

NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Varner Hall - Board Room
3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
Thursday, July 8, 2021, 10:00 a.m. CT
Webcast via Zoom

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, Chair
Senator Suzanne Geist, Nebraska Legislature
Shane Greckel, Greckel Farms, LLC
Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools
Dorest Harvey, US Strategic Command / J84
Gary Warren, Hamilton Telecommunications
Walter Weir, University of Nebraska

MEMBERS ABSENT: LaShonna Dorsey, Mutual of Omaha; Dan Spray, Precision Technologies, Inc.; Tom Nutt, Phelps County Commissioner

ROLL CALL; MEETING NOTICE; OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum existed to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on June 22, 2021. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on July 2, 2021. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the south wall of the room and a link was included with the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Weir moved to approve the March 11, 2021 minutes as presented. Commissioner Harvey seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-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

Approval of membership nominations. The Education Council memberships change every two years. The council also had two members retiring this summer. The nominations to serve on the council for the 2021-23 term are listed below.

Higher Education 2021-23 term Nominations: Bret Blackman, UN System; Derek Bierman, Independent Colleges & Universities; Edward Koster, Community College System; and Dr. Paul Turman, State College System

K-12 Education 2021-23 term Nominations: Dr. Ted DeTurk, Educational Service Units; Trent Kelly, School Administrators; Stephen Hamersky, Private Education; and Matt Chrisman, Public Teachers

Mary Niemiec's replacement has not been determined yet. Derek Bierman and Edward Koster are new members to the council.

Commissioner Haack moved to approve the Education Council's membership nominations for the 2021-23 term. Commission Harvey seconded. Roll call vote: Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Digital Education and Network Nebraska updates. Mr. Rolfes provided the Network Nebraska and Digital Education updates. The University of Nebraska engineering team drafted a set of infrastructure upgrades that may be eligible for the U.S. Treasury Capital Project Section 604 funding which will be coming to Nebraska. The Office of the CIO has been involved in the Nebraska statewide eduroam pilot project for 2021-23. A nationwide news release is being prepared by Internet2 and a statewide news release is being prepared by the Nebraska Dept of Education for 7/21/2021. Information about the FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund, FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit program, ESSER III Technology funding, and the U.S. Treasury Capital Projects funding has been distributed to ESUs for sharing with school districts. Presentations are scheduled for the Administrator Days Conference, July 28 in Kearney.

Mr. Rolfes entertained questions from the Commissioners. Commissioners discussed the need to coordinate and collaborate computing device purchases within the ESSER funding. In addition, minimum standards for equipment should be established. Funding can be used not only for equipment but also to improve the student learning environment and increasing achievement.

Mr. Rolfes and Network Nebraska were acknowledged for their accomplishments.

GIS COUNCIL REPORT

John Watermolen

Mr. Watermolen provided a report of the OCIO's and GIS Council's activities with other agencies: the Nebraska State Patrol, the University of Nebraska, the Game and Parks Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, Sarpy, Douglas and Lancaster Counties, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Revenue, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Public Service Commission, and Legislative Research.

The GIS Council is still interested in doing a new strategic plan by an outside vendor. Mr. Watermolen is checking into funding sources.

Mr. Watermolen provided a demonstration of the COVID dashboard, NebraskaMAP and other web mapping applications. Commissioner Toner stated that other states are impressed by Nebraska's collaboration and cooperative efforts with other agencies and entities to share their information.

Mr. Watermolen entertained questions from the Commissioners.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

Anne Byers

Broadband update. LB388 Broadband Bridge Grant was passed and signed by the Governor on May 26, 2021. The legislation established the Broadband Bridge Grant Program and the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Fund. The Legislature appropriated \$20 million a year for two years for the Broadband Bridge Grant Program. Eligible areas include (in order of priority):

- (1) Unserved areas lacking broadband of 25/3 which need further support but have not received public assistance for development of a broadband network
- (2) Unserved areas that have received federal support for development of a broadband network, and that will not be completed within twenty-four months after the grant application deadline if the commission determines that a grant under the program will accelerate the deployment of the broadband network
- (3) Underserved areas below 100/20 that the commission determines have a digital inclusion plan.

