

## NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Varner Hall - Board Room  
3835 Holdrege Street Lincoln, Nebraska  
Thursday, March 10, 2022, 10:00 a.m. CT  
Virtual Conferencing via Webex

### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, Chair  
Shane Greckel, Greckel Farms, LLC\*  
Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools\*  
Dorest Harvey, General Public\*  
Gary Warren, Hamilton Telecommunications\*  
Walter Weir, University of Nebraska

\* Attended by virtual conferencing.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Senator Suzanne Geist, Nebraska Legislature; Dan Spray, Precision Technologies, Inc.; and Tom Nutt, Phelps County Commissioner

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was not present. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on February 18, 2022. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on March 4, 2022. 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 NOVEMBER 4, 2021, MEETING MINUTES

**Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the November 4, 2021 minutes as presented. Commissioner Weir seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Harvey-Yes, and Weir-Yes. Results: Yes-4, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

Commissioners Spray and Warren arrived at the meeting. A quorum was now present.

#### REPORTS

##### EDUCATION COUNCIL

Tom Rolfes

**Digital Education and Network Nebraska updates.** The Council has met twice since the last NITC meeting. Members have been updating the action items for the Statewide Technology plan. The Statewide Technology Plan will be an action item for approval at the July NITC meeting. Council has been exploring and discussing federal funding opportunities for action item activities. Network Nebraska has experienced an increase in DDoS attacks and threats since the start of the pandemic. RFP 6616 had 9 bidder responses and resulted in 82 successful circuit awards. Internet orders for 2022-23 are up 7.2% for higher education and 9.5% for schools and libraries. The Office of the CIO has a new Public Information Officer, Cole Bauer. He is already working on Network Nebraska publicity.

Mr. Rolfes entertained questions and comments from the Commissioners. Commissioner Weir recommended publicizing Network Nebraska's cost savings to schools and communities. Another suggestion was to hold a summit or conference with other states regarding lessons learned when deploying a statewide network. Commissioner Warren commented that he valued the coordinated

Network Nebraska RFP process. It made a big difference in collaboration and effectiveness for service providers. Commissioner Warren stated that he has seen a lot of progress in connecting farms and agriculture. Commissioner Warren commented that the time of day has an impact on speed testing when triggered from home. Future consideration should be given to address location testing versus census block speed reporting.

## **GIS COUNCIL**

John Watermolen

At the February GIS meeting, there was a discussion about the pilot project to include local data into NebraskaMap, the state's GIS Clearinghouse. The pilot project was very successful. Documentation was provided to the local governments if they are interested in sharing data through NebraskaMap. The Council will be reviewing standards and guidelines, to make sure that they are current and up to date. The Office of the CIO interviewed a candidate for a GIS position and has made a recommendation to HR. The geo-election pilot project that was formerly done in Sarpy County, is now being implemented at the Secretary of State's (SOS) office-election division. They are looking at statewide voting districts and doing a check with the voting registration data to assure the correct voting codes fall within the correct districts. SOS would eventually like to do this similar work at the local level.

Mr. Watermolen entertained questions and comments from the Commissioners. Mr. Rolfes mentioned the 2019 Network Nebraska circuit map, rendered by John Watermolen, as one means to visualize the bandwidth increases and reduced costs brought about by Network Nebraska, as suggested by Commissioner Weir.

## **COMMUNITY COUNCIL and eHEALTH COUNCIL**

Anne Byers

**Broadband update.** The Nebraska Public Service Commission recently awarded \$19.2 million in funding to 61 projects to connect 12,634 locations in the Nebraska Broadband Bridge program's first grant cycle.

Nebraska is expected to receive more than \$200 million for broadband deployment and broadband-related projects and at least \$7.5 million for digital equity planning and implementation projects from the American Rescue Plan Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes requirements for stakeholder involvement in developing state digital equity and broadband deployment plans. The Community and eHealth Councils will likely play a role in facilitating stakeholder involvement, as well as the Education Council.

The Community Council will meet on March 14 and will discuss their involvement in statewide broadband deployment and digital equity planning efforts. The Community Council is also helping with community outreach including developing some additional case studies/lessons learned on developing broadband public-private partnerships. The eHealth Council will meet on March 31 to discuss their involvement in statewide broadband deployment and digital equity planning efforts.

Discussion followed regarding role of the NITC to talk to senators about legislation and advocate for funding. Commissioner Toner stated that the NITC serves in an advisory role to the Governor and Legislature. The NITC was not established as an advocacy group. Commissioners, as individuals or in their professional roles, can advocate.

Commissioners requested a draft copy of the Statewide Technology Plan for review and contribution prior to the July meeting.

Commissioner Warren credited the work of the NITC and Rural Broadband Task Force with influencing recent broadband legislation.

## **TECHNICAL PANEL**

Kirk Langer

**Technical standards and guidelines.** Mr. Langer reported that the Technical Panel met in December. The panel is presenting three proposals for the NITC's review and approval. Patrick Wright, State Information Security Officer, was acknowledged for his work on the proposals.

**Proposal 21. Amend the web domain name standard.**

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

**Commissioner Harvey moved to approve Proposal 21. Commissioner Greckel 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.**

**Proposal 22. Amend access control provisions of the Information Security Policy.**

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

**Commissioner Harvey moved to approve Proposal 22. Commissioner Haack seconded. Roll call vote: Warren-Yes, Weir-Yes, Toner-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Haack-Yes, and Harvey-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Proposal 23. Adopt a new section relating to Internet of Things (IoT) devices.**

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

**Commissioner Harvey moved to approve Proposal 23. Commissioner Warren seconded. Roll call vote: Greckel-Yes, Toner-Yes, Weir-Yes, Warren-Yes, Harvey-Yes, and Haack-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Enterprise project status dashboard report.**

Mr. Langer reviewed the enterprise project status dashboard report. Projects are all progressing with no major issues.

**CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**

Ed Toner

Mr. Toner highlighted progress on the OCIO's Strategic Initiatives. The Office of the CIO's Project Management Office is now included in monitoring the entire list of enterprise projects. It has helped projects be successful. The single sign-on initiative has five applications completed. Approximately 100 applications have been decommissioned using the Application Portfolio Management process. This has resulted in cost savings. The Application Process Maturation DevOps team is still in progress. The DBA teams will be consolidated. The Enterprise Content Management initiative will use standardized tools rather than writing its own code.

The OCIO Service Desk does a customer survey every year which measures six areas of customer feedback on a scale of 1-5. Below are the results:

- 4.48 Service portal
- 4.55 Communication
- 4.56 Solutions
- 4.56 Time it takes to resolve an issue
- 4.90 Professionalism
- 4.61 Overall rating of the OCIO (over 90% approval rating)

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The NITC has five exiting Commissioners: Walter Weir, Dr. Terry Haack, Gary Warren, Dorest Harvey and Thomas Nutt. Exiting Commissioners will receive an appreciation plaque. Commissioner Toner thanked the Commissioners for their service to the NITC and the State of Nebraska.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business and without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

The NITC meeting was adjourned 12:05 p.m.

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