

## Meeting Minutes

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board  
August 14, 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

Michael Colby  
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 Vice-Chair Updike 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.

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

**Voting Members Present In-Person:** Luke Erpelding, Curtis Woten

**Voting Members in Attendance via Microsoft Teams:** Mindy Benson, Michael Colby, Patrick Updike, Jeff Vandewater

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

**Absent:** Michele Bischof

**Guests:** Nic Briseno, Dave Brittain, Daniel Brown, Chase Clark, Rob Dehnert, Blake DeRouchey, Josh Duden, Zach Engstrom, Dave Gordon, Steve Gray, Heath Hove, Tom Lampe, Chris Maiers, Terry McClannahan, Al Paredes, Curtis Pion, Jacob Reineke, Austin Taffae, Curtis "Wally" Walser

**Welcoming Remarks:** Vice-Chair Updike welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

**Approval of Agenda:** Luke Erpelding motioned to approve today's agenda. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

**Approval of Minutes:** Michael Colby motioned to approve the July ISICSB Meeting Minutes. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

**SWIC Report:** SWIC Nichols reports the following:

- Current outreach events include two booths at the Iowa State Fair. DPS has one location in the Hall of Law and one location in the Varied Industries building. The Interop Bureau has volunteered to staff many hours at both locations to share about ISICS. A couple ISICS radios are on display and programmed by our system admins so the kids are able to experience using them.
- Recent deployments of cache radios for RAGBRAI have been utilized for some training events recently. We have upcoming requests for the mobile command at an outreach event and have knowledge of a future need for a site request while a tower is down during a water tower painting event. Those requests are made through our online deployable request form.
- SWIC Nichols and Deputy SWIC Walser have been included in some interstate interoperability meetings with our neighboring states and regions who are implementing and exploring critical connect communication links and will continue exploring those new technologies.
- Recently, Iowa DPS had an onsite CALEA assessment (Commission on Accreditation on Law Enforcement Agencies), in which DPS is a voluntary member and includes the ISICS system. The coordinator of the assessment stated he was very impressed with our communications personnel and the service provided to agencies across the state. He was especially impressed with the Statewide Interoperability System, ranking it among the top 10 – 20% of the systems he has seen. While interviewing SWIC Nichols, he reviewed our policies and standards. He was thoroughly impressed by all the work that went into creating them, and he commended how robust the scope was. SWIC Nichols wanted to share what he said for those that were on the working groups and involved in the difficult and time-consuming task of creating all of those documents.
- COML course is rescheduled for Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> in Council Bluffs. There are still open spots for those who might want to attend.
- IMED – REMCDP – funding is still paused
- The technical issues experienced briefly at the end of July have been mitigated thanks to the immediate response by the system admins and Motorola.
- SWIC Nichols recommends that every agency have an agency-specific email address that gets distributed no matter who is on vacation or retires and using the email address for communications (ex: dispatch@cityof...).
- There will be a number of policies/standards available after today's meeting on the ISICSB website for a 30-day public comment period.
- Committee member re-applications are due by November. If you are not currently on a committee but would like to join one, please complete the Committee Membership Application form located at <https://form.jotform.com/222193764111046>.

**911 Council Report & E911 Program Manager:** During the 911 Council meeting prior to the ISICSB meeting, there was discussion regarding the financial situation going on within the 911 community, cost recovery, and NG 911 transition. If interested in any of these topics, 911 Program Manager Blake DeRouchey reminded the group that a recording of the meeting can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwAh7nFN6qMlvmDcTVbV-hw/videos>.

**User Group Committee (UGC):** UGC Chair Vandewater reports there were no new user applications and no new business, so the meeting was cancelled.

**Finance Report:** The monthly net expenditures for July 2025 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$6,104.99. The remaining amount available is \$50,606.83.

**Governance Committee:** Governance Committee Chair Colby reports the Committee met and reviewed ISICS Policy 2015-02.G. A few changes were made, including summarizing the lengthy policy name and verbiage changes in the last paragraph. The policy is on the agenda under New Business for approval to post for 30-day public comment.

**Operations Committee:** Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and discussed the following:

- ISICS Standard 1.6.0 – Talkgroup, Multigroup, and Agency-Group Ownership – minor language changes
- ISICS Standard 1.15.0 – Emergency Management Talkgroups – minor changes
- ISICS Standard 1.11.0 – up for 30-day public comment approval under New Business
- ISICS Policy 2021-01.O – up for 30-day public comment approval under New Business

**Training & Outreach Committee:** SWIC Nichols reports the Committee met and continued discussing the script and training module for ISICS Standard 1.12.1 – Audible Alert Tones. Recordings have been completed and will be discussed at the August meeting.

The Committee also had a discussion regarding AI in communication centers.

**Technology Committee:** Technology Committee Chair Updike reports the Committee met twice and reviewed ISICS Standard 3.6.0 – Radio Site Access Permission - Subsystem Roaming and Policy 2015-03.T, both of which are up for 30-day public comment approval under New Business.

A purpose statement was developed for Standard 3.6.0. Another significant change was to include that Critical User/Critical Site must be authorized by a system admin rather than by ISICSB.

