, we can make this more of a true open data portal and not just a GIS-related one.”

Watermolen adds, “We can build dashboards right into NebraskaMAP to show how the data is being used. Our CIO likes the idea of the data coming alive.”

#### Pull Quote

“ArcGIS Hub has helped us make data more transparent. It has made it easier for state agencies to share and collaborate, and for the public to find good quality data. We want to instill confidence that we are being good stewards of taxpayer resources.”

--John Watermolen, Nebraska Office of the CIO





Michigan vs. Vanderbilt in CWS final series may signal a change in college baseball. *Sports*

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# Omaha World-Herald

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AMID VAPING ‘EPIDEMIC’

## Fairbury district will test students for nicotine

Random testing, for teens who take part in activities after school, is legal

THE WASHINGTON POST

Virtually odorless and smokeless, easily concealed in a pocket or sleeve, and frequently designed to look like USB drives or other everyday items, e-cigarettes are not difficult to hide. Perhaps not coincidentally, the number of teenagers who vape has skyrocketed in recent years, bedeviling school principals and prompting fears that a new generation will grow up hooked on nicotine.

So one small Nebraska school district is trying an aggressive new approach: Forcing students in grades seven through 12 to submit to random nicotine testing if they want to take part in extracurricular activities such as speech competitions and the National Honor Society.

“Vaping and smoking in our view is reaching epidemic proportions,” Fairbury Public Schools Superintendent Stephen Grizzle told the Lincoln Journal Star last week, after the school board voted to approve the measure. “It’s just a way we can deter kids from potentially being addicted to nicotine.”

Though teenagers and privacy rights advocates might find it extreme, the new policy is legal, *See Vaping: Page 3*

IN DEFENSE BILL

## Bacon, Ashford differ over who gets credit for troops’ pay raise

By JOSEPH MORTON  
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is set to receive a 3.1% pay hike next year, but just who deserves credit for that increase has become something of a political debate.

The House Armed Services Committee voted recently to approve the annual defense authorization bill.

Democrats touted the pay increase as an important feature of the legislation and slammed Republican members who voted no, saying they had voted against giving the troops a raise.

Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., was one of only two GOP members of the committee to support the bill, after he persuaded his colleagues to adopt an amendment authorizing

*See Pay: Page 2*

Short fireworks season

Omahans will have just three days to set them off in July. **Midlands**

Weather

High: 81  
An a.m. shower, cloudy

Low: 63  
Details: 4A

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## Archaeologists scour flooded fields, hoping to find trash, not treasure



CHRIS PETERS/THE WORLD-HERALD

Michelle Hayes of History Nebraska holds a gopher jaw found near the Elkhorn River bridge on U.S. Highway 275. At top is a seashell in a field that was flooded. History Nebraska built a team of six to handle site surveys required after spring floods.

**ON OMAHA.COM** Find the latest flood updates, weather forecasts and more.

Discovery of historically significant items could make it ‘a lot harder’ for farmers to receive aid

By CHRIS PETERS  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A team of archaeologists is combing Nebraska’s flooded farm fields, hoping they find nothing at all.

Technically, they’re searching sandy and debris-laden fields for Native American pottery, remnants of pioneer settlements or anything else that might have been uncovered by this spring’s floodwaters. Ideally, however, they will come up empty-handed.

“We want to find something, but we don’t,” said Kaity Ulewicz, one of the archaeologists. “If we find

*See Archaeologists: Page 2*

## Rolling into a new way of commuting, a trip at a time



Erin Grace  
COLUMNIST

I rode my bike to work. Write about it, an editor suggested. But was this really news? And by the way, my colleague Jeff Robb just did this very thing and more heroically, chronicling a 17-mile, two-hour bike journey from Millard (!) to downtown (!!) in the rain (!!!). My 2-ish mile commute from Gifford Park pales in comparison.

Yet this bike-commuting thing is all still very vanguard for Omaha, which has a much smaller cycling commuter community than other cities where cycling is embraced and respected by motorists. A recent survey of downtown and midtown Omaha workers showed that people want to try something other than their c-a-r, but almost 8 out of 10 of them are still driving solo to work.

