

## Meeting Minutes

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board  
February 12, 2026 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

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

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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.

Five 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:** Mindy Benson, Michael Colby, Patrick Updike, Jeff Vandewater

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

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

**Absent:** Michele Bischof, Luke Erpelding

**Guests:** Bart Blank, Nic Briseno, Dave Brittain, Chase Clark, Todd Cogdill, Rob Dehnert, Blake DeRouchey, Josh Duden, Heath Hove, Brian Krumm, Tom Lampe, Chris Maiers, Alex Mathias, Doug McCasland, Terry McClannahan, TJ Millikin, Al Paredes, Scott Richardson, Hannah Short, Curtis "Wally" Walser

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Mindy Benson 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:

- February's topic to present to RICs and other groups is Standard 1.5.0 – ISICS Regional and Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups.
- iMED – REMCDP update:
  - WAVE virtual server is installed at JFHQ core – testing was successful
    - Many ambulance mobile installations are complete
    - Next big project is to work with hospitals to get the application into the hospitals
    - Use case example – SWIC Nichols was training and listening to the dispatch console when the bus incident happened in Calhoun County – use of the system was successful and there was a coordinated and expansive response on the interoperable talkgroups
- Central STR trailer is set up for a demonstration in Buena Vista County – was successful
- COMDEX:
  - Loess Hills Cooperative
  - If approved today under New Business, looking for interested participants
- The state's TA request for and INTD course has been approved through CISA – working to coordinate location and date
- Standards in progress:
  - National Weather Service talkgroups drafted by Operations Committee and now being shared widely for comment on operational procedure
  - Policy and procedure for Broadband devices is in working draft by the Governance Committee

**911 Council Report & E911 Program Manager:** E911 Program Manager Blake DeRouche reports that during the 911 Council meeting prior to the ISICSB meeting today, program financials were reviewed as well as several legislative items. If interested, a recording of the meeting can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwAh7nFN6qMlvmDcTVbV-hw/videos>.

Blake reports that the master agreement that many PSAPs took advantage of for language translation services for 911 calls has been allowed to expire and a new contract has been signed. The service is a pay as you use service. Contact Blake with any questions.

Regarding the Eventide and WahITek recorders, there is no change as it relates to shared services. Eventide continues to be the service provider under the Zetron shared services contract.

**User Group Committee (UGC):** UGC Chair Vandewater reports the Committee met and there were no new user applications to review.

The Committee reviewed ISICS Standard 3.1.0 – Radio Aliases. There were no substantial changes made to the standard so it will not need to go up for 30-day public comment.

**Finance Report:** SWIC Nichols reports the Committee met and the January finance report was a standard report. The monthly net expenditures for January 2026 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$15,380.49. The remaining amount available is \$59,815.26.

SWIC Nichols also reports there are two finance-related items under today's New Business.

**Governance Committee:** Governance Committee Chair Colby reports the Committee met and continued discussing the working draft policy regarding Broadband PTT over LMR. The draft policy will be discussed in all other committees to pick apart and add to it as the discussions concerning RoIP continue.

Chair Colby reports that SWIC Nichols will give a demonstration of WAVE technology at the March Governance meeting. After the demo, the Committee will work to draft a policy regarding the technical and operational aspects of WAVE service.

The Committee also discussed ISICS Standard 1.1.0 – Subscriber Security and will continue to review this at the next meeting.

**Operations Committee:** SWIC Nichols reports the Committee met and worked on the National Weather Service standard, and it has been shared widely for feedback.

**Training & Outreach Committee:** Training Committee Chair Woten reports the Committee met and started reviewing ISICS Standard 1.5.0 – Regional and Statewide Talkgroups. The Committee will continue to discuss this at next month's meeting.

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

**Technology Committee:** Technology Committee Chair Updike reports the Committee met twice and continues working on the eleven 800 MHz frequencies. The Committee discussed vehicle repeaters and mobile repeaters and concluded that there should probably be analog and digital emission designators on all of the frequencies. They will continue to work on this.

The Committee also discussed Standard 1.16.0 – Interoperable Control Station Access. They concluded that this standard has probably outlived its usefulness and will eventually be retired.

**FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee:** FirstNet Subcommittee Chair Benson reports the Committee met and had a presentation on Everbridge 360, which is a rapid dissemination software to relay information to targeted groups or various people.

## Other Reports:

Information Sharing Board Members: None

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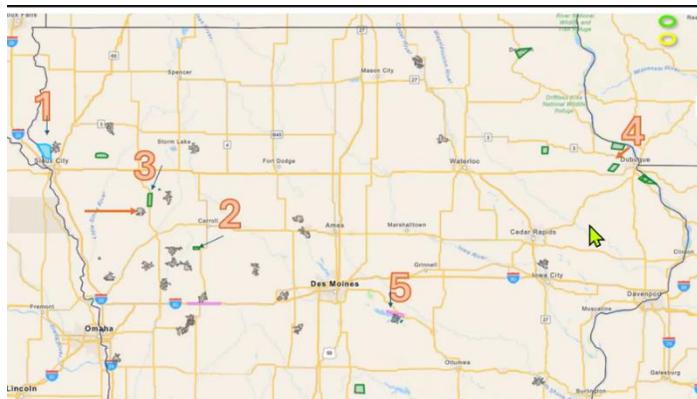
ISICS System Administrator Report: Assistant System Administrator AI Paredes reports the following:

