

## **NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

Nebraska Public Media - Board Room  
1800 N 33rd St Lincoln, Nebraska  
Thursday, November 10, 2022, 10:00 a.m. CT

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer, Chair  
Senator Suzanne Geist, Nebraska Legislature  
Leah Barrett, Northeast Community College  
Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska  
Jim Ediger, Hamilton Telecommunications  
Shane Greckel, Greckel Farms, LLC  
Kirk Langer, Lincoln Public Schools  
Zach Mellender, Omaha Zoological Society  
Dan Spray, Precision Technologies, Inc.

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Gary Warren, Hamilton Telecommunications

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Rick Becker, NITC Administrative Manager and Legal Counsel  
Anne Byers, Digital Equity Manager/ NITC Administrative Manager  
Casey DunnGossin, GIS Coordinator  
Becca Kingery, Education IT Manager  
Lori Lopez Urdiales, Office Services Manager II

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on October 12, 2022. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on November 4, 2022. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the wall of the meeting room and a link was included with the agenda. Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 4, 2021, AND MARCH 10, 2022, MEETING MINUTES**

**Commissioner Spray moved to approve the November 4, 2021 and March 10, 2022 minutes as presented. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Barrett- Abstained, Blackman-Abstained, Langer- Abstained, Ediger- Abstained, Greckel-Yes, Mellender- Abstained, Spray-Yes. Results: Yes-3, No-0, Abstained-5. Motion carried.**

#### **REPORTS**

##### **EDUCATION COUNCIL**

Ms. Kingery provided the report.

Mr. Greckel left the meeting.

**Approval of membership nominations.** The council is requesting commission's approval of the following membership nominations:

- Nick Muir, Chief Information Officer, Wayne State College, representing State Colleges
- Jeremiah Ourada, Director of Technology and Research Center, Nebraska Wesleyan University, representing Independent Colleges

**Commissioner Barrett moved to approve the Education Council’s membership nominations. Commissioner Spray seconded. Roll call vote: Spray-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Ediger-Yes, Langer-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Barrett-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

Mr. Greckel returned to the meeting.

**Network Nebraska Update:**

**Prepare for the future of Network Nebraska as a statewide, multipurpose, high capacity, scalable telecommunications network.** The newest Network Nebraska RFP has been turned into the State Purchasing Bureau. It contains about 40 leased lit fiber circuits and about 30 Special Construction Matching E-rate Fund circuits for public libraries. Three public libraries took advantage of the Public Service Commission’s Special Construction Matching E-rate funds for new fiber for 2022-23: Nancy Fawcett Memorial Library (Lodgepole), Fairmont Public Library, and Kimball Public Library. The total estimated feet of fiber construction were 3,595 with an average cost of \$23.01 per foot. The average fiber construction cost per library was \$19,606.00, or an average of \$1,960.60 of State Matching Funds per library. Network Nebraska was able to utilize GEER I funding for Backbone equipment upgrades to better serve participants. Network Nebraska continued to observe an uptick in Distributed Denial of Service attacks throughout the state, as a result GEER I funding was utilized for a DDoS equipment refresh.

**Effectively communicate to current and potential Network Nebraska Participants.** 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. Nebraska K-12 entities currently have a participation rate of 63% across the state, serving approximately 50% of Nebraska students. b. The Network Nebraska status page (<https://status.networknebraska.net/>) has had favorable reviews, and the University of Nebraska’s new AlertSense communications system is working well. Identify needs and deliver advanced services to meet the growing needs of its membership a. Network Nebraska is in support of cybersecurity awareness training to be made available to all schools, as well as multi-factor authentication, and external vulnerability testing.

**Digital Education Update**

**Disseminate informational reports to ensure the success of Nebraska digital education.** Work is continuing with the Nebraska Department of Education and the ESU Coordinating Council on the Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative Planning. Next steps include future planning for the STEADfast project, a speed test project spearheaded by Educational Service Unit 10 for utilization across the state.

**Expand awareness and address the need for equity of access.** As the STEADfast project continues to be developed, we will have a more accurate model of lack of equity of access across Nebraska; this information will be vital in future project planning. Office of the CIO staff have continued to monitor the development of wireless and satellite technologies to gauge their potential in narrowing the Homework Gap in sparsely populated areas where student households are unserved or underserved.

Ms. Kingery entertained questions and comments from the commissioners. A recommendation was made to encourage ESUs to work more closely with libraries. Commissioner Barrett suggested a potential partnership with Community Colleges to provided needed technological support.

Senator Suzanne Geist arrived at the meeting.

**GIS COUNCIL**

Ms. DunnGossin provide the report.