Guilty. I justify it because dropping three kids at school and running from interviews to office to interviews makes the bus-bike-carpool-gig seem too inefficient and cumbersome. Global warmer I am.

However, it’s summer. No school drop-offs. Plus I have a sweet new bike. When the editor suggested I tell you about my ride, well, this column is proof that I’m capable of following orders. And bragging. (Disclaimer: This author is more Lucille Ball than Jeff “Lance Armstrong” Robb. And my journey was no Tour de Millard.)

Fact: I had not ridden my bike to work since the first George Bush was president. This was back in college in Milwaukee, a time and place when few students had four wheels. A bike got you to class, to work, to the lake, and I’ll neither confirm nor deny, to bars. Back then, my bike was a Trek hybrid

*See Grace: Page 2*



Erin Grace with new bike, Violet, a Specialized model with a “rainbow shimmer” bottle holder. Grace, who hadn’t ridden a bike to work since the George H.W. Bush administration, has biked twice to The World-Herald.





A team of archaeologists surveys a recently flooded field near U.S. Highway 275 and the Elkhorn River. The team researches properties to determine whether they would have been a Native American hunting site or early Nebraska farmstead. About 10% of the more than 300 applications reviewed have required a visit.

# Archaeologists: Team finds animal bones, bullets, golf balls

Continued from Page 1

something, it's a lot harder for the farmers to get their money.”

History Nebraska built a six-member team to handle the huge influx of site surveys required to get farmers aid money in the aftermath of the flooding. Many farms require clearance that the site is not of historical significance before they can receive funding from the Farm Service Agency to rebuild or restore their farms.

The team, led by site supervisor Ulewicz, began visiting farms June 12.

“Because we didn’t have anybody on staff, the onus was going to be on the farmers to hire their own archaeologists,” said Jill Dolberg, deputy state historic preservation officer. “We just thought maybe this was some way we could fill in and help a bit.”

Dolberg has set aside about \$180,000 to fund the team, using money that was left over from another project that fell through. She plans to use the team until at least Sept. 1, possibly longer, depend-

“Because we didn’t have anybody on staff, the onus was going to be on the farmers to hire their own archaeologists. We just thought maybe this was some way we could fill in and help a bit.”

*Jill Dolberg, deputy state historic preservation officer*

ing on need.

Until recently, one person — state archaeologist Rob Bozell — was performing site surveys, which was OK given the normal workload. But this year's flooding has inundated History Nebraska with site surveys to consider, and farmers were waiting weeks for clearance to move forward with their grant applications.

Not every site requires a survey. Dolberg said her team researches each property to determine whether it is likely to have been a Native American hunting site or an early Nebraska farmstead. Only about 10% of the more than 300 applications they have reviewed have required a site visit, and none has

met the requirements for a historical site.

In the field, Ulewicz said the team has found plenty of animal bones — including a deer rib and a gopher jaw near the Elkhorn River bridge on U.S. Highway 275 — but nothing of significance. Instead, they have found a whole lot of silly debris.

One of the field techs, Michelle Hayes, earned the nickname “Shotgun Shelly” after finding dozens of bullets in a field in Saunders County. Most farms so far have been littered with golf balls. And one farmer in Beemer said he found a bowling ball on his land.

“Chances are, most of it is trash or debris from the river,” Ulewicz

said.

Dolberg said it's rare for History Nebraska to help out a federal agency like the FSA, but she was happy to do it. Other organizations have helped History Nebraska support the FSA, too.

Claire Inbody, highway GIS (Geographic Information System) applications manager at the Nebraska Department of Transportation, created a GPS smartphone app that allows the archaeologists to map their site as they survey, saving time on paperwork, note-taking and retracing footsteps. And the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is housing and feeding a few out-of-state archaeologists.

So far, the teams haven’t uncovered anything significant, but they’re just getting started. For the sake of the farmers, Dolberg is keeping her fingers crossed that it's a boring summer full of gopher jaws and golf balls: “We want to be able to get them back to work as fast as possible.”

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twitter.com/\_ChrisPeters



## Pay: Bacon touts support, but raise was already set, Ashford says

Continued from Page 1

money for recovery efforts at the flooded Offutt Air Force Base and other disaster-damaged military installations.

