Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board

911

Michele Bischof, Chair
Patrick Updike, Vice-chair
Haley Nichols, SWIC
Curtis Walser, Deputy SWIC

Meeting Minutes
Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board
January 8, 2026 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: Representative Mike Vondran

Absent: None

Guests: Bart Blank, Dave Brittain, Daniel Brown, Rob Dehnert, Blake DeRouchey, Josh Duden, Dave Gordon, Heath Hove, Brian Krumm, Tom Lampe, Chris Maiers, Alex Mathias, Terry McClannahan, TJ Millikin, Al Paredes, Scott Richardson, Hannah Short, Austin Taffae, 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. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

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

SWIC Report: SWIC Nichols reports the following:

- Throughout the month of January, SWIC Nichols will be making an effort to promote ISICS minimum programming requirements at the interoperable committee meetings, including the RICs and Supervisor Group meetings. The purpose of programming minimum standards is so that subscriber equipment will have the needed resources when responding to any emergent or planned interoperable event in Iowa.
- iMED – REMCDP update:
  - Funds have been released after the February 2025 pause
  - After being granted a 6-month extension, the grant team is working diligently to complete the project by the new deadline of March 28, 2026
  - Project is to increase rural emergency communications in Region 1

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

- In-depth data center move update at today's 911 Council meeting - 6-months for the data center moves
- Approved Cerro Gordo County training in the amount of $13,400 – American Emergency Preparedness
- Chapter 10 administrative rules currently in the notice of intended action phase – public comments due January 14th – public hearing scheduled for January 13th and 14th

User Group Committee (UGC): The UGC met and there is one amended user application up for approval under New Business.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding capturing adding users of ISICS via broadband.

Finance Report: Finance Committee Chair Bischof reports the Committee met and discussed funding for the APCO coordination for licensing of the eleven 800 MHz Scene of Action channels up for approval under New Business.

The monthly net expenditures for December 2025 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were $15,877.03. The remaining amount available is $74,950.78.

Governance Committee: Governance Committee Chair Colby reports the Committee met and discussed a working draft policy regarding Broadband PTT over LMR to start working from moving forward. The draft policy will be discussed in all other committees to pick apart

and add to it as the discussions concerning RoIP continue. Any suggestions for what should be included in the policy should be sent to either Chair Colby or SWIC Nichols.

The Committee also discussed Policy 2023-02.G. The Policy received no public comments and is up for adoption under today's New Business.

Operations Committee: Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and completed the work on ISICS Standard 2.13.0 – Subscriber Radio Standards. The standard is ready for 30-day public comment when the process opens back up for posting to the website.

Chair Erpelding reports the Committee began working on three leftover 2025 standards:

1) ISICS Standard 3.9.0 – Sharing Multigroup Talkgroups
2) ISICS Standard 3.12.0 – Use of Shared Talkgroups
3) ISICS Policy 2021-02.O – Requirement of Frequency Coordination by Vendors or Agencies Deploying LTE Broadband Vehicles

SWIC Nichols states that the group discussed if Policy 2021-02.O should be codified in Iowa law more thoroughly. The policy will be sent to the Governance Committee to review the current interference code 727.5 – Obstruction of Emergency Communications. Policy 2021-02.O can be located at https://dps.iowa.gov/media/561/download?inline.

The Committee also briefly discussed what six standards need to be reviewed in 2026.

Training & Outreach Committee: Training Committee Chair Woten reports the Committee met and discussed and completed the Minimum Programming Requirements power point presentation.

COMU Credentialing Subcommittee: Deputy SWIC Walser reports the Subcommittee did not meet because there were no PTBs to review.

Technology Committee: Technology Chair Updike reports the Committee did not meet due to the holidays.

FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee: FirstNet Subcommittee Chair Benson reports the Committee does not meet until Tuesday, January 13th.