**May 2022.** The GIS Council met in May with a quorum and voted to recommend the NITC adopt the current USGS (US Geological Survey) 3D Nation Standards by reference as the Elevation standard for Nebraska. By aligning the Nebraska Elevation standard to the USGS 3D Nation standard the Nebraska standard will remain current, with periodic reviews and recommendations by the GIS Council as needed. The GIS Council that the Boundary Working Group met, and that the Legislature decided to conduct an Interim Study (LR 370). One of the reasons for the study was due to discrepancies discovered during the redistricting initiative. The GIS Council discussed that a public entity received funding for a lidar project in Eastern Nebraska that covered several counties in the Omaha-Metro Area. The project will provide better than QL1 lidar1 with 6-in contours2.

**August 2022.** The GIS Council met in August, but a quorum was not present to conduct official business. The GIS Council discussed need to send an updated recommendation to the Tech Panel and NITC related to Street Centerline and Address Point Standards. The updated NENA standard was created to update URLs and fix some errors in the previous version. The GIS Council also discussed adding interested members to the Boundary Working group. The USGS discussed the completed 3DEP projects in Nebraska and acknowledged that accessing data and deliverables from the USGS is not as simple as it was via FTP. The GIS Council also discussed that the lidar acquisition for the Omaha-Metro Area was signed and had been collected in in March and April 2022. All of Douglas, Sarpy, 70% of Washington, City of Fremont, and parts of Lancaster County were completed. Deliverables from the project are expected in September 2022.

**November 2022.** The GIS Council met in November 2022 with a quorum to conduct official business. The GIS Council voted to recommend the NITC adopt the current NENA (National Emergency Number Association) Street Centerline and Address Point Standards by reference. The GIS Council also nominated and voted Mr. Christian Nielsen (Public Service Commission) to be the Vice Chair for 2023. The GIS Council was presented information from the USGS on the status of the final federally funded lidar project in Nebraska as part of the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). The USGS also shared that because Nebraska has lidar coverage that meets 3DEP standards, there are no plans to refresh lidar data on a set schedule and it is unlikely other federal agencies will fund large lidar projects in Nebraska. The USGS shared information on the 3D National Topography Model and the 3D Hydrography Program that will use lidar data collected for 3DEP. The GIS Council discussed the Legislature Interim Study (LR 370). The Study identified 336 statutes that reference: "boundary/boundaries", "GIS/Geographic Information Systems", and other terms that may indicated identifying an area spatially in Nebraska. Once the statutes have been reviewed the boundary working group will meet to discuss the findings. The GIS Council was presented with information on the lidar data collected in the Omaha Metro Area. The data returns are being delivered to the departments, and QC has started. One county noted that the data is such high quality that they can identify street light arms and are looking forward to conducting additional data analysis and modeling.

## **COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Ms. Byers provided the report.

**Approval of Membership Nominations.** Connie Hancock has resigned from her position and not able to serve on the council. The Community Council is requesting the NITC's approval of the nomination of Jason Tuller, Extension Educator, to serve on the Community Council.

**Commissioner Ediger moved to approve the Community Council membership recommendation. Commissioner Barrett seconded. Roll call vote: Blackman-Yes, Langer- Yes, Ediger-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Spray-Yes, Toner-Yes, and Barrett-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**State Broadband Funding.** LB 388 which was enacted in 2021 created the Broadband Bridge Grant Program. \$20 million a year for two years was appropriated for the program. The first round of grants

were awarded in January and February 2022. Sixty-one grants were awarded totaling \$19.2 million to connect 12,640 locations. Awards for the second round will be announced in December 2022. The Nebraska Broadband Bridge program will provide the framework for the distribution of federal broadband funding.

**Federal Broadband Funding.** Federal broadband funding received by the State of Nebraska is being coordinated by the Connect Nebraska Working Group—an interagency working group comprised of staff members from the State Budget Office, Governor’s Policy Research Office, Nebraska Public Service Commission, and the Nebraska Information Technology Commission/Office of the CIO.

**Capital Projects.** LB 1024 which was enacted in 2022, allocated funding from the Capital Projects Fund by Congressional District. On August 30, 2022, the U.S. Department of the Treasury approved an award of \$87.7 million to connect 21,000 homes and businesses to affordable, reliable high-speed internet services in Congressional Districts 1 and 3. The Nebraska Public Service Commission will distribute the funding through the Nebraska Broadband Bridge grant program in early 2023. The press release is at <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0931>. The Public Service Commission anticipates opening a round of the Broadband Bridge Grant Program in early 2023 to distribute the funding. An application for approximately \$41 million in funding has been submitted for funding for multipurpose community facilities in qualified census tracts in Omaha for Congressional District 2. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development will administer this funding.

