

NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

May 21, 2015, 2:00 P.M.

Main Site:

Lincoln Executive Building
521 South 14th Street – Room 103
Lincoln, Nebraska

Video Conference Site [NEB. REV. STAT. § 84-1411(2)]:

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
505 Broadway #A131
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Felix Davidson, Governor's Office, Chair
Brad Moline, Allo Communications
Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools
Dorest Harvey, USSTRACTCOM/AFLCMS-HBCC
Randy Meininger, City of Scottsbluff (Scottsbluff site)
Gary Warren, Hamilton Telecommunications
Walter Weir, University of Nebraska

MEMBERS ABSENT: Donna Hammack, Saint Elizabeth Foundation; Senator Curt Friesen, Nebraska Legislature; and Dan Shundoff, Intellicom

ROLL CALL, NOTICE OF MEETING & OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on May 4, 2015. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on May 12, 2015. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available on a table in the back of the meeting room.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 27, 2015 MINUTES

Commissioner Weir moved to approve the [March 27, 2015](#) minutes as presented. Commissioner Harvey seconded. Roll call vote: Davidson-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Meininger-Yes, Moline-Yes, Warren-Yes and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY PLAN; [APPROVAL OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES*](#)

The NITC staff, with input from the Chair and advisory councils, developed recommendations for updating the list of strategic initiatives addressed in the Statewide Technology Plan. Chair Davidson also recommended the addition of two new initiatives: State IT Spending Analysis and Cloud IT Strategy.

Network Nebraska. Network Nebraska interconnects disparate networks into a multipurpose core backbone extending from Omaha to Lincoln to Grand Island and Scottsbluff, with Ethernet clouds and aggregated Internet service extending out to the furthest corners of the state. Staff recommended continuing this initiative.

The Education Council Co-Chairs, Mary Niemiec and Gary Needham, and council member John Dunning, were present to answer any questions. Network Nebraska has led to significant cost savings for participants. Although this enterprise project is considered complete, it will go out for rebid this fall which will make it an enterprise project once again.

Community IT Planning and Development. Although broadband availability in Nebraska continues to improve, some areas of the state are underserved or unserved. This strategic initiative leverages the resources of partner organizations in the state to stimulate demand for broadband by helping communities, businesses, and residents understand how to use new technologies. Staff recommended continuing this initiative, but changing the name to "Broadband-Related Development."

Commissioners felt that this action item should be continued, but recommended that NITC staff come up with a more descriptive name.

eHealth. This initiative supports the adoption of electronic health records, e-prescribing, and health information exchange through NeHII (Nebraska Health Information Initiative). Staff recommended continuing this initiative.

Brenda Decker commented that sustainability of health information exchanges remains a challenge. Unfortunately, eBHIN (Electronic Behavioral Health Information Network) has ceased operations. The eHealth Council has engaged in discussions with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health about how to best involve behavioral health providers and consumers in health information exchange. There is also a need for assistance in integrating health information exchange into the provider's workflow. At the last meeting, the NITC approved a federal grant that included training for physicians and other health care providers. Ms. Byers commented that health IT can also be used to help consumers better manage their care.

Public Safety Communications Systems. The Nebraska Statewide Radio System serves local, state and federal agencies, and public utilities across the state. The system was funded through a partnership between the State and Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) to jointly own, manage and operate the system. State and local agencies are using the system and learning about the many new capabilities. Staff recommended discontinuing this initiative and moving any related action items to the State Government IT Strategy strategic initiative.

Commissioners asked about the relationship between the Nebraska Statewide Radio System and FirstNet. Brenda Decker explained that the federal government is in the process of building its own broadband system for first responders called FirstNet. The federal government will present a federal plan for FirstNet implementation in Nebraska to Governor Ricketts. He will either approve moving ahead with the federal plan for Nebraska or decide to build a State system which would communicate with the federal system.

Digital Education. The Digital Education initiative will involve the coordination and promotion of several major systems and applications that heretofore have either been developed mostly at the local level or have not been replicated statewide. Initiative progress will be dependent upon

adequate Internet connectivity and transport bandwidth for learners, instructors, administrators, and for educational attendance sites. A minimum acceptable level of classroom technology will have to be established for the initiative to be successful. Staff recommended continuing this strategic initiative, but refocusing the initiative on curricular infrastructure.

Mr. Dunning, Education Council member, informed the Commissioners that all educational entities have been working towards digital education and have been collecting data at all levels. Network Nebraska broke down communication barriers between K12, higher education and state government. Education entities all came to the table over the past nine years to make this statewide project successful for all involved. Curricular infrastructure has been discussed as a possible refocusing of the Digital Education Initiative. Commissioner Haack commented that often universities and colleges in Nebraska will accept high school classes taken for college credit as elective credits, but not as credit for required courses. This is a barrier to expanding digital education.

State Government Efficiency. The primary components of this initiative are the implementation of shared services and the development of standards and guidelines. Staff recommended continuing this initiative but renaming it “State Government IT Strategy.”

eGovernment. This initiative furthers the use of e-government to improve services and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of agencies. E-government services have matured and are now offered by many agencies. Staff recommended discontinuing this initiative and moving related action items to the State Government IT Strategy initiative.

Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI). The objective of this initiative is to develop and foster an environment and infrastructure that optimizes the efficient use of geospatial technology, data, and services to address a wide variety of business and governmental challenges within the state. Staff recommended continuing this initiative. Commissioner Weir commended Nathan Watermeier, State GIS Coordinator, for his and the GIS Council’s work in developing the standards and guidelines.

Security and Business Resumption. The objective of this initiative is to define and clarify policies, standards and guidelines, and responsibilities related to the security of the State's information technology resources. Staff, with additional input from the Chair and State Government Council, recommended refocusing this initiative on security. Business resumption and disaster recovery would be led by the Department of Administrative Services.

For the summer meeting, the Commissioners requested the following information for each of the strategic initiatives:

- Challenges and barriers
- Metrics

Commissioners recommended that NITC staff focus on the objectives when determining the metrics. Historical patterns, federal standards, and industry standards could be helpful.

Commissioner Haack requested the involvement of the NITC advisory councils in determining the metrics as well.

Commissioner Haack moved to approve the staff recommendations with the following changes:

- **Rename the Community IT Planning and Development initiative;**

- **Continue the Security initiative but remove the Business Resumption section and rename accordingly; and**
- **Add a new Cloud Strategy initiative.**

Commissioner Warren seconded. Roll call vote: Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, Moline-Yes, Meininger-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes and Davidson-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brenda Decker, Acting Chief Information Officer

All commissioners received information regarding setting a regular meeting schedule. The next two meeting dates are July 23 and November 12.

Commissioners were sent materials providing an overview of the NITC. Brenda Decker asked commissioners for their recommendations and suggestions regarding the orientation materials for new commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by the staff of the NITC.