After the vote, Bacon touted his support for various provisions in the bill and specifically cited the pay boost, which drew an objection from Democrat Ann Ashford, who is seeking her party's nomination to oppose Bacon next year.

A Washington Post fact check on the issue noted that the bill did not have specific language setting the raise at that level. Rather, the raise is set by a formula and scheduled to automatically go into effect under existing law.

“This would have happened anyway,” Ashford said.

But what about her fellow Democrats saying the bill raises salaries?

She said everyone seems to be playing politics and she disagrees with them as well.

Democrats, and Bacon, have stood by their characterization that the bill raises military pay.

After all, lawmakers could have opted to block or change the level of the raises but chose not to do so. And they said the bill clearly authorizes the funding that will pay for those raises.

“That’s our role, to authorize,” Bacon said.

Bacon suggested that Ashford's comments represent reflexive criticism of an opponent.

The two did find some common ground.

Ashford said she appreciated Bacon working to get the Offutt recovery money authorized in the bill.

And Bacon also took issue with Democrats suggesting that Republican no votes were in opposition to the pay raises.

He said most of his fellow GOP members on the panel voted against the bill because of provisions dealing with the U.S.-Mexico border situation, nuclear weapons and the overall funding level.

joe.morton@owh.com, twitter.com/MortonOWH

# Grace: Being part of city’s cycling commuter community takes some effort

Continued from Page 1

— not as heavy as a mountain bike but more durable than a road bike. She was teal. She was pretty. I named her Ramona.

Ramona went all over Milwaukee, then all over Washington, D.C., and, then all over the south Louisiana town where I landed after graduation to teach high school. Three years later, on the road to Omaha, she bounced on the back of my old Corolla. Then Ramona began her sad roll into oblivion as I rolled into new stages of life: A World-Herald job with night hours. A husband who doesn't ride and a city that doesn't seem to have a strong bike culture. Kids. Ramona sat in garage after garage and finally got lost.

A friend dumped his old bike on me. But that hand-me-down, clunky mountain bike was more furniture than fun. It sat unused, the way a lot of people's bikes do, sparking the kind of exchanges that have sparked a cottage industry for Marie Kondo.

Husband: Can we finally get rid of it?

Me: No! I need a bike!

Husband: But you never ride it.

Me: Your point is?

Then one brilliant day this past March, my birthday in fact, I opened an envelope marked

“Mom.” In it was a gift certificate to Greenstreet Cycles, a place I'd written about back in August. My husband might not ride, but he reads. And remembers.

Remembered how I fawned over Phil Rivera in my column last year. Phil pedals 15 miles from his home in the midtown neighborhood, where I grew up riding my Brady Bunch bike, to his job at Greenstreet in Papillion. Remembered how I'd fawned over those bikes. Remembered how I pitched getting us both one, though we both knew I meant me.

Husband went to Greenstreet, talked to Phil and purchased one gift certificate for moi. On Mother's Day, I took said piece of paper to the Papillion store and, with Phil's help, picked out my new ride. I named her Violet because of her purple color. Like Ramona, she's a hybrid, light and durable. Like Ramona, she's pretty and fabulous, a Specialized model on its way out, priced at \$400.

Pro tip: If the last bike you bought had a banana seat, today's bikes come with no extras, not even kickstands, which are pooh-poohed because they flop and get loose. So I splurged on this necessity: a water bottle holder. I chose “rainbow shimmer” (I know, I know) that was a good \$20 more (I know! I know!) than the stan-

dard black.

When I told Phil I didn't need the Mercedes of bikes, all he had to say was, “just one to get you to the farmers market?” I was then in for a rack and a basket because, baguettes.

A car rack was out of the question because it would mean a hitch. And a thousand dollars. And I didn't have either.

But Violet fits easily inside our minivan. Which was important because I had no plans to Phil it home from Papillion. I drove.

The rest of May, Violet sadly sat in our garage, benched by the aforementioned school-soccer-weather calendar that required four wheels and fossil fuels.

Then came June. No school, no soccer, more sunshine. Time for Violet's liberation.

Time for mine.

Inspired by colleagues, including Jeff, I suited up. Running pants. Sneakers. Helmet. Very Nike ad.

Bye! I waved at the kitchen window as I pushed Violet into sunlight and toward our driveway gate. I added a gym bag with work clothes and a purse, patting myself on the back for the basket.