**BEAD.** The State of Nebraska has also applied for funding from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. Nebraska will receive at least \$100 million for broadband deployment projects through the BEAD program. The State of Nebraska expects to receive \$5 million in planning funds in November 2022 to develop a five-year broadband deployment plan. The Nebraska Public Service Commission will administer the BEAD funding.

**State Digital Equity Planning Grant.** Nebraska will receive \$600,000 to develop a state digital equity plan through the State Digital Equity Planning Grant in November 2022. States which complete digital equity plans will be able to apply for a minimum of \$7.2 million over 5 years to set up a state digital equity grant program. The Nebraska Information Technology Commission/Office of the CIO will administer the State Digital Equity Planning Grant. A one-page summary of the grant and a fact sheet was included in the meeting materials. The Community and eHealth Councils will both be supporting the state digital equity planning effort.

**Broadband Mapping.** The current broadband maps overstate broadband availability. The FCC has implemented a new data collection process. The first iteration of the improved map of broadband availability is expected in November 2022. The NTIA expects to use the second iteration of the FCC map which is expected in the spring of 2023 to determine final BEAD funding allocations for states. The Nebraska Public Service Commission is working to identify a vendor to develop a state broadband map using BEAD funding.

Ms. Byers entertained questions. Discussion followed regarding the accuracy of the broadband maps.

#### **eHEALTH COUNCIL**

Ms. Byers provided the report.

Mr. Spray left the meeting.

**Approval of Membership Nominations.** The eHealth Council is requesting the NITC’s approval of the nomination of Professor Liaquat Hossain, Chair, Department of Cyber Systems, University of Nebraska-Kearney, to serve on the eHealth Council.

**Commission Ediger moved to approve the eHealth Council’s membership nomination. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Mellender-Yes, Langer- Yes, Blackman-Yes,**

**Greckel-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Toner-Yes, Ediger-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

Mr. Spray returned to the meeting.

**The eHealth Council and Digital Equity.** Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Studies estimate that clinical care impacts only 20 percent of county-level variation in health outcomes, while social determinants of health (SDOH) affect as much as 50 percent. Within SDOH, socioeconomic factors such as poverty, employment, and education have the largest impact on health outcomes.

Internet access is considered a social determinant of health. In 2015 the FCC formed the Connect2Health Task Force (C2HFCC Task Force) to study the relationship between internet access and health. In their analysis, the FCC suggested that there is a “connectivity continuum” influencing health. 2 Internet access is becoming increasingly important for health. We use the internet for a number of health-related applications, including:

- Researching information on medical conditions
- Managing appointments and prescriptions
- Checking lab results
- Telehealth consultations
- Home health monitoring

Research is showing the impact of internet access on mortality and health outcomes:

- Places with limited internet access had higher mortality rates, especially in urban areas.
- In a cohort study of 9,378 patients, participation in a remote monitoring program was associated with lower odds of hospitalization for patients testing positive for COVID-19.

The state digital equity plan will try to leverage the investments that the state has made in health information exchange and health technologies. Nebraska continues to be a leader in health information exchange with near universal participation in the statewide health information exchange, CyncHealth. LB 411 which was signed by Governor Ricketts on May 24, 2021, mandated participation in the state health information exchange by ambulatory surgical centers, critical access hospitals, intermediate care facilities, long-term care hospitals, mental health substance use treatment centers, PACE centers, pharmacies, psychiatric or mental hospitals, public health clinics, and rehabilitation hospitals. In particular, there are a couple of services provided by CyncHealth that are related to digital equity:

- CyncHealth also offers a solution to address social determinants of health (SDOH) and to help connect patients to resources including food, housing, transportation, mental health support, state benefits, and employment services. Internet access is considered a social determinant of health.
- The MyCyncHealth patient portal is available for Medicaid patients. The portal is at [Mycynchealth.org](http://Mycynchealth.org).

Several health systems are using telehealth. We will be reaching out to them to learn how the State of Nebraska can advance the use of telehealth and health monitoring. The eHealth Council will be supporting the state digital equity planning effort.

## **TECHNICAL PANEL**

Mr. Langer provided the report.

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

**Proposal 25. Amend provisions of the Information Security Policy.** The proposal includes the following provisions:

- Section 1 adds a new definition for CIS, the Center for Internet Security. Future security related standards will reference certain documentation published by that organization.
- Section 2 amends the system maintenance standard.
- Section 3 adds a new standard for low-code/no-code and containerized development. There are currently no NITC standards specifically relating to this type of development.

