

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

September 30, 2025

Region 26 Council

Present:

Blaine Co: Matt Eggert
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Loup Co: Dave Larson
Ord, City of: Branden Stoural
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith
Valley Co: Theresa Petska, Alternate
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Range Co. Municipalities:

Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Paige Ryschon

Tri-Co Municipalities:

Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Law Enforce: Joel Bergman

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director, Virginia Michalski/Office Manager, Catie Larsen/Deputy
Emergency Manager, Donna Steckel/Chief Dispatcher

Visitors Present: Caden Johnson/Dispatcher, Brayden Rhoades/Dispatcher, Sue Krogman/NRIN

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Chairman Meyer. Notice of the meeting and agenda were sent to County Clerks of each member county for posting and given in advance to all members of the Board.

Roll Call was taken with ten (10) members present.

The meeting being duly posted and a quorum present, the Chairman proclaimed this meeting to be a legal meeting and acknowledged that the Open Meeting Act was posted in the meeting room.

Diana Hurlburt asked for an agenda item to be added. The Chairman stated no action could be taken but could have discussion. Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the agenda with the agenda item added for PSAP Funding.

Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Dave Larson and seconded by Doug Pokorny to approve the August 26, 2025 Minutes.

Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Public Comment: None

Alma reported that she had moved the funds in the CD that had matured to an NPAIT Account with current interest at 4.20% interest. Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the August 2025 Financial Statement. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma introduced the new Deputy Emergency Manager, Catie Larsen to the board.

Diana Hurlburt reported that NACO had suggested using burn permit fees as an option for PSAP funding.

After discussion about how burn permits are currently issued and how the system works, the board determined this wouldn't be a practical option.

Towers & Equipment Report:

- Discussion on the meeting with Sheriff King of Wheeler County wanting to utilize his State Radio to attach to console to see how it would work. It would be separate from other frequencies and allow use of his State Radio. There would not be much cost other than an antenna to add the one radio at this time to see how it would work. Alma stated that there is possibility of other Sheriffs wanting to be able to utilize State Radios if they have them but would take a gateway to have more channels at our console. Platte Valley had suggested to Alma to discuss with First Net for a gateway to handle more channels if we go that route.
- Spalding paging was down recently and Grand Island Platte Valley had worked on the paging station at Spalding. They had found a bad radio head that they replaced and seems to have fixed the problem.
- Sherman radios were down a couple weeks ago. When radios were keyed up they were making a terrible noise back in dispatch after channel was released. It was traced down to Litchfield equipment that was affecting all Sherman locations. Platte Valley found it to be a commercial user's equipment on the same tower that was causing interference and has been corrected.
- The Litchfield generator has been ordered and we are waiting for it to be installed. They were in hopes to have it out here by next week for install.
- The Garfield equipment is being installed and then the radio reprogramming will follow. Alma attended the Burwell fire meeting to find a time to program radios and explain how it will work. Then will be in touch with Ericson to see about programming radios for mutual aid.

Sue Krogman with NRIN gave a presentation on the NRIN system, including its current operations, structure, and how it is being utilized for communications. Region 26 is using the system for our 911 traffic. She discussed possible funding strategies and suggested exploring the option of attaching NRIN support to the wireless 911 surcharge Legislative Bill. After discussion, the board expressed that they were not in favor of attaching NRIN support to the Legislative bill that we have already been working on for several years.

Alma asked for the board to appoint Catie Larsen as a voting member for the North Central PET Region. Theresa Petska made a motion to appoint Catie as a voting member with a second from Diana Hurlburt. Alma and Catie would both be voting alternates for the county representatives on the board. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

The Personnel handbook has been in need of updates and Alma asked if there could be several members of the board that would be willing to meet to go over the handbook with Catie. Diana Hurlburt, Theresa Petska and Jay Meyer all planned to attend a meeting that Catie will get set up.

Criminal Justice Board Report: None

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1344 Status, 291 Paging, 237 Want/Warrants/Registrations, 208 Traffic Violations, 113 Messages, 88 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 87 Minor Detail, 72 Rescue Calls, 44 Assist Citizen, 44 Livestock Complaint, 43 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 41 Assist Other Agencies, 32 Burn Permit, 29 Gun Permits, 21 Paper Service, 20 Accidents, 15 Traffic Hazard, 13 Alarms, 12 Patient Transport, 12 Reckless Driver, 12 Siren, 12 Weather, 10 Check Welfare, 10 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 9 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 8 Animal calls, 8 Motorist Assist, 8 Suspicious Events, 8 Theft/Shoplifting, 8 Miscellaneous Tasks, 7 Abandoned Vehicle, 7 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 6 Mutual Aid, 6 Prisoner Transport, 6 Suspicious Person, 5 Irrigation on Roadway, 5 Radio Test, 5 Transfer 911 Call, 4 Arrests, 4 Death Investigation, 4 Fire

Calls, 4 Follow Up, 4 Parole/Probation/Protection Order/Violation, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Driving Under the Influence, 3 Gas Drive-Off, 3 Suspicious Vehicle, 3 Uncontrollable Juvenile, 2 Check Area/Building, 2 Drug Violation, 2 Fraudulent Activity, 2 Littering/Dumping, 2 Missing Person/Juvenile, 2 Property Damage, 2 Property Lost/Recovered/Dispute, 2 Suicidal Threats/Attempts, 1 Child Abuse/Neglect, 1 Child Pornography and 5 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of September was 2964 including 279 - 911 calls and 1291 Administrative calls into Dispatch Center only.

