

## NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, March 11, 2021 10:00 a.m. CT

### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, Chair  
Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools  
Dorest Harvey, US Strategic Command / J84  
Dan Spray, Precision Technologies, Inc.  
Gary Warren, Hamilton Telecommunications  
Walter Weir, University of Nebraska

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Suzanne Geist, Nebraska Legislature  
Shane Greckel, Greckel Farms, LLC  
LaShonna Dorsey, Mutual of Omaha  
Tom Nutt, Phelps County Commissioner

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

The Chair, Ed Toner, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. There were six members present at the time of roll call. A quorum existed to conduct official business. A link to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was provided in the meeting invitation. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on February 23, 2021. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on March 5, 2021.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

**Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the November 12, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Weir seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

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

##### EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT

Tom Rolfes

Digital Education and Network Nebraska updates. The circuit bids for RFP 6454 were opened on February 19<sup>th</sup> and are now being evaluated. Internet orders for 2021-22 are expected to increase about 8% for K-12 entities and about 9% for Higher Ed and non-E-rate eligible entities. The Office of the CIO has been involved in the Nebraska statewide eduroam pilot project for 2021-23 and is collaborating on the eduroam website and content to be shared with eligible K-12 entities. The Network Nebraska cybersecurity needs survey has had over a 50% response rate but the goal is to get to 100%. Patrick Wright, of the Office of the CIO, and Rick Haugerud, of the University of Nebraska, were thanked for their assistance with cybersecurity. Zoom licensing has exceeded 35,000 licenses in 2020-21. The orders for 2021-22 are about to be submitted.

Mary Niemiec, Education Council Co-Chair, is retiring at the end of June.

Mr. Rolfes entertained questions from the Commissioners.

## **GIS COUNCIL REPORT**

John Watermolen

**Approval of membership nomination.** The GIS Council requested approval of a new member nomination to serve on the council. Mr. Neil Dominy would serve as the new Federal Liaison. He is the Assistant State Conservationist for Partnership and Initiatives, with Nebraska Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Mr. Dominy's bio was included in the meeting materials.

**Commissioner Haack moved to approve the GIS Council membership nomination. Commissioner Harvey seconded. Roll call vote: Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, Spray-Yes, Harvey-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

GIS Day was held virtually on November 18th. Five agencies presented GIS activities. There were 43 state employees, representing 13 agencies, in attendance. A state agency GIS utilization assessment was created and shared with the GIS council. Commissioners received a copy in the meeting materials.

There are currently 20 agencies utilizing NebraskaMAP. The Office of the CIO serves as a code agency. Agencies are stewards of their data. Nebraska is the only state that houses Public Service Commission (PSC) data and has one place to go for GIS data. Commissioner Toner recommended Commissioners to look at the COVID dashboard that the GIS team developed.

Mr. Watermolen entertained questions from the Commission.

## **COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT**

Anne Byers

The Nebraska Regional Officials Council (NROC) and regional economic development districts announced the launch of a statewide broadband mapping initiative. Every Nebraskan is encouraged to take the one-minute speed test from any internet-enabled device, including cell phones. The meeting materials included a map showing the speed test results. A link to the test was also provided.

Ms. Byers provided a list of eleven broadband Legislative Bills being introduced this session.

The Rural Broadband Task Force will submit its next report to the Legislature by Nov. 1, 2021. The bulk of the work of the task force is done by its subcommittees. Subcommittees of the Rural Broadband Task Force have continued to meet. The Task Force is planning to meet again in late spring.

The federal stimulus act passed in December 2020 includes funding for broadband, including creating a \$300,000,000 broadband grant program within the Department of Commerce.

FCC announced results of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) reverse auction on December 7. Over \$60 million in support over 10 years was awarded to 10 providers to serve 43,435 locations in Nebraska in the first phase of the RDOF reverse auction. All or nearly all of the locations in Nebraska will receive 1 Gbps service. LTD Broadband LLC and AMG Technology Investment Group LLC (NextLink) were the largest awardees in Nebraska. LTD Broadband LLC was awarded \$33,228,644.40 over 10 years to serve 28,729 locations. AMG Technology Group LLC was awarded \$25,350,146.70 over 10 years to serve 13,919 locations.

Ms. Byers entertained questions from the Commission.

## **EHEALTH COUNCIL REPORT**

Anne Byers

NEHII and Iowa Health Information Network (IHIN) have merged and are now CyncHealth. The Boards of Directors of both the Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NEHII) and the Iowa Health Information Network (IHIN) approved forming a strategic partnership between the two non-profit organizations. NEHII

and IHIN are already collaborating on community information exchanges, known as Unite Nebraska and Unite Iowa, that address social determinants of health issues. Under the arrangement NEHII will continue all services of IHIN as IHIN remains the state designated entity for purposes of administering and governing the statewide Iowa health information network.

**Approval of membership nomination.** NEHII/CyncHealth has nominated their CIO, Leo Garcia, to represent NEHII/CyncHealth on the eHealth Council. eHealth Council members approved his nomination via e-mail. His bio was included in the meeting materials.

**Commissioner Spray moved to approve the eHealth Council membership nomination. Commissioner Haack seconded. Roll call vote: Harvey-Yes, Spray-Yes, Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, Toner-Yes, and Haack-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

Ms. Byers entertained questions from the Commission.

#### **TECHNICAL PANEL REPORT**

Ed Toner

Enterprise Projects. Commissioner Toner reviewed the progress of the enterprise projects. The projects are progressing with no major issues.

#### **Close the following enterprise project: Dept. of Health and Human Services' New Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) project**

During the past ten years, the project has been modified several times. The project is now in an operational phase. The Technical Panel recommends closing the project.

**Commissioner Harvey moved to close the Department of Health and Human Services' New Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) enterprise project. Commissioner Warren seconded. Roll call vote: Spray-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Toner-Yes, Weir-Yes, and Warren-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

Mr. Toner entertained questions from the Commission.

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Ed Toner

Mr. Toner reported on the Office of the CIO's work with agencies on office moves and updated the Commission on the 501 Building renovation.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by the IT Managers of the Office of the CIO/NITC.