

Meeting Minutes

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board
April 10, 2025 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

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 Jesse Green
Senator Matt Blake
Representative Mike Vondran
Representative, Vacant

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.

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

Voting Members Present In-Person: Michele Bischof, Luke Erpelding, Jeff Vandewater, Curtis Woten

Voting Members in Attendance via Microsoft Teams and Teams Conference Line: Mindy Benson, David Ness, Patrick Updike

Non-Voting Present in Person: Administrative Assistant Hollie Davidson, SWIC Haley Nichols

Absent: None

Guests: Nic Briseno, Dave Brittain, Dan Brown, Rob Dehnert, Blake DeRouchey, Josh Duden, Steve Gray, Heath Hove, Robby Johannesen, Donald Johnson, Brian Krumm, Chris Maiers, Doug McCasland, Terry McClannahan, Al Paredes, Scott Richardson, Hannah Short, Curtis "Wally" Walser

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

Approval of Agenda: Curtis Woten motioned to approve today's agenda. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of Minutes: Luke Erpelding motioned to approve the March ISICSB Meeting Minutes. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

SWIC Report: SWIC Nichols reports the following:

- COMT Course:
 - June 2-6, 2025 in Cedar Rapids
 - Will be taught by State of Iowa instructors
 - Still have spots open for registrants
- Cache radios were deployed recently in SW Iowa for a four county burn
- Deployables can be requested through the jotform on the ISICSB website
- Currently working to grow the participation with the Regional Interop Committees (RICs) – encourage stakeholders to take part in these meetings
- iMED grant funds are still paused

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/UCwAh7nFN6gMlvmDcTVbV-hw/videos>.

911 Program Manager DeRouchey reports the following:

- Reminder of Language Translation Services – Language Line and Language Link
- Google Pixel Watch now has pulse loss detection capability – after loss of pulse for approximately 15 seconds, watch will automatically call 9-1-1

User Group Committee (UGC): UGC Chair Vandewater reports the Committee met and approved one updated user application that is up for Board approval under New Business.

Finance Report: Chair Bischof reports the incorrect credit in the amount of \$985.06 on last month's statement has now been corrected. The monthly net expenditures for March 2025 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$16,096.81. The remaining amount available is \$67,930.55.

SWIC Nichols will be asking for funds for promotional items which will be discussed more under New Business.

Governance Committee: Governance Chair Ness reports the Committee met and reviewed a new policy statement regarding standing committees' structures and leadership. The policy will be brought forth to all other committees for review and feedback.

Operations Committee: Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and reviewed ISICS Standard 3.8.0. The standard was previously called Emergency Button, but the Committee has renamed the standard to be called Emergency Call and Alarm

Activation. The standard was also realigned more to a broader P25 standard rather than to a specific radio. Language was also added on revert and tactical emergency button activation. Work on the standard will continue at next month's Operations meeting.

The Committee also reviewed the following ISICS Standards:

- 2.12.6 – Over the Air Rekeying – standard was reviewed by the Technology Committee and sent back to Operations with non-substantial changes.
- 1.4.0 – Statewide Pursuit Communications – non-substantial changes
- 1.12.1 – Audible Alert Tones – non-substantial changes
- 1.5.2 – Air Ambulance Landing Zone Coordination – tabled until next month

Training & Outreach Committee: SWIC Nichols reports the Committee met and the Plain Language Whitepaper is in its final form.

The Position Task Book (PTB) training was posted online for the Training Committee members to review. A few minor changes were made and this training is also in its final form.

Technology Committee: Technology Chair Updike reports the Committee met twice and discussed ISICS Standard 2.12.6 – Over the Air Rekeying. The Committee cleaned up some of the wording and sent the standard back to the Operations Committee.

The Committee also reviewed ISICS Standard 3.15.0 – Regional CALL Audio. Some of the wording and language were changed throughout the standard, and the standard is up for approval to post for 30-day comment under New Business.

FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee: FirstNet Subcommittee Chair Benson reports the Committee met and held a standard meeting with no action items.

Other Reports:

Information Sharing Board Members: Chair Bischof reports that the Conley Group is seeking an administrative hearing regarding the handling of their user application.

Chair Bischof reports that the terms for Board members Jeff Vandewater and David Ness will expire at the end of April 2025. Jeff Vandewater has agreed to continue on with the Board and serve another term. David Ness will not continue on with the Board. Chair Bischof thanked Major Ness for his work and commitment to the Board.

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

- Unanticipated Zone Controller Roll-Over on Tuesday Morning – ZC1 lost synchronization causing roll over to ZC3. Motorola is looking into the root cause – preliminarily believed to be microwave related. (MPLS network). All sites and consoles returned to normal operation mid-morning on Tuesday the 8th.
- There have been service tickets opened for reports of phantom mic clicks. This seems to be an intermittent situation and appears to have improved for last week. Motorola will continue to investigate.

- Motorola has been working on the Adair South tower site – recently installed temporary MW dishes to shore up the MW links to Madison, Adair North, and Adams. These dishes replace dishes that were damaged during the tornado last year. The work is being done on the existing tower to ensure continued operation while the new Adair South tower is being constructed.
 - Adams site was discovered to have a damaged dish (secondary link to Adair South) likely caused by recent high winds in the area. The damaged dish will be replaced by the tower crew this soon.
 - DPS has recently purchased a hardware refresh for the Genesis system used to provide system monitoring and reports. That work is mostly completed with the installation of 4 new Genesis readers along with a new Genesis server. DPS is currently awaiting the arrival of a new client machine for the ISICS NOC. There are still some minor configuration issues to resolve, but the Genesis system is fully functional. Approximately 6 hours of data was lost during the hardware conversion on April 7th, and that could slightly skew next month's ISICS numbers for PTTs for the month.
 - ISICS Numbers for March 2025:
 - Radios = 43,277 (up 404 from February 2025)
 - Talkgroups = 3,605 (up 12 from February 2025)
 - Push-to-Talks = 3,322,334 (up 504,930 from February 2025)
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FirstNet Authority Update: No report.

AT&T Update: No report.

CISA Update:

CISA Representative Chris Maiers presented a slidedeck regarding Cybersecurity Advisory on "Fast Flux" which is a technique to hide the locations of malicious servers by rapidly changing Domain Name System (DNS) records.

The PowerPoint presentation can be located at
<https://dps.iowa.gov/media/2606/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 user: Mitchell County EMA (update) – Level 2. Luke Erpelding seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adopt ISICS Standard 1.10.0 – Cross Spectrum Interoperability: There were no public comments made on this standard.

Patrick Updike made a motion to adopt ISICS Standard 1.10.0 – Cross Spectrum Interoperability. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day comment on ISICS Standard 3.15.0 – Regional CALL Audio: Patrick Updike made a motion to approve posting ISICS Standard 3.15.0 – Regional CALL Audio for 30-day public comment. Luke Erpelding seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of funds not to exceed \$1,500 for promotional products: SWIC Nichols is asking for the funds to purchase some promotional products to hand out at conferences and other events. The products are also informative in that they have the interoperability talkgroups, contact information, etc. on them. Chair Bischof motioned to approve the funds for SWIC Nichols to purchase promotional products in an amount not to exceed \$1,500. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Public Comment: Rob Dehnert reminded the group that the spring meeting for the Region 15 Regional Planning Committee for 700/800 MHz is later this afternoon.

Motion to Adjourn: Curtis Woten motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

YouTube link for the April 10, 2025, ISICSB Meeting: <https://youtu.be/Dgd5q8lTZaY>