

Luke Erpelding
Communications Center

Curtis Woten
EMS

Mindy Benson
Emergency
Management

Michele Bischof
Fire Department

David Ness
Municipal Police
Department

Jeff Vandewater
Sheriff's Office

Patrick Updike
Member At-Large

[Legislative Members](#)
Senator, Vacant
Senator, Vacant
Representative, Vacant
Representative, Vacant

Meeting Minutes

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board

February 13, 2025 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Dallas County Human Services Campus
25747 N Avenue
Adel, IA 50003

Meeting called to order by Chair Bischof at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting was conducted via in-person and Microsoft Teams. The conference telephone line was opened for board members and public listening and comment.

Five voting board members were present via in-person and Microsoft Teams, establishing a quorum.

Voting Members Present In-Person: Jeff Vandewater, Curtis Woten

Voting Members in Attendance via Microsoft Teams and Teams Conference Line: Michele Bischof, Luke Erpelding, Patrick Updike

Non-Voting in Attendance via Microsoft Teams and Teams Conference Line: Administrative Assistant Hollie Davidson, SWIC Haley Nichols

Absent: Mindy Benson, David Ness

Guests: Bart Blank, Nic Briseno, Daniel Brown, Dan Case, Rob Dehnert, Blake DeRouchey, Josh Duden, Andy Flagge, Dave Gordon, Steve Gray, Travis Hitchcock, Heath Hove, Brian Krumm, Tom Lampe, Chris Maiers, Terry McClannahan, Chad McCluskey, Al Paredes, Scott Richardson, Austin Taffae

Welcoming Remarks: Chair Bischof welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Approval of Agenda: Chair Bischof made an amendment to the agenda. The meeting minutes for approval should read January 9, 2025 instead of December 12, 2024. Jeff Vandewater motioned to approve today's amended agenda. Curtis Woten seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of Minutes: Curtis Woten motioned to approve the January ISICSB Meeting Minutes. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

SWIC Report: SWIC Nichols reports the following:

- DPS Legislative night was held on January 15th
- Participated in Fire School ISICS presentation on January 26th – received great feedback and has already heard from some attendees wanting more information about the system
- ISICSB meetings have moved from the GoTo Meeting platform to Microsoft Teams
- SF89, which proposes changes to Iowa Code 80.29 that relates to the Board's duties, passed out of subcommittee with recommended unspecified amendments
- Upcoming trainings:
 - COML – April 1-4, 2025 in Council Bluffs
 - COMT course later in spring in Cedar Rapids
- Reminder – the eFOG is available for download
- iMED Update:
 - Since the talkgroups are encrypted, it is highly recommended that when purchasing equipment, make sure it is compatible with AES 256-bit
 - Radio orders have arrived for more counties
 - Received a project manager and had kickoff meeting for the Wave portion
 - Project is working in conjunction with an update to the Statewide EMS Plan, which is in final draft and currently waiting for approval by Health and Human Services

911 Council Report & E911 Program Manager: 911 Program Manager Blake DeRouchey reminded the group that the 911 Council meets right before the ISICSB meeting, and a recording of the meeting can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwAh7nFN6qMlvmDcTVbV-hw/videos>.

911 Program Manager DeRouchey reports the following:

- Program financials for the quarterly report are posted to their website
- Legislative happenings related to the 911 program:
 - HSB 104 – addresses 911 funding and NextGen 911 transition
 - SF 271 – addresses voting membership on 911 service boards and would limit voting membership to in-county votes only
- National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week:
 - April 13-19
 - There will be a focused media campaign promoting the week that will include videos, social media, written testimonials related to the telecommunicator's job
 - Email with more information will be sent out soon
- Approved training applications:

- Call Simulator for Muscatine County public education use
- DPS: APCO CTO course

User Group Committee (UGC): UGC Chair Vandewater reports the Committee met and reviewed three new user applications. The Committee approved two applications that are up for Board approval under New Business. The Pella Cooperative Electric Association application was tabled, and the Committee is seeking clarification and guidance from the Board regarding non-government entities.

Finance Report: The monthly net expenditures for January 2025 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$15,089.32. The remaining amount available is \$97,595.69.

Governance Committee: SWIC Nichols reports the Committee met and made a few minor, non-substantial changes to ISICS Standard 4.3.0 – Preventative Maintenance.

Operations Committee: Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and reviewed the following standards:

- ISICS Standard 1.14.0 – SYS-TECH Talkgroup – no substantial changes made
- ISICS Standard 2.12.6 – Over the Air Rekeying – few language adjustments, and the standard is being sent to the Technology Committee for further review
- ISICS Standard 3.8.0 – Emergency Button – will continue reviewing at the next Operations Committee meeting
- ISICS Standard 4.8.0 – Notification for System Changes and Outages – no substantial changes made

Training & Outreach Committee: Training Committee Chair Woten reports the Committee met and worked on the Plain Language Whitepaper.

