

NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Monday, March 15, 2010, 1:30 p.m.

Technology Park
4701 Innovation Drive
Lincoln, Nebraska

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy, Chair
Linda Aerni, Chief Executive Officer, Community Internet Systems
Noelle Badeer, Aide for Senator Tony Fulton, Nebraska Legislature
Pat Flanagan, Information Services Manager
Lance Hedquist, City Administrator, South Sioux City
Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Superintendent, Alliance Public Schools
Mike Huggenberger, Director-Netlink, Great Plains Communications
Dr. Janie Park, President, Chadron State College
Trev Peterson, Attorney, Knudsen, Berkheimer, Richardson, and Endacott, LLP

MEMBERS ABSENT: Doug Kristensen, JD, Chancellor, University of Nebraska-Kearney

ROLL CALL, NOTICE OF MEETING, & OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Lieutenant Governor Sheehy called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. There was a quorum present at the time of roll call to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Public Meeting Calendar website on February 18, 2010. The agenda was posted on the NITC website on March 10, 2010. The Open Meetings Act was available on the meeting materials table.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 30, 2009 MINUTES *

Commissioner Park moved to approve the [November 30, 2009](#) minutes as presented. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. Roll call vote: Aerni-Yes, Flanagan-Yes, Hedquist-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Huggenberger-Yes, Park-Yes, Peterson-Yes, and Sheehy-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Linda Aerni was recognized with an appreciation award and a Nebraska Admiralsip for her service to the NITC. She had served two 4-year terms. Prior to serving on the NITC, she was a member of the NITC Community Council. Commissioner Aerni was given an opportunity to comment.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Brenda Decker, CIO, State of Nebraska

Legislation Update – [LB 787](#). LB 787, enacted this session, adds a specific non-voting legislative liaison member to the NITC. The new member will be a member of the Legislature serving on the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. The new member will be appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislature in January 2011.

Legislation Update - [LB 1071](#). LB1071 has provisions relating to the duties of the NITC and the Office of the CIO, including the following:

- Amending the definition of “enterprise project”,
- New language relating to the reporting of technology purchases that may affect Network Nebraska
- Modified requirements for the use of a scheduling system for distance education classes,

- Requirement that the Office of the CIO provide detailed annual fiscal reports to every Network Nebraska member and the Legislative Fiscal Office.

Commissioner Hoelsing stated that most K-12 institutions are very happy with Network Nebraska and that equity of educational opportunity is a concern for him.

Email Project Update. The Email Project has officially completed the conversion of 17,000 mailboxes into one statewide email system. The system has proven to be very reliable. The Nebraska legislature is not on the system yet but discussions are still continuing.

[Top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers.](#) Governor Dave Heineman was named one of the [Top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers](#) by *Government Technology* magazine for the State's Health I.T. Initiative, the email project, and the statewide public safety communications project.

Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network (N-WIN) Council.

- The N-WIN 2009 Annual Report has been submitted
- Phase 2 was activated on March 3, 2010. Governor Heineman took part in the ceremony.
- Phase 3 will be activated in October 2010. By December 2010, Phase 4 will be activated and all 4 phases will be inter-operational. Nebraska will be the first in the nation to get this type of a radio system implemented. The radios being used are of the latest technology that Motorola has to offer.

REPORTS - COMMUNITY COUNCIL [REPORT](#)

(Ms. Byers was not available to report due to legislative activity on LB849.)

Gene Hand and Don Gray from the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) were present to give an update on the Broadband Mapping project and answer questions from the Commission.

On January 13, 2010, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded the Nebraska Public Service Commission \$2.1 million in stimulus funding for broadband mapping and planning activities. The state data will be submitted to the NTIA for inclusion in the national broadband database expected to be publicly available by February, 2011.