The deadline for the first round of applications is October 1, 2021. The Nebraska Public Service Commission has opened a docket to establish rules for the grant program.

The Community Council has developed a Digital Inclusion Planning Guide and Workbook to help rural communities, counties, and regional develop digital inclusion plans.

Rural Broadband Task Force. The Task Force established an Agriculture Subcommittee. The subcommittee has prepared a preliminary report. The report found that agriculture has different needs and will require different methods of connectivity, including:

- Low-bandwidth connectivity for devices like sensors or monitors often called internet of things (IoT) devices
- High speed, centralized broadband with upload speeds of at least 30 Mbps up for targeted agricultural operational headquarters such as a farm or ranch operations center
- High-speed decentralized coverage over large agricultural areas

Ms. Byers entertained questions from the Commission.

EHEALTH COUNCIL REPORT

Anne Byers

Ms. Byers provided a brief overview of LB 411 which was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Ricketts on May 24, 2021. LB 411 requires most health care facilities to participate in CyncHealth (formerly NeHII). Additionally, on or before January 1, 2022, each health insurance plan would be required to participate in the designated health information exchange through sharing of information.

Approval of membership nomination. CyncHealth has nominated their chief operating officer, Paul Hakenkamp, to represent them on the eHealth Council. A brief resume was included in the meeting materials.

Commissioner Warren moved to approve the nomination of Paul Hakenkamp to serve on the eHealth Council. Commissioner Weir seconded. Roll call vote: Greckel-Yes, Haack (not present at time of vote), Harvey-Yes, Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: Yes-5, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

TECHNICAL PANEL REPORT

Kirk Langer, Technical Panel Chair

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Approval of Proposal 18. Amend the Information Security Policy.

Mr. Langer introduced the proposal. The Technical Panel recommends approval.

Patrick Wight, State Information Security Officer, provided additional background information about the proposal and was available to answer questions.

Commissioner Haack moved to approve Proposal 18. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Toner-Yes Weir-Yes, and Warren-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Approval of Proposal 19. Amend the minimum server configuration standard.

Mr. Langer introduced the proposal, and Mr. Wright was available to answer questions.

Commissioner Weir moved to approve Proposal 19. Commissioner Harvey seconded. Roll call vote: Warren-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Haack-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Toner-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Technology access clause update.

The technical access clause has not been updated in 20 years. This clause is required to be included in certain contracts entered into by state government agencies. By statute, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Chief Information Officer, and the NITC are responsible for developing the clause. These three entities, along with other agencies, have been working on updating the clause over the last year. Jeremy Sydik from the Technical Panel participated in the discussions representing the NITC. The Technical Panel endorsed the revised clause at their meeting on June 8, 2021.

ENTERPRISE PROJECTS

Approval of enterprise project designation for the Financial Systems Modernization Project (Department of Transportation).

Mr. Langer provided background information about the project. Devin Townsend and Lyn Heaton from the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) were available for questions. NDOT's current financial system's environment includes mainframe-based applications which are reaching end-of-life. NDOT would like to streamline their financial management business processes between NDOT systems and the State's E1 financial system.

Commissioner Warren moved to designate NDOT's Financial Systems Modernization Project as an enterprise project. Commissioner Weir seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, Harvey-Yes, Warren-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Enterprise project status dashboard report. Mr. Langer provided an update on the following projects: Centrex Conversion, Office of the CIO; and iServe, Department of Health and Human Services; and the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) project.

Members discussed some of the dates provided in the dashboard report. Staff will verify the accuracy of the dates.

STATE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL REPORT

Ed Toner

NASCIO (National Association of State Chief Information Officers) 2021 State IT Recognition Awards nomination submission. The award nomination included with the agenda describes a project recently completed by the OCIO to consolidate servers previously located throughout the state in each county.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

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