

Network Nebraska—Education Advisory Group Meeting #7
Thursday, May 6, 2010; 1:00pm-3:30pm CT

Remote 1: ESU 10 Videoconference Room, 76 Plaza Blvd., Kearney, NE

Remote 2: Varner Hall Board Room, 3835 Holdrege St., Lincoln, NE

Remote 3: Wayne State College, Wayne, NE

Remote 4: Peru State College, Peru, NE

Remote 5: Mid-Plains Community College, North Platte, NE

Remote 6: Elwood Public Schools, Elwood, NE

Remote 7: ESU 2, Fremont, NE

Remote 8: Palmer Public Schools, Palmer, NE

Remote 9: Pope John XXIII DL Room, Elgin, NE (joined at 2:00pm)

Meeting Notes

K-12 Attendance: John Stritt (Kearney), Bob Uhing (Wayne), Scott Jones (Elwood), Gary Monter (Palmer), Betty Getzfred (Elgin), Kirk Langer (Lincoln), Mike Danahy (Fremont)

H. E. Attendance: Gene Beardslee (Peru), Dennis Linster (Wayne), Ken Clipperton (Lincoln), Lyle Neal (Lincoln), Charles Osteen (North Platte)

CAP Liaison Attendance: Walter Weir, Rick Golden, Ben Mientka, Leona Roach

Absent: Dan Hoelsing, Mike Ruhrdanz, Debbie Schroeder, Tip O'Neill, Michael Winkle, Stacey Decker, Brenda Decker

Staff attendance: SuAnn Witt, Tom Rolfes

- 1. Welcome.** Co-Chair John Stritt called the meeting to order at 1:02pm CT and welcomed eight videoconferencing sites to the meeting. John had each member on the videoconference introduce themselves. **Roll Call** found 11 members and 4 CAP representatives present to start the meeting.
- 2. Agenda additions.** Co-Chair John Stritt asked if there were any agenda additions for today's meeting. There were none.
- 3. Review of March 8, 2010 Meeting.** Co-Chair Stritt reviewed the major agenda items and asked for updates concerning the March 8 NNAG meeting notes.
 - a. Network Management-**Ben Mientka reported that the UNL Purchasing RFP for network management software and tools attracted nine responses, of which the top five were asked in for a demonstration, from which the top two finalists would be selected. The purpose of this software is to improve the visibility and monitoring of remote sites and to be able to delegate monitoring to the ESU and college level. The plan is to deploy the software in early July, with the node assignments to be down to the ESU and college campus level. School district nodes would not be included, unless the cost per node is very affordable or unless Network Nebraska could make this software available on a per site basis for an extra charge.
 - b. Traffic Shaper-**Ben Mientka reported that the traffic shaper devices were originally planned to be installed in March but will now be deployed in late June or early July, in concurrence with the July 1 Internet cutover from Qwest to Windstream.
 - c. Federal E-rate-**SuAnn Witt reported that the FCC Order 10-33 to allow incidental after hours use of K-12 telecommunications facilities has been met with favor by both K-12,

community groups and higher education. It is believed that the FCC will make the order permanent sometime in 2011.

- d. **NITC Action Items**-Co-Chairs Stritt and Linster discussed the NITC action items that involved the Network Nebraska Advisory Group. Since some of the action items also involve the NITC Education Council, Stritt and Linster welcomed the opportunity to do a conference call with Education Council co-chairs Mike Chipps and Terry Haack prior to the June 4 EC meeting.
- e. **Network Nebraska Marketing Report**-Bob Uhing reported that SuAnn Witt presented the Network Nebraska Market Survey Report findings to the ESUCC on Wednesday, May 5 and did a very nice job.

Bob Uhing moved, and Charles Osteen seconded, to accept the 3/8/2010 meeting notes as a full and accurate depiction of the March 8, 2010 Network Nebraska—Education Advisory Group meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed 11-0.

4. Old Business:

- a. **Network Nebraska Interregional Transport Fee**-John Stritt moved this New Business item up to Old Business since the Interregional Transport Fee had been previously discussed. Tom Rolfes confirmed that the 2010-11 Interregional Transport Fee will cover a backbone cost of \$316,788 through a charge of \$111.86/month for higher education entities, \$35.40/month for K-12 entities and a projected reimbursement of \$202,775 from the federal E-rate.
- b. **Network Nebraska Participation Fee**-Tom Rolfes took the advisory group members through a line-by-line review of the participation fee budget changes. The overall Participation Fee budget is only expected to increase by 2% over 2009-10. Although not finalized, the participation fee rate is still expected to be below \$200/month/entity and appears as \$193.79/month in the draft spreadsheet.

