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
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o Internet bandwidth demand for 2019-20 will be up 27% when compared to this current year.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o Membership growth for 2019-20 may only include one or two education entities.
- Education Council as Communication Hub for Network Nebraska
  - o 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.
  - o 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
  - o 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
  - o 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
  - o 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
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.