The NPSC has selected a contractor, Apex CoVantage, through a competitive bidding process, to gather broadband data and map that data for Nebraska. Apex CoVantage plans to open a temporary office and hire Nebraska residents to assist in the broadband data collection, verification and mapping portion of the grant. A public meeting was held on February 9, 2010 to explain the process and provide information to broadband providers.

The broadband planning portion of the grant will be a collaborative process led by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission's (NITC) Community Council, University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL), and Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED). A number of approaches will be used to develop both regional and statewide plans to address the broadband needs of Nebraska communities. A statewide mail survey is currently underway to determine the current utilization of Internet service across the state. The survey will also identify barriers to the adoption of broadband Internet service and other information technology services. Members of the Community Council were asked to review the survey. Information from the survey, along with broadband mapping results, will be shared at regional forums. Additional information will be gathered through focus groups and Department of Economic Development business surveys. Mr. Hand reported the residential survey currently has a 33% return rate with surveys still coming in. The Commission's goal is to reach a 40% return rate by April 30th. A reminder was sent out last week.

Some providers have decided not to participate in broadband mapping. A challenge has been the geocoding done on the 2000 census blocks. Mr. Hand distributed the Executive Summary of the FCC National Broadband Plan. He wanted the Commission to be aware of Section 3 "Creating incentives for universal availability and adoption of broadband".

REPORTS - EHEALTH COUNCIL [REPORT](#)

[Membership](#)*. At the March meeting, Dr. Delane Wycoff was elected to serve as co-chair of the eHealth Council. The following nominations and membership renewals were approved by the eHealth Council on March 5th.

Membership renewals (new term will end December 2012):

- Joni Cover, Nebraska Pharmacists Association
- Donna Hammack, Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network and St. Elizabeth Foundation
- Wende Baker, Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network and Region V Systems
- Kay Oestmann, Southeast District Health Department
- Susan Courtney, Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Alice Henneman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Lancaster Count
- Kimberly Galt, Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

New members:

- Steve Urosevich, Department of Corrections
- Lianne Stevens, The Nebraska Medical Center
- Sue Medinger, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health
- Joel Dougherty, OneWorld Community Health Centers
- CIMRO of Nebraska/Wide River Technology Center

Commissioner Peterson moved to approve the eHealth Council's nominations for new members and membership renewals. Commissioner Aerni seconded. Roll call vote: Hoelsing-Yes, Hedquist-Yes, Flanagan-Yes, Aerni-Yes, Sheehy-Yes, Peterson-Yes, Park-Yes, and Huggenberger-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion carried.

State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program Update. In October, the State of Nebraska applied for \$6.8 million in funding from the State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the National Coordinator. The Funding Announcement stated that awards would be announced in December and the program would begin in January. On February 12, 2010, Secretary Sebelius announced awards to 40 states and territories. Nebraska was not among them.

Today the news release came out from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The State of Nebraska received \$6,837,180 to facilitate health information exchange and advance health information technology (health IT).

Demonstrating "meaningful use" of certified electronic health records is central to ARRA-funded programs, including the State HIE Cooperative Agreement program. Criteria for demonstrating meaningful use are being developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Meaningful use will be phased in three stages. The proposed requirements will be challenging for many providers, especially hospitals, to meet. Nebraska's statewide health information exchange is committed to providing the applications necessary for eligible providers and hospitals to meet Stage One requirements in year one. All providers, regardless of their ability to qualify for Medicaid or Medicare incentives, will be able to utilize the expanded services available through NeHII.

State eHealth Operational Plan Update. The eHealth Council's eHealth Plan Work Group is continuing to work on an operational plan. In order to simplify planning, this operational plan focuses primarily on the first two years of Nebraska's State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program. The eHealth Council recognizes that the full implementation of health information exchange and the achievement of meaningful use is broader and will take more than two years. It is anticipated that future plans will cover years three and four of the cooperative agreement. Due to rapid developments in health information technology and

policies, this plan will likely need to be updated frequently. The target date for completion of the operational plan is April 15.

The Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) has added Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings as well as a number of physicians in Omaha to the original pilot participants: Alegent Health, Children's Hospital and Medical Center, Methodist Health System, The Nebraska Medical Center, and BlueCross and BlueShield of Nebraska. Over 400 physicians and staff are currently participating in NeHII. The Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network (SNBHIN) has selected a vendor and is undertaking the planning necessary for implementation. SNBHIN plans to connect to NeHII. SNBHIN will connect behavioral health providers in southeast Nebraska. As time and resources permit, SNBHIN plans to expand its services to other behavioral health regions.

The Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange has ceased organizational activities. Providers in the Panhandle will be offered services from NeHII.

The Southeast Nebraska Health Information Exchange (SENHIE) in Thayer County is pursuing connectivity through the National Health Information Network (NHIN) but has declined to participate in statewide health information exchange by connecting to NeHII.

Wide River Technology Extension Center. On February 12, 2010, CIMRO of Nebraska was awarded \$6,647,371 by the Office of the National Coordinator to develop a health IT extension center to help primary care providers--especially those in small practices and those practicing in critical access hospitals--adopt electronic health records and to participate in health information exchange.

LB849 -180 Day Limit on Authorization of Release of Health Records. The Health Information Security and Privacy Work Group of the eHealth Council reviewed Nebraska's laws to determine which laws, if any, were more restrictive than HIPAA. The group identified only one instance in which Nebraska's laws presented a barrier to the exchange of health information. Neb. Rev. Statute 71-8403 limits authorizations for the release of health information to 180 days. The 180-day limit is more restrictive than HIPAA and the laws of our neighboring states. LB 702, which was introduced by Senator Gloor, would remove the 180-day limit on the release of health information. LB 702 has been included in a proposed amendment (AM 2120) to LB 849. Today, there is a hearing on LB 849.

REPORTS - EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT

Tom Rolfes, Education I.T. Manager

The Education Council met on Friday, March 5. Five task groups have been established to work on the 20 action items that are currently in the Statewide Technology Plan. The Council will be joined by the Network Nebraska Advisory Group in addressing similar issues.

Network Nebraska Update. Network Nebraska has a 100% retention rate (2009-10 vs. 2010-11) expected of the 232 entities currently utilizing the network. Four additional colleges will be added by the end of the summer. The new Network Nebraska Internet access contract will reduce costs by 60% offering \$6.10/meg. After K-12 institutional Administrators were made aware of the cost reduction, the bandwidth requested was increased by 60%. The Internet purchased for K-12 entities on July 1, 2010 will be 1.9 GB. By July 1, traffic shaping will be added as a new service to better manage the network. Windstream is the new Internet service provider for the K-12 customers of Network Nebraska--Education.

Commissioners expressed concerns about LB 1071 and its potential effect on the reliability of Network Nebraska. It will be more difficult to manage the network if routing and switching equipment is not standardized.

Network Nebraska Marketing Survey. This is the second year that the survey has been done. Currently, it has a 70% completion rate. The trend indicates that entities are becoming more comfortable with Network Nebraska and are stressing more student use. As a next step, the work group plans to develop a marketing plan. There was concern expressed in the report regarding Renovo and distance

education coordination. Currently per legislation, distance education coordination is the responsibility of the ESU Coordinating Council.

By group consensus, the NITC approved the report for distribution.

Broadband Mapping of Education Anchor Institutions. There are approximately 236 entities that are part of the anchor institutions for broadband project. The Office of the CIO will provide the Public Service Commission with their street address, geospatial coordinates, contact information, and circuit and bandwidth data.

REPORTS - STATE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL REPORT

Rick Becker, Government I.T. Manager

There was no report.