Charles Osteen moved, and Lyle Neal seconded, to recommend the 2010-11 Participation Fee and 2010-11 Interregional Transport Fee to the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership for approval and distribution. Discussion included a request by Dennis Linster that any future fee approvals be accompanied by a plan for future network services. **All were in favor. The motion passed 10-0.**

- c. **Marketing Survey Committee**-Co-Chairs Stritt and Linster postponed any assignments to this subcommittee until after a discussion could be held with the Education Council Co-Chairs.
- d. **Network Nebraska Website**-John Stritt entertained a discussion concerning an update to the Network Nebraska website, www.networknebraska.net . Facts revealed that the current web editor software is Joomla and the website is updated manually by the UNCSN web team. Kay Kasl was the original staff person who did most of the work on the site. The 2010-11 NN Participation Fee budget allows for 150 hours of labor x \$50/hour to reconstruct the website to make it easier to navigate and more logically organized. Members suggested that the redesign should begin with an evaluation of the requirements for a website. Members asked if a bid was necessary to do the website redesign. Tom Rolfes replied that enough expertise exists internally for the work to be done in-house.

Walter Weir suggested that the website may include dynamic content like that generated from Blogs, Wikis, or products such as “Vignette”. Dennis Linster agreed and stated that the website should be able to accommodate both static and dynamic content. **Co-Chairs Stritt and Linster will call for member volunteers to help with the NN Website project, generate a list of questions to survey constituents and provide input. Staff volunteers for this project include: Kay Kasl, Leona Roach, Ben Mientka, Jeff Piper (WSC), and Tom Rolfes.**

5. New Business:

- a. **Discuss Outcomes from Videoconferencing**—Members exclaimed how well videoconferencing has been to get the entire advisory group membership together as often as every six weeks. Attendance has been consistently over 60%, travel costs are avoided, and volunteers spend less time away from their paying jobs.
- b. **Future Changes in the Open Meetings Law**—Members asked whether the NITC would be willing to propose changes in the Open Meetings Law to permit a more liberal use of videoconferencing to avoid travel costs and better accommodate the public’s right to participate in open government. **Walter Weir said that he would take the issue before the Lt. Governor, Chair of the NITC.** John Stritt did say that the current MCU bridge display configuration limited the simultaneous views to eight screens. Tom Rolfes shared that the Open Meetings statutes have been modified at least twice in the past decade, but never to reconsider the videoconferencing limitations. There would likely be interest by other agencies, boards and commissions in revisiting the videoconferencing provisions.
- c. **Network Nebraska Participation Fee**—Scott Jones presented the Participation Fee concerns by some rural districts that pay multiple fees for multiple circuits into Network Nebraska aggregation points. Members discussed the pros and cons of the “one circuit, one fee” approach vs. the “one entity, one fee” approach. Tom Rolfes’s analysis document revealed that if all 11 duplicate fees would be eliminated, that a \$25,000 decrease in revenue would result. This would be equivalent to raising the monthly fee of each participant by \$9.58. Another approach would be to challenge the 10 affected entities to reconfigure their telecommunications infrastructure circuits to sub-aggregate before reaching Network Nebraska, and then the “one circuit, one fee” definition could be retained. Scott agreed to take the materials provided and have another discussion with the concerned entities. Tom Rolfes volunteered to develop an informational brief to explain the background behind the Participation Fee rate structure. Mike Danahy said that he still has a school that would be better served by connecting directly to Network Nebraska but with only 10Mbps instead of 30Mbps or greater. Mike challenged the advisory group to come up with a revised Participation Fee rate schedule before July 1, 2011.

6. **Future Agenda Items.** Co-Chairs Stritt and Linster asked members for any future agenda items:

- a. LB 1071 Update—Guidelines for new or additional equipment notification (Rolfes)
- b. NN Website Subcommittee Feedback and design specifications (Subcommittee)
- c. Network Nebraska Management Structure (Linster)
- d. Traffic Shaper Update (Mientka)
- e. Open Meetings Law Changes (Co-Chairs)
- f. NITC Action Items Update from the Stritt/Linster & Chipps/Haack conference call
- g. Establish a NN Participation Fee Subcommittee (Co-Chair)

- h. Cloud Computing Presentation (Weir/Clipperton)
 - i. Annual comparative fee structure document (Rolfes)
 - j. NN Participation Fee briefing document (Rolfes)
7. **Next Meeting Date -**
 - a. **Co-Chair Stritt will circulate a Doodle Poll to find the best date and time for the next NNAG meeting in the week of July 12-16.**
 8. **The Co-Chairs adjourned the meeting at 3:43pm CT.**

Meeting notes were recorded by Tom Rolfes and reviewed by John Stritt and Dennis Linster.