Donna Steckel reported that Taylor and Brayden attended the State Patrol protection order training that we hosted here. Donna has appointed Miki as her assistant since there was that much work that needed supervised. She did ask that the dispatch center phone number come first on our website as too many dispatch calls are coming into admin. Jay Meyer brought up the need for going to 3-minute intervals for pages instead of the current 5 minutes. The protocol is calling for mutual aid on ambulances after the third page which allows a lot of time to lapse before mutual aid can be on the way. After discussion the board agreed that it should be implemented immediately and to notify departments by page and then review at next meeting if to vote to make it a permanent protocol.

Director's Report:

- Ford Explorer sold at auction for 2800.00
- Flock Camera Progress – waiting on the right of way permits to be approved at NDOT
- Alma and Catie attended the Lou-Platte Mutual Aid meeting at Litchfield
- Alma and Catie attended the Hastings Weather workshop/seminar of Weather Service future
- At the North Central PET meeting the THIRA was started with the help of the Public Policy Center consultant which is a requirement for our grants and part of the planning/preparedness
- Have been working on finishing the Thomas LEOP with some minor changes and met with the Wheeler County EM on their LEOP
- Alma and Catie attended the West Central NACO and met with Erv Portis from NEMA regarding the update and future on FEMA funding, Homeland Security grants and possible changes on disaster declarations.

Other Business:

Next regular meeting date will be October 28th at 7 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:12 pm.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

ACRONYMS

ALI – Automatic Location Identification (for 911)
ANI – Automatic Number Identification (for 911)
APCO – Assoc. of Public Communications Officials
ASR # – Antenna Structure Registration (Tower ID #)
CAD – Computer Aided Dispatch
CC – Communications Center
CERT – Community Emergency Response Team
CJIS – Criminal Justice Information System
COADs – Community Organizations Active in Disasters
COOP – Continuity of Operations Planning
COVID-19 – Coronavirus Disease 2019
C.R.I.M.E.S. – Calls & Records Information Management Software (part of Justice Data Solutions)
DEE – Depart. of Environmental & Energy (State)
DHHS – Department of Health & Human Services (State)
DHS – Department of Homeland Security
DR – Disaster Recovery
DOT – Department of Transportation - (NDOT) Nebraska
E911 – Enhanced 911
EAS – Emergency Alert System (FEMA)
ECW – Emergency Call Works (Reg 26 911 Equip)
EM – Emergency Manager
EMD – Emergency Medical Dispatch
EMPG – Emergency Management Performance Grant
EMS – Emergency Medical Services
EMT – Emergency Medical Technician
EOC – Emergency Operations Center
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)
ERG – Emergency Response Guide (Orange Book – Hazardous Materials)
FAA – Federal Aviation Admin. (Report tower light outages)
FADD – Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician
FCC – Federal Communications Commission (for Radio Frequency Licenses)
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease (Livestock)
FY – Fiscal Year
GAN – Grant Adjustment Notice (aka Grant Award)
GIS – Geographic Information System
GPS – Global Positioning System
gWORKS – Public information on Property by County
HAZMAT – Hazardous Materials
HHS – Health and Human Services (Federal)
HSGP – Homeland Security Grant Program
ICS – Incident Command System
IPAWS – Integrated Public Alert Warning System
IPPW – Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop
J.A.M.I.N. – Jail Administration Management Information Network (Part of Justice Data Solutions)
JDS – Justice Data Solutions (Law Enforcement Records Management & CAD software system)
LASO – Local Agency Security Officer
LBF – Lee Bird Field – North Platte (Airport) Weather Service Location

LBPHD – Loup Basin Public Health Department (covers Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley, Sherman)
LE – Law Enforcement
LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee
LEDRS – Livestock Emergency Disease Response System
LEOP – Local Emergency Operations Plan
MACH – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
MRC – Medical Reserve Corp
NA911 – Nebraska Association of 911 Managers
NACO – Nebraska Association of County Officials
NAEM – Nebr. Association of Emergency Managers
NEMA – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NENA – National Emergency Number Association
NESCA – NE Emergency Services Communicators Association
***NCR** – North Central Region* (see below)
NIMS – National Incident Management System
NIRMA – NE Intergovernmental Risk Management Association
NRIN – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network
NX-Gen – Next Generation 911
PD – Police Department
***PET** – Planning Exercise Training* (see below)
POD – Points of Dispensing (Immunization)
PPE – Personal Protective Equipment
PMC – Page My Cell (secondary Paging to Depts.)
PSAP – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Centers)
PSC – Public Service Commission
PVC – Platte Valley Communications
RFP – Request for Proposal
SEAT – Single Engine Air Tanker
SEOC – State Emergency Operation Center
SHSP – State Homeland Security Program
SME – Subject Matter Expert (Homeland Security Grants)
SO – Sheriff's Office
SRS – State Radio System
T-CPR – Telecommunicator CPR
THIRA – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
UPS – Universal Power Supply (workstation backup power supply until generator starts)
VFD – Volunteer Fire Department
VOAD – Volunteer Organization Aiding Disasters
VOIP – Voice over Internet Protocol
V-TAC – Mutual Aid VHF Frequency Channels
WEA – Wireless Emergency Alert
WCDHD – West Cent. District Hlth Dept. (Covers Thomas)
W.H.O. – World Health Organization
WPC – Weather Prediction Center – Norman, OK
WIRAT – Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team
WMD – Weapons of Mass Destruction

*** North Central PET Region Includes:**

Keith, Arthur, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Logan, Custer, Cherry-Keya Paha, Brown-Rock, Boyd-Holt and Region 26: (Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley and Sherman)