

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Monday, August 25, 2014, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon CT**  
**NET Boardroom**  
**1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska**

**Video Site:** [NEB. REV. STAT. § 84-1411(6) - Public Participation]: UNL Extension— Cheyenne County,  
920 Jackson Street, Sidney, NE

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rod Armstrong, AIM  
Pam Adams, American Broadband  
Randy Bretz, TEDxLincoln  
Dave Hahn, Nebraska Information Network  
Charlotte Narjes for Connie Hancock, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Jacob Knutson, Nebraska Department of Economic Development (Arrived at 9:49)  
Chris Anderson, City of Central City  
Phil Green, City of Blair  
Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Public Library  
Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library  
Steve Henderson, City of Lincoln  
Holly Woldt, Nebraska Library Commission  
Jerry Vap, Nebraska Public Service Commission

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Norene Fitzgerald, Darla Heggem, Joan Modrell, David Lofdahl, Monica Lueking-Crowe, Marion McDermott, and Brett Baker

**MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SITE:** Connie Hancock, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and Megan McGown, City of Sidney (Joined at 10:02)

**ROLL CALL NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA, NOTICE OF NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT & POSTING REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Co-Chair Rod Armstrong called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken. Twelve members and alternates were present at time of roll: Rod Armstrong, Pam Adams, Randy Bretz, Dave Hahn, Charlotte Narjes, Chris Anderson, Phil Green, Jessica Chamberlain, Steve Fosselman, Steve Henderson, Holly Woldt, and Jerry Vap. A quorum was present.

Rod Armstrong noted that the meeting announcement was posted on the Nebraska Public Meeting and NITC websites on Aug. 15, 2014. The agenda was posted on August 18, 2014. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the wall.

Minutes were reviewed. Ms. Byers noted corrections submitted by Phil Green, including clarifying which members were present at time of roll, noting members absent for each vote, and correcting Phil Green's

vote on the charter amendment to yes. Ms. Byers distributed a copy of the corrected minutes. There were no other corrections.

**Jerry Vap made a motion to approve the minutes. Steve Henderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken to approve the minutes: Armstrong-Yes, Adams-Yes, Bretz-Yes, Hahn-Yes, Narjes-Yes, Anderson-Yes, Green-Yes, Chamberlain-Yes, Fosselman-Yes, Henderson-Yes, Woldt-Yes, Vap-Yes. Results: Yes-12, No-0. Motion carried.**

**Members Absent:** Norene Fitzgerald, Darla Heggem, Jacob Knutson, Joan Modrell, David Lofdahl, Monica Lueking-Crowe, Marion McDermott, and Brett Baker. Note: Due to technical difficulties, Connie Hancock and Megan McGown at the Sidney site were offline.

## **FirstNet**

Bob Wilhelm with the State of Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer gave an update on FirstNet. FirstNet is a federal initiative created by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act in 2012. The law gives FirstNet the duty to build, operate and maintain a high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network for public safety communications. FirstNet is governed by a 15-member board composed of representatives from public safety; local, state, and federal government; and the wireless industry.

FirstNet will provide mission-critical, high-speed data services to supplement the voice capabilities of current Land Mobile Radio (LMR) networks. It will be used to send data, video, images, and text. FirstNet will also carry location information and eventually support streaming video. FirstNet also plans to offer cellular voice communications such as Voice over Long Term Evolution (VoLTE) or other alternatives. The FirstNet network will not become a viable replacement for LMR until the availability of mission-critical voice functionality that meets or exceeds the needs of public safety agencies.

The law that established FirstNet requires it to consult with regional, state, tribal and local jurisdictions to ensure that the FirstNet network is designed to meet the needs of public safety across the country. State consultation will be a collaborative process, involving key stakeholders and leadership from each state and territory, and will be iterative to allow for enhancements and improvements from the state and territory.

Nebraska received \$1.5 million in federal funding NTIA's State and Local Implementation Grant Program and is providing a match of \$377,688. The grant supports planning, consultation, and data collection activities conducted in two phases. The first phase is focused on education, outreach, governance, and identification of stakeholders. The second phase is focused on collecting data on infrastructure.

A kickoff for the Nebraska planning effort was held in December 2013 with 120 attendees.

FirstNet will schedule a consultation with each state and will then present a plan to the Governor. Governors have 90 days in which to opt in to the FirstNet plan or to opt out and plan their own system.

Chief Information Officer Brenda Decker is the Single Point of Contact for Nebraska.

Jacob Knutson arrived.

## **Next Generation 911**

Commissioner Jerry Vap provided an update on Next Generation 911. Next Generation 911 or NextGen 911 is an Internet Protocol (IP)-based system designed to enable dispatcher to move data including photos and video to responders without negatively impacting response time. There are several obstacles that need to be overcome in order for Nebraska to begin implementing NextGen 911, including making changes to funding and governance.

