

## Meeting Minutes

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board  
October 9, 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 Eric Gjerde

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:** Curtis Woten

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

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

**Non-Voting Present via Microsoft Teams:** None

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Bart Blank, Dave Brittain, Daniel Brown, Brad Button, Rob Dehnert, Blake DeRouchey, Josh Duden, Dave Gordon, Travis Hitchcock, Heath Hove, Brian Krumm, Tom Lampe, Terry McClannahan, Al Paredes, Jacob Reineke, Scott Richardson, Austin Taffae

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Mindy Benson 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 September ISICSB Meeting Minutes. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

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

- COML course held Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> in Council Bluffs
  - 16 students
  - Created 3 new COML instructors – 1 from Iowa (Chad Roberts), 1 from Kansas, and 1 from Missouri
- Region 15 (Iowa) 700/800 MHz Regional Planning Committees to hold meetings today at 1:30 pm
- ISICS discussion in Decatur County – Ringgold County also attended – approximately 30 attendees
- Reminder that all committee members need to reapply to their committees by November <https://form.jotform.com/222193764111046>
- iMED - REMCDP update:
  - Funds are still paused
  - Extension granted through 3/28/2026
- Previously submitted a notice of interest for Emergency Management Program Grant / Homeland Security Grant Program – will keep the Board informed with any further information on these grant opportunities

**911 Council Report & E911 Program Manager:** E911 Program Manager Blake DeRouchey reports the following:

- Regarding the budget, surcharges are due by October 20<sup>th</sup> – will know after this date whether the budget is in the negative
- Currently redoing administrative rules per the 5-year revolving time frame requirement for each agency – proposed new rules will be available for public comment
- More children's activity books are available
- Approved one training application for Woodbury County for the NENA Center Training Officer Course

**User Group Committee (UGC):** UGC Chair Vandewater reports the UGC met and reviewed one new application that is up for approval under New Business.

**Finance Report:** The monthly net expenditures for September 2025 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$23,711.44. The remaining amount available is \$118,358.81.

**Governance Committee:** Governance Committee Chair Colby reports the Committee met and reviewed ISICS Policy 2023-02.G. The Committee will review the policy one more time before bringing it to the Board for approval to post it for 30-day public comment.

The Committee also discussed the use of LTE and RoIP to connect to the ISICS system and what governance is needed for this – does a policy need to be written? The Committee will continue this discussion at the next meeting.

**Operations Committee:** Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and reviewed ISICS Standard 2.13.0 – Subscriber Radio Standards. The standard was sent to the Technology Committee for further review.

**Training & Outreach Committee:** Chair Woten reports the Committee met and continued to discuss the new user onboarding process and reviewed the SCIP goals for the Training & Outreach Committee.

**Technology Committee:** Technology Committee Chair Updike reports the Committee met and discussed LTE and RoIP connections on ISICS and how to capture those and align them with the UGC SCIP goals and objectives and add that to the new user participation plan. Discussions also included how to help guide new users as to the benefits and drawbacks to these types of connections onto ISICS. The Committee suggested possibly recommending that the Governance Committee develop a policy stating that new users be required to identify any of the devices that could be brought in either through an LTE or RoIP app.

Governance Committee Chair Colby states that the main issue that needs addressed is having an unidentifiable user having access to the ISICS system through third party apps and donor radios.

**FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee:** FirstNet Subcommittee Chair Benson reports the Committee meets next week on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The meetings have moved to all virtual unless otherwise noted. Contact Chair Benson, Hollie, or SWIC Nichols if interested in joining the FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee.

## **Other Reports:**

Information Sharing Board Members: Chair Bischof reports that Todd Cogdill will be replacing Dan Brown as the DOT representative on the Steering Committee.

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ISICS System Administrator Report: Assistant System Administrator AI Paredes reports the following:

- On September 22<sup>nd</sup> during maintenance on the microwave equipment at JFHQ, a technician performed a card reset after observing some issues. The reset unexpectedly caused the microwave link to drop and, as designed, the system detected the loss and automatically switched over to the backup DSR core. The technician noticed this and manually switched back to the primary core, resulting in another site trunking event. This type of reset has had no impact on other sites in the system, and Motorola is investigating why it happened.
- The Bradgate site in Humboldt County will be down for a window of 4 to 5 hours for an antenna replacement starting at 11:30 am on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

- A maintenance window for the ISICS Holy Cross site is scheduled for Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – reminder that sites will be offline during maintenance windows.
  - RF preventative maintenance continues, with the last group of sites scheduled for the rest of October and early November – let system admins know if you need a copy of the maintenance schedule.
  - ISICS Numbers for September 2025:
    - Radios = 46,950 (up 317 from August 2025)
    - Talkgroups = 3,639 (up 2 from August 2025)
    - Push-to-Talks = 3,151,592 (down 291,548 from August 2025)
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FirstNet Authority Update: FirstNet Authority (FNA) Representative Tom Lampe reports he continues to review the coverage survey results. The next step is to prioritize where coverage is needed most in the state.

The FNA is working with AT&T to test satellite connection with FirstNet.

Contact Tom with any questions regarding RoIP and new technologies.

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AT&T Update: AT&T Representative Bart Blank reports that since January 2025, 220 sites across Iowa have been modernized (70 in the last 2 months). Several sites have been upgraded in the Woodbury, Sioux, Monona, Pottawattamie, and Polk County areas. The upgrades involve changing out Nokia equipment to Ericson equipment to help advance the move to true 5G, adding C-band to 85% of the towers, and increasing capacity to several towers across the state.

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CISA Update: No report.

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**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Approve New Users: Jeff Vandewater made a motion to approve the following new user: Iowa Insurance Fraud Bureau – Level 2. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adopt ISICS Standard 1.11.0 – Use of 700 MHz Scene of Action (SOA) Channels: Luke Erpelding made a motion to adopt ISICS Standard 1.11.0. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adopt ISICS Standard 3.6.0 – Radio Site Access Permission – Subsystem Roaming: Michael Colby made a motion to adopt ISICS Standard 3.6.0. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adopt ISICS Policy 2015-02.G – Managing Access to ISICS Interoperable Frequencies and Channels by Non-Governmental Entities: Michael Colby made a motion to adopt ISICS Policy 2015-02.G. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adopt ISICS Policy 2015-03.T – Defining Public Safety Grade (PSG) for all Voice and Data Radio Communications Equipment, Land Mobile Radio (LMR), or Data Sharing Systems, Networks, and Platforms: Luke Erpelding made a motion to adopt ISICS Policy 2015-03.T. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adopt ISICS Policy 2021-01.O – Adoption of Conventional 700 MHz Nationwide Air-to-Ground Channels for use in Iowa: Michael Colby made a motion to adopt ISICS Policy 2021-01.O. Luke Erpelding seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approve TA Requests: Michael Colby made a motion to approve the following TA requests – Incident Tactical Dispatcher (INTD) course, Communications Unit Leader (COML) course, and Incident Communications Center Manager (INCM) course. Luke Erpelding seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

**Public Comment:** Rob Dehnert reminded the group that the Region 15 700 MHz followed by the 800 MHz Regional Planning Committees will hold meetings this afternoon at 1:30 pm. The Regional Planning Committees are FCC committees that coordinate and manage the use of specific radio frequencies for public safety communications in Iowa.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Jeff Vandewater motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

YouTube link for the October 9, 2025, ISICSB Meeting: <https://youtu.be/jKltwnUGLmQ>