**Commissioner Spray moved to approve Propose 25. Commissioner Mellender seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Langer- Yes, Ediger-Yes, Greckel-No, Mellender-Yes, Spray-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-1, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Proposal 27. Amend mobile device and portable storage device provisions of the Information Security Policy.** The proposal includes the following provisions:

- Section 1 adds new definitions for “mobile device” and “portable storage device.” These definitions are based on definitions used by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- Section 2 renames and amends the portable storage device standard.
- Section 3 amends the minimum mobile device configuration standard.

**Commissioner Greckel moved to approve Proposal 27. Commissioner Spray seconded. Roll call vote: Spray-Yes, Ediger-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Langer- Yes, Blackman-Yes, Barrett-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Proposal 28. Amend access control and minimum configuration provisions of the Information Security Policy.** The proposal includes the following provisions:

- Section 1 amends the identification and authorization standard to use general terms for a unique identifier and identity management system rather than specific references to Active Directory.
- Section 2 amends the privileged access accounts standard by adding a requirement for multifactor authentication where technically feasible and authorizing the state information security office to grant exceptions.
- Section 3 amends the minimum workstation configuration standard.
- Section 4 repeals prior versions of the standards.
- Section 5 outright repeals the minimum laptop configuration standard. Laptops have the same configuration requirements as workstations and any additional requirements are included in the existing remote access standard (section 8-301).

**Commissioner Mellender moved to approve Proposal 28. Commissioner Ediger seconded. Roll call vote: Barrett-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Langer- Yes, Ediger-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Spray-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Proposal 29. Amend GIS data standards.** The proposal includes the following provisions:

- Section 1 adopts a new standard for lidar by reference to the most recent version of the USGS standard.
- Section 2 amends the street centerlines standard to reference the most recent version of the NENA standard.
- Section 3 amends the address points standard to reference the most recent version of the NENA standard.

**Commissioner Spray approve Proposal 29. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Langer- Yes, Ediger-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Mellender-Yes, and Spray-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Enterprise Projects.**

**Enterprise project status dashboard report.** Mr. Langer reviewed the dashboard report.

**Close the following enterprise project: Centrex Replacement, Office of the CIO.** At their meeting on April 12, 2022, the panel recommended closure of the Centrex Replacement project. The project was successfully completed.

**Commissioner Spray moved to close the Centrex Replacement enterprise project. Commissioner Mellender seconded. Roll call vote: Blackman-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Toner-Yes, Ediger-Yes, Spray-Yes, Mellender-Yes, and Langer- Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

**Approval of enterprise project designation for the following project: New Budget Management and Request System, Dept. of Administrative Services, State Budget Division.** At their meeting on August 9, 2022, the panel recommended designating the New Budget Management and Request System project by the Dept. of Administrative Services, State Budget Division as an enterprise project

**Commissioner Barrett moved to designate the New Budget Management and Request System as an Enterprise Project. Commissioner Mellender seconded. Roll call vote: Spray-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Ediger-Yes, Langer- Yes, Blackman-Yes, Barrett-Yes, and Toner-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

#### **Approval of the Recommendations on Technology Investments for the 2023-2025 Biennium.**

Mr. Langer provided an overview of the project review process. Each project was discussed.

Colleen Byelick and Chad Sump from the Secretary of State's office were available for questions.

A draft report was included with the meeting materials.

**Commissioner Spray moved to approve the report. Commissioner Greckel seconded. Toner-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Langer- Yes, Ediger-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Mellender-Yes, and Spray-Yes. Results: 8-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstained. Motion carried.**

#### **CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**

Mr. Toner provided the report.

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

The commission is responsible for developing a statewide technology plan. The commission has adopted six strategic initiatives to provide the basic structure of the plan with related action items under each initiative. The six initiatives are: State Government IT Strategy, Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure, Network Nebraska, Digital Education, Rural Broadband and Community IT Development, and eHealth. Staff and the advisory councils have prepared a draft revised plan for the commission's approval.

**Commissioner Blackman moved to approve the revised Statewide Technology Plan. Commissioner Ediger seconded. Roll call vote: Blackman-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Toner-Yes, Ediger-Yes, Spray-Yes, Mellender-Yes, Barrett-Yes, and Langer- Yes. Results: 8-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstained. Motion carried.**

#### **APPROVAL OF THE PROGRESS REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE**

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-518 provides, in pertinent part: "By November 15 of each even-numbered year, the Nebraska Information Technology Commission shall submit a progress report to the Governor and Legislature." Staff have prepared a draft report for the commission's approval.

**Commissioner Greckel moved to approve the Progress Report to the Governor and Legislature. Commissioner Mellender seconded. Roll call vote: Toner-Yes, Barrett-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Langer-**

**Yes, Ediger-Yes, Greckel-Yes, Mellender-Yes, and Spray-Yes. Results: 8-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstained.  
Motion carried.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**ADJOURN**

With no further business and without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

The meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by staff.