Policy 2015-03.T was also reviewed, and the NPSTC Public Safety Communications Report dated May 2014 was added to the policy as a reference. The 123-page report outlines most, if not all, aspects of systems and facilities being brought up to levels that define them as Public Safety Grade (PSG).

The Committee is also working on developing talkgroups for the 700 MHz conventional channels seen on the ICS 217A for state and federal agencies.

The Technology Committee is also discussing 11 additional frequencies in the 800 MHz that can be licensed for use in Iowa under an ISICS call sign. Six pairs can be licensed for 35Watt ERP, while five can only be licensed for 2Watt ERP. The goal is to seek approval to license the frequencies. One suggestion was to consider using at least one of the six pairs licensed for 35 ERP to create a statewide 800 repeater for STR use. Chair Updike will keep the Board updated as to the progress.

**FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee:** FirstNet Subcommittee Chair Benson reports the Committee met, and Tom Lampe reviewed some of the surveys he has received regarding the coverage workshop.

### **Other Reports:**

Information Sharing Board Members: None.

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ISICS System Administrator Report: Assistant System Administrator Al Paredes reports the following regarding ISICS maintenance:

- On July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, ISICS experienced multiple brief console interruptions and site trunking events, which caused user frustration. While investigating the cause, Motorola identified some bandwidth limitations on a few segments of the microwave backhaul. The issue has been rectified, and the system has remained stable since corrective measures were implemented.
  - RF preventative maintenance continues, with Western Iowa sites scheduled for the rest of August and early September. The maintenance schedule was distributed to ISICS users on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Contact an ISICS system administrator if anyone needs a copy.
  - The Brooklyn site was recently struck by lightning, causing damage to the equipment and compromising 5 links. The site will continue to be monitored to ensure stability.
  - ISICS Numbers for July 2025:
    - Radios = 46,728 (up 363 from June 2025)
    - Talkgroups = 3,633 (up 12 from June 2025)
    - Push-to-Talks = 4,905,081 (up 1,740,838 from June 2025)
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FirstNet Authority Update: FirstNet Authority Representative Tom Lampe gave a report from the State Fair. Tom reminded everyone that there is a site on the state fairgrounds just for FirstNet that was put in years ago to provide band-14 when the cellular networks become congested due to the amount of people using them. With this site, FirstNet public safety users should have no issues with cellular coverage while at the fairgrounds.

Tom reports the Authority continues to work with the states to determine coverage gaps and where best to reinvest the funds. He also reports there are now established national broadband talkgroups.

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AT&T Update: No report.

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CISA Update:

CISA Representative Chris Maiers presented a slide deck regarding the following:

- Scattered Spider – Updated Cyber Advisory
- Interlock Ransomware – Cyber Advisory
- CISA Cyber Eviction Strategies Tool
- Regional News of Note

The PowerPoint presentation can be located at  
<https://dps.iowa.gov/media/2772/download?inline>

Contact Chris Maiers at [Christopher.Maiers@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:Christopher.Maiers@cisa.dhs.gov) with any questions.

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**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Adopt ISICS Standard 1.5.2 – Aircraft Landing Zone Coordination: Luke Erpelding made a motion to adopt ISICS Standard 1.5.2 – Aircraft Landing Zone Coordination. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adopt ISICS Standard 3.8.0 – Emergency Call and Alarm Activation: Curtis Woten made a motion to adopt ISICS Standard 3.8.0 – Emergency Call and Alarm Activation. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adopt ISICS Standard 3.15.0 – Regional CALL Audio: Mindy Benson made a motion to adopt ISICS Standard 3.15.0 – Regional CALL Audio. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day Comment on ISICS Standard 1.11.0 – Use of 700/800 MHz Scene of Action (SOA) Channels: Luke Erpelding made a motion to approve posting ISICS Standard 1.11.0 – Use of 700/800 MHz Scene of Action (SOA) Channels for 30-day public comment. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day Comment on ISICS Standard 3.6.0 – Radio Site Access Permission - Subsystem Roaming: Mindy Benson made a motion to approve posting ISICS Standard 3.6.0 – Radio Site Access Permission - Subsystem Roaming for 30-day public comment. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day Comment on ISICS Policy 2015-02.G – Supporting Government Control of Interop Frequencies or Channels: Michael Colby made a motion to approve posting ISICS Policy 2015-02.G for 30-day public comment. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day Comment on ISICS Policy 2015-03.T – Defining Public Safety Grade (PSG) for Communications Equipment: Curtis Woten made a motion to approve posting ISICS Policy 2015-03.T – Defining Public Safety Grade (PSG) for Communications Equipment for 30-day public comment. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day Comment on ISICS Policy 2021-01.O – Adoption of Conventional 700 MHz Air to Ground Channels for Use in Iowa: Curtis Woten made a motion to approve posting ISICS Policy 2021-01.O – Adoption of Conventional 700 MHz Air to Ground Channels for Use in Iowa for 30-day public comment. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion to Adjourn:** Michael Colby motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 11:16 am.

YouTube link for the August 14, 2025, ISICSB Meeting: <https://youtu.be/plOD4xXvdfs>