- Tama, Lee, Audubon, and Harrison sites had their beacons successfully replaced
  - Tower crews performed radome replacement at different sites
  - Brooklyn site is offline today (Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>) from 10 am to 1 pm for transmit antenna system testing to ensure everything is working properly
  - ISICS Numbers for January 2026:
    - Radios = 47,435 (up 225 from December 2025)
    - Talkgroups = 3,640 (down 1 from December 2025)
    - Push-to-Talks = 2,882,741 (down 152,019 from December 2025)
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FirstNet Authority Update: FirstNet Authority (FNA) Representative Tom Lampe gave a brief history regarding Iowa and FirstNet coverage. Tom reports the FNA reinvests every dollar received from subscriber fees and AT&T's use of the FirstNet spectrum. The reinvested funds are put back into the network to ensure it remains updated to establish new coverage areas, update the core, move to 5G, update deployables, etc. In December 2025, the FNA directed AT&T to deploy 135 new cell sites across the country. The FNA then launched coverage enhancement workshops to gather feedback on where coverage improvements are most needed. A coverage workshop was held in Iowa in July to determine where coverage improvements are most needed in the state.

Tom reports that a new application called Fusion will be coming out which will replace FirstNet push-to-talk. Contact Tom if you are interested in testing Fusion before the roll out.

A coverage survey was distributed to stakeholders across Iowa to gain feedback regarding coverage enhancement needs. Tom reported the results of the survey to the FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee. The subcommittee then determined and prioritized 5 sites they feel are most in need of coverage enhancements. The sites included NW Plymouth County, Manning area (around Shelby, Crawford, and Audubon Counties), Ida County, Dubuque County, and Pella (Lake Red Rock). These sites are numbered on the map below.



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

- 12 towers over the past month have been modernized
- AT&T satellite update:
  - More information will be forthcoming regarding satellites
  - Beta testing will take place this year
  - Testing was recently done in Texas – was successful in doing voice, data, text, interoperability, and using the new Fusion product

**CISA Update:**

CISA Representative Chris Maiers presented the following slide deck:



**Known Exploited Vulnerabilities (KEV) Catalog**

**What is it?:**

- Aggregation of all known exploited Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE).

**Criteria for a KEV Entry:**

- The vulnerability has an assigned Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) ID.
- There is reliable evidence that the vulnerability has been actively exploited in the wild.
- There is a clear remediation action for the vulnerability, such as a vendor-provided update.

**How to use it:**

- Understand which CVEs are being exploited by threat actors.
  - Can be used for prioritization of CVEs.
- Downloadable in several formats.



**Secure Connectivity - Operational Technology**

**Purpose:**

- Help organizations mitigate exposed and insecure connectivity
- Protect networks from highly capable and opportunistic cyber threat actors, including nation state-sponsored actors.

**Key Principles:**

- Principle 1: Balance the risks and opportunities
- Principle 2: Limit the exposure of your connectivity
- Principle 3: Centralize and standardize network connections
- Principle 4: Use standardized and secure protocols
- Principle 5: Harden your OT boundary
- Principle 6: Limit the impact of compromise
- Principle 7: Ensure all connectivity is logged and monitored
- Principle 8: Establish an isolation plan



**Categories for Post-Quantum Cryptography**

**Purpose:**

- Executive Order 14306 directs DHS & CISA to publish a list of product categories of widely available products that support post-quantum cryptography (PQC).
- Establish an initial list of Product Categories for Technologies That Use Post-Quantum Cryptography Standards.
- Identifies hardware and software categories that currently support, or are expected to support, PQC standards.

**How It Could Affect My Organization:**

- The list focuses on technologies that are either widely available or transitioning to use PQC standards.
- These technologies include cloud services, web software, networking hardware and software, and endpoint security.



**Regional News of Note**

**Technical Assistance News:**

- 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:**

Approve FirstNet Subcommittee site recommendations: Michael Colby made a motion to approve the following priority five sites for FirstNet coverage needs: NW Plymouth County, Manning area (around Shelby, Crawford, and Audubon Counties), Ida County, Dubuque County, and Pella (Lake Red Rock). Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approve state sponsored COMMEX and necessary travel costs not to exceed \$1,500: SWIC Nichols reports that this COMMEX will be in conjunction with the Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week during the last week of April. The expenses will be mainly for travel. The Cooperative has offered to provide breakfast and dinner to our participants, as well as first choice of the cabins for overnights. The other option for accommodation that the firefighters use for the week is tent camping. It is unknown at this point how many days the COMMEX will take place; that will be determined during the planning stage if the COMMEX is approved by the Board today.

Michael Colby made a motion to approve a state sponsored COMMEX and necessary travel costs not to exceed \$1,500. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approve funds for COMT tool kit not to exceed \$3,000: SWIC Nichols explains that at the last COMT course, they had difficulty finding a COMT tool kit. ECC Maiers was able to bring a kit up from Kansas, and the federal government was also able to ship one. There ended up being two kits at the Linn County COMT; however, there was discussion that it would be a good idea to have one for the State of Iowa if more state-sponsored events are planned to be held here. Deputy SWIC Walser, Colonel Hedgepeth, and Nic Briseno developed a list of what would be needed for the COMT tool kit. A few of the items on the list may need to be restocked down the road.

Curtis Woten made a motion to approve funds for a COMT tool kit not to exceed \$3,000. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion to Adjourn:** Jeff Vandewater motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mindy Benson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 11:22 am.

YouTube link for the February 12, 2026, ISICSB Meeting: <https://youtu.be/WYqFEo8bhrU>