Then, our dog Delaney burst upon the scene.

Bike went down. Purse spilled. Golden retriever off like a grey-

hound. The only freedom in the air was Delaney's. I clomped after her in my helmet. Not very Nike ad.

Once the naughty puppy was back home, I did not wave. Instead, I pulled Violet off the ground, second-guessing that whole no-kickstand thing. I shoved my purse back into the basket. I pointed us both east, coasting almost the whole way — a fact I did not realize would foreshadow a different ride home.

Taking Dodge or Cuming was out of the question for this maiden trip. Because, traffic. And because, hills. Omaha Twitterverse suggested taking Burt Street east. Then 16th Street south. At 18th, Burt gets a dedicated bike lane — a thing I had not fully appreciated until now. Stretches of 16th and 14th Streets have them. Solid advice.

Two blocks in, I wasn't pedaling. I was flying. The wind in my face felt great. So did the moral superiority at not being, for this moment at least, a climate changer. My trip clocked in under 20 minutes, scarcely longer than if I'd driven, parked and walked.

Takeaway: Biking to work is a breeze!

Going home was another story. Because, hills. Because, sun. Because, rookie mistake: No water bottle in that shimmyery, over-

priced bottle holder. I huffed. I puffed. My quads burned. I took a breather in some shade, weighing the shame factor in walking Violet up our street.

Then I shoved my dignity in the basket, hopped off the saddle and pushed my new bike home.

Takeaway: Biking home is harder!

Give it three days, my colleague and fellow bike commuter Christopher Burbach said. He was right.

Second trip was to the farmers market downtown, where two baguettes and a lovely head of lettuce made the ride home. Because my 13-year-old daughter accompanied me on her bike — and scorched me on our hill — I made it up this time, pedaling hard.

Third trip was to work again. This time, I wasn't dog-delayed, but I did have to contend with morning rush hour.

Takeaway: I hate you, cars! Takeaway: Why doesn't every street have a dedicated bike lane? Takeaway: A helmet seems suddenly inadequate when you're pedaling next to a semi.

Takeaway: The bike route was lonely on a perfect weather bike day.

Maybe it is news to pedal to work.

Though perhaps it shouldn't be.

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**Nebraska Information Technology Commission  
EDUCATION COUNCIL**

**2019-21 Membership Renewals/Replacements EXPIRING June 30, 2019**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b><u>HIGHER EDUCATION (2019-21 term)</u></b>		
Mark Askren	UN System	<b>Susan Fritz-to be confirmed</b>
Mike Carpenter	Independent Colleges & Universities	<b>Dennis Joslin-to be confirmed</b>
Derek Bierman	Community College System	<b>Greg Adams-to be confirmed</b>
Steve Hotovy	State College System	<b>Paul Turman-to be confirmed</b>
<b><u>K-12 EDUCATION (2019-21 term)</u></b>		
Dr. Ted DeTurk	Educational Service Units	<b>Kraig Lofquist-to be confirmed</b>
Trent Kelly	Administrators	<b>Mike Dulaney-to be confirmed</b>
Stephen Hamersky	Private Education	<b>John Perkinton-to be confirmed</b>
Matt Chrisman	Public Teachers	<b>Maddie Fennell-to be confirmed</b>

**\*Note\***

**Underlined Candidates** are new voting members to the NITC Education Council and have a brief biographical statement attached to this document

**RECOGNITION**

## **Rural Broadband Task Force Update**

### **June 2019**

#### **Overview**

Nebraska's Rural Broadband Task Force was created to "review issues relating to availability, adoption, and affordability of broadband services in rural areas of Nebraska" by LB 994, which was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Ricketts on April 17, 2018.