Other Reports:

Information Sharing Board Members: None

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

- Propane leak discovered at Muscatine site has been repaired and a propane fill for the site will be scheduled soon

- Tower crews performed microwave alignments and adjustments to the Denison to Shelby link and the Audubon to Carroll link due to signal degradation that occurred after high wind events in the area – both links are now back up to full signal strength
- ISICS Numbers for December 2025:
  - Radios = 47,210 (up 25 from November 2025)
  - Talkgroups = 3,641 (no change from November 2025)
  - Push-to-Talks = 3,034,760 (up 22,703 from November 2025)

FirstNet Authority Update: FirstNet Authority (FNA) Representative Tom Lampe reports the following:

- FNA continues to discuss how the reinvestment funds will be allocated for the states
- FNA recently directed AT&T to deploy 135 new cell sites across the country
- Coverage workshops continue
- Upgrading the dedicated FirstNet core network to support future public safety satellite device capabilities
- Working on more interoperability avenues on push-to-talk capabilities on the FirstNet network, including in-building coverage solutions
- Boulder lab tours are available to stakeholders who might wish to see how the FirstNet technology works
- During next week's FirstNet Subcommittee meeting, the subcommittee will be prioritizing the list of coverage enhancement areas

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AT&T Update: AT&T Representative Bart Blank reports the following:

- Continue upgrades to sites across the state
- Hope to have a major satellite update during the 1st quarter of 2026
- During next week's FirstNet Subcommittee meeting, school solutions will be discussed as there has been increased FirstNet eligibility for schools

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CISA Update:

CISA | CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT JANUARY 2026

Chris Maiers
January 8, 2026   1

Russian Hackivists Targeting Infrastructure

Notice:
- Multiple domestic and international agencies assess pro-Russia hacktivist groups conducting less sophisticated, low-impact attacks against critical infrastructure entities.
- Attacks use minimally secured, internet-facing virtual network computing (VNC) connections to gain access.
- Groups seek notoriety and often make false or exaggerated claims about their attacks.

Response/Mitigation:
- Reduce exposure of OT assets to the public-facing internet.
- Adopt mature asset management processes, including mapping data flows and access points.
- Ensure that OT assets are using robust authentication procedures.
    Advisory linked at: https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories/aa25-343a

JOINT CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY

Pro-Russia Hacktivists Conduct Opportunistic Attacks Against US and Global Critical Infrastructure

Chris Maiers
January 8, 2026   2

Region 7 Water Cyber & Protective Webinar

Objectives:
- Establish a common understanding of cyber and physical threats and vulnerabilities confronting water and wastewater systems.
- Promote utilization of EPA and CISA cybersecurity and physical protection assistance and resources.
- Increase coordination and information sharing across regional water and wastewater sector organizations.

Registration:
- No fee
- Limited to 1000 virtual participants
- Closes on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. CST

Regional News of Note

Technical Assistance News:
- Tri-State Communications TTX – Delivered Dec 2025.
- Illinois
  - SCIP refresh on-going.
- Iowa
  - Requests being assessed.
- Missouri
  - State-sponsored COMT in Jefferson City - February 23-27, 2026
- Kansas
  - Governance document development for Interoperability Advisory Committee
- Nebraska
  - Requests being assessed.

For more information:

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Old Business: None

New Business:

New User Applicant Participation Plan Approval: Jeff Vandewater made a motion to approve the following amended user application: Metro Waste Authority – Level 2. Curtis Woten seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approve APCO coordination for licensing of eleven 800 MHz Scene of Action channels not to exceed $1,000: SWIC Nichols reports that previously the Board approved and paid $360 for the APCO fees to coordinate and license six 700 MHz Scene of Action channels. With the eleven pairs of 800 MHz channels, five of those pairs would be set up as 2 Watts ERP and the other six pairs would be 35 Watts.

Mindy Benson made a motion to approve APCO coordination for licensing of eleven 800 MHz Scene of Action channels not to exceed $1,000. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adopt ISICS Policy 2023-02.G – Policy and Standard Adoption, Review, and Revision: Michael Colby made a motion to adopt ISICS Policy 2023-02.G – Policy and Standard Adoption, Review, and Revision. Mindy Benson 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 11:03 am.

YouTube link for the January 8, 2026, ISICSB Meeting: https://youtu.be/zi9R1WHBRs8