Technology Committee: Technology Chair Updike reports the Committee met twice and briefly discussed some FCC rule changes related to existing license holders of 4.9 GHz band.

The Committee spent most of the time focused on ISICS Standard 1.10.0 – Cross Spectrum Interoperability. The Committee felt it was time to update some of the terminology as it relates to patches and conventional resources. The term “patches” was replaced with gateway cross connects and other more technical terms. The term “LEA” was eliminated throughout the standard. The Committee also updated the standard and included some of the other resources that include Broadband resources (Wi-Fi, ethernet, FirstNet, commercial cellular networks) and other trunked system resources (too many to list). The term “conventional resources” was replaced with “non-ISICS users.” The standard is up for Board approval to post for 30-day comment under New Business.

FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee: SWIC Nichols reports the Committee met and FirstNet Authority Representative Tom Lampe gave a presentation on FirstNet Central.

Other Reports:

Information Sharing Board Members: Chair Bischof reports that the SF89 legislation proposes a substantial change to Iowa Code 80.29 which relates to the activities and

authority of the Board. If the bill passes, the ISICS user base would expand to include private security, private tow truck companies, etc. regardless of whether or not they have a contract with a public safety agency. All of the proposed users in the bill are currently eligible if they have a contract. One concern with this bill includes capacity issues related to the number of potential users that may come onto the system. Another concern relates to encryption and what is available and not available on scanner. Chair Bischof encourages stakeholders who have concerns with this bill to reach out to the Board or SWIC Nichols.

ISICS System Administrator Report: Assistant System Administrator Scott Richardson reports the following regarding ISICS maintenance:

- ISICS Zwingle site had tower beacon repaired and is now operational
- Tama site currently has side marker light out – repair to be scheduled
- Recently, two broken Radome covers and a tilted antenna were discovered at the Cherokee site – repair to be scheduled
- There was propane tank leak at Chickasaw that has now been resolved (leak at stand/riser pipe near generator, lost about 700 gallons)

ISICS Numbers for January 2025:

- Radios = 42,565 (up 500 from December 2024)
- Talkgroups = 3,589 (up 42 from December 2024)
- Push-to-Talks = 2,866,722 (up 57,483 from December 2024)

FirstNet Authority Update: FirstNet Authority Representative Tom Lampe reports the following:

- Gave a presentation to the FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee on some changes to FirstNet Central (updated site map features, uplift, deployable request, etc.)
- 5 x 5 conference in Bellevue, WA on June 3-5, 2025
- Would like to schedule coverage workshop in May or June 2025
- Working with CISA on planning for FEMA event in Kansas City
- Initiatives on LMR Push-to-Talk – working with Rob Dehnert to plan a demo of instant interoperability on LMR/LTE

AT&T Update: AT&T Representative Bart Blank reports updates have been completed at the following sites: Storm Lake, Norway, Fort Dodge, West Des Moines, Dubuque, Pleasant Hill, Plainfield, and Waterloo.

Contact Bart if assistance is needed adding users to the FirstNet Central portal.

CISA Update:

CISA Representative Chris Maiers presented a slidedeck regarding the following:

- Compromised Critical Infrastructure Advisory
- Guidance & Strategy to Protect Edge Devices
- AI Cybersecurity Collaboration Playbook
- Secure by Demand: Information & Guidance

- Active Assailant Emergency Action Plan (EAP)
- Technical Assistance
- Regional News of Note

The PowerPoint presentation can be located at <https://dps.iowa.gov/media/2429/download?inline>

Contact Chris Maiers at Christopher.Maiers@cisa.dhs.gov with any questions.

Old Business: None

New Business:

New User Applicant Participation Plan Approval: UGC Chair Vandewater made a motion to approve the following new users: Iowa Department of Corrections-7th District – Level 2 and Offutt AFB Fire & Emergency Services – Level 1. Curtis Woten seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval to post ISICS Standard 1.10.0 – Cross Spectrum Interoperability for 30-Day Public Comment: Technology Chair Updike made a motion to approve posting ISICS Standard 1.10.0 – Cross Spectrum Interoperability for 30-day public comment. Luke Erpelding seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Adjourn: Jeff Vandewater motioned to adjourn the meeting. Curtis Woten seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

YouTube link for the February 13, 2025, ISICSB Meeting: <https://youtu.be/5k8SWP8SM7c>