The 14-member task force is chaired by Ed Toner, State of Nebraska CIO and Chair of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. Other members include:

- Senator Curt Friesen, Chair, Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, Nebraska Legislature;
- Senator Bruce Bostelman, Nebraska Legislature;
- Mary Ridder, Commissioner and Chair, Nebraska Public Service Commission;
- Dave Rippe, Director, Nebraska Department of Economic Development;
- Steve Wellman, Director, Nebraska Department of Agriculture;
- Zachary Hunnicutt, Farmer, Hunnicutt Farms;
- Isaiah Graham, Vice-President, Homestead Bank;
- Tom Shoemaker, President, Pinpoint Communications;
- Daniel Spray, Owner, Precision Technology, Inc.;
- Timothy Lindahl, CEO/General Manager, Wheat Belt Public Power District;
- Anna Turman, Division CIO, Catholic Health Initiative;
- Andrew Buker, Executive Director of Infrastructure Services, University of Nebraska; and
- Ron Cone, Director of Network Information Services, ESU 10.

#### **Gathering Information**

The task force has been studying issues related to accelerating broadband deployment in Nebraska and developing recommendations. The task force began by inviting stakeholders and subject matter experts to share information on the following topics:

- Nebraska's broadband map,
- Broadband availability and adoption data,
- The Nebraska Universal Service Fund and Connect America Fund,
- Nebraska broadband programs, studies and initiatives,
- Broadband technologies,

- What other states are doing,
- Wyoming's broadband plan and mapping effort,
- Public-private partnerships,
- Middle mile costs,
- Rights-of-way,
- Broadband funding,
- Broadband costs and speed test studies,
- Agricultural technology and broadband,
- The E-rate program, and
- The homework gap.

### **Subcommittees**

Much of the Rural Broadband Task Force's work is being done by five subcommittees: the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF), Broadband Data, Broadband Technologies, Public-Private Partnerships, and Homework Gap/Leveraging Funding Subcommittees.

The **Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) Subcommittee** is examining "the role of the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund in bringing comparable and affordable broadband services to rural residents and any effect of the fund in deterring or delaying capital formation, broadband competition, and broadband deployment." Subcommittee members include Mary Ridder, Nebraska Public Service Commission; Tom Shoemaker, Pinpoint Communications and Dan Spray, Precision Technology, Inc.

The **Broadband Data Subcommittee** is addressing issues related to broadband data. The subcommittee was asked to answer the following questions:

- What data we currently have?
- What data we need?
- How can we get the data we need but don't have?

Subcommittee members include Senator Bruce Bostelman, Nebraska Legislature; Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska; Dan Spray, Precision Technology, Inc. and Anna Turman, Catholic Health Initiative.

The **Broadband Technologies Subcommittee** is reviewing "the feasibility of alternative technologies and providers in accelerating access to faster and more reliable broadband service for rural residents." Subcommittee members include Zachary Hunnicutt, Hunnicutt Farms; Ron Cone, EUS 10 and Dan Spray, Precision Technology, Inc.

The **Public-Private Partnerships Subcommittee** is examining how public-private partnerships could best be leveraged to accelerate access to faster broadband in rural areas. Subcommittee members include Tim Lindahl, Wheat Belt Public Power District and Tom Shoemaker, Pinpoint Communications.

The **Homework Gap/Leveraging Funding Subcommittee** is identifying strategies to address the homework gap and making recommendations on leveraging universal service and other funding especially for schools and libraries. Subcommittee members include Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska; Ron Cone, ESU 10 and Dan Spray, Precision Technologies, Inc.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Opportunities for Public Comment**

Over the next few months, subcommittees will be finalizing their findings and recommendations. The subcommittees will present their findings and recommendations to the Rural Broadband Task Force in August and September. In October, the task force will approve its report to the Legislature, which is due by Nov. 1.

Here are the summer and fall meeting dates:

- Friday, August 16 at 9:30 a.m. CT at the Governor's Mansion, 1425 H St in Lincoln
- Friday, September 20 at 9:30 a.m. CT at Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege Street in Lincoln
- Friday, Oct. 18 at 9:30 a.m. CT at Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege Street in Lincoln

Rural Broadband Task Force meetings are open to the public. The September and October meetings will also be webcast. The Rural Broadband Task Force is planning to schedule time for public comment at the meeting on September 20. Interested stakeholders may also submit written comments by going to <https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov/contact/contact.php>.

A draft of the report will be made available prior to the October 18 meeting. Written comments can be submitted via the link above.

### **For More Information**

More information on the Rural Broadband Task Force is available at [ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov](https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov).

([https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov/updates/update\\_62019.html](https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov/updates/update_62019.html))