

## **NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

1526 Building, Lower Level - Development Center

1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

(Live Stream Broadcast via Webex)

Thursday, July 9, 2020, 10:00 a.m. CT

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, Chair  
Senator Bruce Bostelman, Nebraska Legislature  
Dan Spray, Precision Technologies, Inc.  
Shane Greckel, Greckel Farms, LLC  
Gary Warren, Hamilton Telecommunications  
Walter Weir, University of Nebraska

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT VIA WEBEX FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:**

LaShonna Dorsey, Mutual of Omaha  
Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools  
Dorest Harvey, US Strategic Command/J84

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Nutt, Phelps County Commissioner

#### **ROLL CALL; MEETING NOTICE; OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION**

The Chair, Ed Toner, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. There were six members present at the time of roll call. A quorum existed to conduct official business. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was located on the table of the meeting room. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on June 19, 2020. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on July 2, 2020.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

**Commissioner Spray moved to approve the March 12, 2020 minutes as presented. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-5, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

#### **REPORTS FROM THE ADVISORY COUNCILS AND TECHNICAL PANEL**

##### **TECHNICAL PANEL REPORT**

Ed Toner

**Enterprise Project Status Dashboard Report.** Commissioner Toner provided an update on the following enterprise projects: Department of Health and Human Services-New Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS); Department of Health and Human Services Medicaid Eligibility & Enrollment System; Nebraska Council of Regions – Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network; and the Office of the CIO Centrex Replacement. Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions about the projects.

##### **Technical Standards and Guidelines**

**Approval of Proposal 17. Revise the Agency Information Technology Plan Form.** Mr. Becker introduced the proposal. The Technical Panel has recommended approval.

**Commissioner Weir moved to approve Proposal 17. Commissioner Spray seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-5, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

## **EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT**

Tom Rolfes

**Approval of Membership Nominations.** The Education Council met on April 15 but cancelled the June 17 meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 19. The Education Council recommends approval of the reappointment of the following eight members to serve July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022.

For the Higher Education sector: Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska System; Greg Maschman, Independent Colleges & Universities; Tom Peters, Community College System; and John Dunning, State College System

For the K-12 Education sector: Gary Needham, Educational Service Units; Dan Hoelsing, Administrators; Alan Moore, School Board Members; and Burke Brown, Public Teachers

**Commissioner Warren moved approval of the Education Council's membership recommendation. Commission Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, Toner-Yes, and Greckel-Yes. Results: Yes-5, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Network Nebraska Update.** The revised Action Items and Network Nebraska vignette appear in the Statewide Technology Plan on pp 23-28. The State Purchasing Bureau and Office of the CIO released RFP 6206 to put 260 fiber circuits out for bid. Overall, as the Network Nebraska vignette shows, bandwidth continues to increase and costs for transport and internet continue to decrease. Mr. Rolfes encouraged the Commissioners to read the vignette.

**Digital Education Update.** The revised Action Items and Digital Education vignette appear in the Statewide Technology Plan on pp 29-32. On May 19, the Nebraska Public Service Commission voted unanimously to approve Docket NUSF-117, which created the Nebraska Special Construction Matching Fund of up to \$1 million over four years to incentivize new fiber construction to public libraries and any remaining schools. The Nebraska Department of Education created the Launch Nebraska website ([www.launchne.com](http://www.launchne.com)) with technical guidance for school districts as they plan to resume education this fall. In the Hierarchy of Digital Learning Needs, student connectivity is #1, followed by computing devices, software systems, digital content, and teacher professional development. Nebraska K-12 has almost \$84 million in CARES Act funding to use to overcome the challenges of the Homework Gap and continued virtual learning.

Mr. Rolfes informed the Commissioners that the Education Council plans to provide a report of COVID-19 response activities by K-12 and higher education entities in time for their November 2020 meeting, as requested by Commissioner Weir during the March 12, 2020 NITC meeting,

Mr. Rolfes entertained questions from the Commissioners and from Technical Panel Chair, Kirk Langer.

## **GIS COUNCIL REPORT**

John Watermolen

A written report was included in the meeting materials and highlighted a few items. The May 6 GIS meeting was conducted via WebEx. Twenty-two of the 27 council members were present. The GIS team has been working on the State of Nebraska's COVID dashboard. This is a coordinated effort between Department of Health and Human Services and Office of the CIO. The Dashboard is averaging 44,000 views a day. NebraskaMap site has been averaging 1,500 views a day. Mr. Watermolen proceeded with a demonstration of the COVID dashboard and the Network Nebraska Fiber Connection web mapping application.

Mr. Watermolen entertained questions from the Commissioners.

## **COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT**

Anne Byers

**Approval of Membership Nomination.** The Community Council recommends approval of the nomination of Nichole Reiner to represent the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Ms. Reiner is the Chief Strategist for the Department of Economic Development and has been heading up broadband efforts.

**Commissioner Greckel moved approval of the Community Council membership recommendation. Commissioner Spray seconded. Roll call vote: Greckel-Yes, Toner-Yes, Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Spray-Yes. Results: Yes-5, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Broadband Update.** On June 20, 2020, Governor Ricketts launched four Get Nebraska Growing grant programs funded by the CARES Act. Up to \$40 million will be available for grants to provide broadband to unserved communities and areas to enable residents to work from home, participate in online learning, and access health care via telehealth. Applications are due July 2. Projects must be completed by December 30, 2020. Information on the program is available at <https://getnebraskagrowing.nebraska.gov>.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) approved an E-Rate Special Construction Matching Program for schools and libraries which do not have fiber. In addition, the PSC approved a \$1 million broadband adoption program to reimburse telecommunications carriers for providing service to low-income families as a part of the response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Eight case studies showing strategies and models that communities can use to improve broadband availability are being developed. The case studies include Gothenburg, Seward County, Ravenna, Lincoln, Norfolk, Imperial, Paige Wireless, and Lancaster County. Additional case studies may be added later.

Ms. Byers entertained questions from the Commissioners.

## **EHEALTH COUNCIL REPORT**

Anne Byers

A written report was included in the meeting materials which included highlights and information regarding: NeHII and the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program. Ms. Byers entertained questions from the Commissioners.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Ed Toner

Mr. Toner described the activities of the Office of the CIO in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Toner entertained questions from the Commissioners.

## **APPROVAL OF THE REVISED STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY PLAN**

Ed Toner

Commissioners received the statewide technology plan in their meeting materials. Commissioners had positive comments about the plan and had no recommended changes.

**Commissioner Spray moved to approve the revised Statewide Technology Plan. Commissioner Weir seconded. Roll call vote: Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, and Spray-Yes. Results: Yes-5, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**BRIEFING ON SECURITY AND PROTECTION MEASURES UTILIZED BY THE NEBRASKA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.**

Mr. Toner introduced Jon Frank who will provide the Commission with a briefing on the state's information technology security and protection measures.

**Commissioner Weir moved that the Commission go into a closed session for the purpose of receiving a briefing on the security and protection measures utilized by the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer. The briefing—if conducted in an open public session—could threaten the information technology security of the systems discussed. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-5, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

Mr. Toner restated that the Commission is going into closed session for the purpose of receiving a briefing on the security and protection measures utilized by the Nebraska Office of the CIO.

The Commission went into closed session at 11:36 a.m.

Commissioner Spray left the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

The closed session ended at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Toner stated that the only matters discussed in the close session were those set forth in the motion to go into closed session. No decisions were made nor any formal actions taken.

**ADJOURN**

**Commissioner Greckel moved to adjourn. Commissioner Weir seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by the NITC Managers.