The current statutory and regulatory framework for the management and funding of 911 service in Nebraska was not designed to support a statewide NextGen 911 system. The current system includes separate systems for collecting surcharges on wireless and landline phones and for disbursing the funds collected. Legislation limits how these funds can be used.

The Landline 911 Act permits governing bodies to impose a surcharge of up to \$1.00 (except in Douglas County which is limited to \$.50) per telephone line. Landline surcharge revenue is remitted directly to local governing bodies. The percent of calls from landline phones has been decreasing.

Enhanced 911 or E-911 allows a Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) to determine the location of the origin of a wireless call to within 300 meters. Current technology locates a call to the center of the street, but not the building or location within a building. The Nebraska Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund was created in 2001 for the purpose of implementing wireless E-911 services across the state. A surcharge on all active telephone numbers from each subscriber with a billing address in Nebraska is collected by wireless providers and submitted to the Public Service Commission. The current surcharge is \$.45. Funding from the E-911 fund cannot be used for NextGen 911. Approximately 65% of calls to PSAPS across the state are made from wireless phones.

In 2013, the Legislature passed LB 595 to provide for a Public Service Commission study of Next Generation 911. A final report of the study was presented to the Nebraska Public Service Commission in March 2014. The study was done by Mission Critical Partners. The Legislature has asked the PSC to begin the planning process. Mission Critical Partners is helping with the planning.

Texting to 911 can be problematic. The FCC has mandated that carriers support texting to 911, but carriers just provide the location of the tower for text messages. When roaming, text messages cannot be sent to 911. The public should be advised: "Call if you can, text if you have to."

Public education and cybersecurity are additional issues which should be addressed. Hackers trying to get 911 call data crashed the Ferguson, MO system.

## **Broadband Plan Draft, Timeline and Targets**

Anne Byers discussed the draft of the broadband plan and asked members for feedback. Steve Fosselman suggested including more information in the plan on the role of libraries as community anchor institutions. Ms. Byers offered to meet with him and other library representatives as well as any other interested members to discuss this further.

Jay Anderson commented that consumers often don't understand broadband. He suggested including additional information, including upload speeds and different methods of providing broadband access to the Internet.

Randy Bretz commented on the map of fiber deployment in Nebraska and asked why no fiber was shown in Lincoln. Anne Byers commented that zooming in on a location from the [broadbandmap.nebraska.gov](http://broadbandmap.nebraska.gov) site will show the fiber in Lincoln.

Anne Byers asked members to set measurable goals or targets for the plan. Information on household subscription and broadband availability were included in meeting materials. Members suggested a goal of having over 90% of households statewide and 85% of households in rural Nebraska subscribe to broadband. Members also suggested setting a goal of having broadband service of 25 Mbps down available to 90% of households by 2020 and broadband service of 1 gbps down available to 25% of households by 2020. Charlotte Narjes offered to check to see if questions related to broadband subscription could be included in the annual Rural Poll. The poll has been expanded to also include metropolitan areas of the state.

Randy Bretz suggested setting goals for business or government use of broadband. Although members agreed that use of broadband by businesses and local government is important, members did not agree on measures.

Randy Bretz commented that the goals could be improved by using a stronger verb than "facilitate." Members suggested that "facilitate" could be replaced by "increase."

## **Membership and Meeting Schedule**

Members discussed nominating Jay Anderson to replace Paul Ludwick's position on the Council.

**Steve Henderson made a motion to approve the nomination of Jay Anderson. Dave Hahn seconded the motion. A vote was taken to approve the nomination of Jay Anderson: Armstrong-Yes, Adams-Yes, Bretz-Yes, Hahn-Yes, Narjes-Yes, Knutson –Yes, Anderson-Yes, Green-Yes, Chamberlain-Yes, Fosselman-Yes, Henderson-Yes, Woldt-Yes. Results: Yes-12, No-0. Motion carried.**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Norene Fitzgerald, Darla Heggem, Joan Modrell, David Lofdahl, Monica Lueking-Crowe, Marion McDermott, Brett Baker, and Jerry Vap. Note: Due to technical difficulties, Connie Hancock and Megan McGown at the Sidney site were offline.

Members discussed setting the next meeting date and agreed to meet in November after the broadband plan has been submitted to the NITC for approval.

### **Broadband Conference**

Rod Armstrong reported that the Connecting Nebraska Broadband Conference will be held Oct. 1-2 in Kearney at the Younes Conference Center. Keynote speakers include Shane Farritor who is involved in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's efforts to create a maker space on the Innovation Campus and Daniel Sieberg, Senior Marketing Manager, Google.

### **Possible Action Items**

Anne Byers briefly mentioned some of the resources available to help teach youth how to code, including the Khan Academy, Scratch, Sew Electric, and AIM's Coder Dojos. She passed around two examples of Sew Electric projects. She suggested developing a pilot summer coding program at approximately five libraries. She will follow-up with Steve Fosselman, Jessica Chamberlain, Holly Woldt, and other stakeholders to discuss this idea further.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.