REPORTS - GIS COUNCIL REPORT

Jeff McReynolds and Mike Schonlau, GIS Co-Chairs, and Larry Zink, GIS Coordinator

Presentation: NebraskaMAP Project. The NITC had approved 2-year funding for this project through the Government Technology Collaboration Fund. The project is building an enterprise-level GIS portal to serve as a central web access point for GIS data and web services. It is a collaborative effort to be able to share data and build a common infrastructure for shared GIS-related web services. Entities will be able to search local data, determine who owns data and be able to contact that person. As the project matures, a range of GIS-related web services will be developed that access, display, analyze, and return specific web services. The Centerline Street Addresses and the 2009 FSA aerial photography across the state are examples of the type of information that is desired by many and can be provided via this common portal. Currently, many desired GIS data sets are developed and stored locally. This local information can be shared among local, state and federal entities but because it is acquired through local consortiums, much of it is not available statewide by state entities. Within a few weeks, the project will be going out to communities to give demonstrations and training on the portal.

The project has been fortunate to have seed monies to support a pilot project to build a portal. We are now moving beyond the pilot project phase and are working to implement a production service. A major challenge is how we can sustain this collaborative effort beyond the initial pilot project funding. Nebraska is one of the few states without a centralized GIS Service Center to provide services and technical support for state and local agencies.

Discussion occurred about how this project could support a number of other endeavors that hope to use GIS data that is developed and maintained by other entities, such as NEMA, Homeland Security, the Public Service Commission's E911 effort and the Nebraska State Patrol Fusion Center. This portal and the associated data sharing and web services could provide the infrastructure to support much of the GIS/geospatial data sharing needed to support the State Patrol's Fusion Center. It was noted that first 25% of Homeland Security funds have to be spent on infrastructure and emergency response. Lt. Governor Sheehy stated that this could be a common infrastructure if it were centralized and saw opportunity for further discussions.

GIS Strategic Planning. The Office of the CIO will be working on an RFP for a consultant to assist with a five-year GIS Strategic Plan. The development a business case for a centralized GIS Bureau will be a one of the goals. Another goal in the strategic plan is enterprise licensing. The GIS Council is committed to moving forward with strategic planning.

REPORTS - TECHNICAL PANEL REPORT

Walter Weir, Chair

The NITC Technical Panel has met three times since March NITC meeting.

Enterprise Project Designation* - Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR), Public Safety Interoperable Communications

The Technical Panel was directed by the Commission to meet with the Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR) chairs to discuss project reporting and make a recommendation regarding the designation of the Public Safety Interoperable Communications project as an enterprise project.

The Technical Panel determined that the project met the definition of an enterprise project: "Enterprise project means an endeavor undertaken over a fixed period of time using information technology, which would have a significant effect on a core business function or affects multiple government programs, agencies, or institutions. Enterprise project includes all aspects of planning, design, implementation, project management, and training relating to the endeavor." [Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-506]

Commissioner Hedquist moved to designate the Public Safety Interoperable Communications project as an Enterprise Project. Commissioner Park seconded. Roll call vote: Park-Yes, Peterson-Yes, Sheehy-Yes, Aerni-Yes, Flanagan-Yes, Hedquist-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, and Huggenberger-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion carried.

Enterprise Project Status Update. Commissioners received a copy of the proposed Enterprise Project Status Report Card. The report card was introduced as a new method for reporting the status of enterprise projects to the NITC. If any NITC Commissioners would like more detailed information on the any of the projects in the report card, they could access the full report via the project status reporting website.

OTHER BUSINESS

Lt. Governor Sheehy reported that the Department of Homeland Security conducted a review of the State of Nebraska. The reviewers were very complimentary of the Office of the CIO, Department of Administrative Services, the Department of Roads, the Nebraska State Patrol and other state offices. The State did fairly well with just a few areas to further develop. The official report will be available in 30-35 days.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the NITC will be held in June at an out-state location. Commissioners will be contacted by staff as to their availability.

Commissioner Aerni moved to adjourn. Commissioner Hedquist seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Office of the CIO staff.