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## Meeting Minutes

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

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board  
April 9, 2026 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

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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, Curtis Woten

**Voting Members in Attendance via Microsoft Teams:** 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, Brad Button, Chase Clark, Rob Dehnert, Blake DeRouchey, Josh Duden, Heath Hove, Brian Krumm, Tom Lampe, Alex Mathias, Terry McClannahan, Al Paredes, Jacob Reineke, Scott Richardson, Hannah Short, Paul Shriner, 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. Luke Erpelding seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

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

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

- April training topic is encryption – not yet complete because it is a timely topic due to the capabilities of AI and the rapid adoption of encryption and full encryption by some agencies
- iMED – REMCDP Update:
  - received 6-month extension through September 30, 2026
- Planning continues for Controlled Burn Week in the Loess Hills
  - Several people are registered to work on position task books
  - Deployables are being secured through AT&T/FirstNet
- No new update regarding the INTD course to be held sometime this year – will update as the planning progresses
- Cyber threats for critical infrastructure are heightened due to the Middle East conflict

**911 Council Report & E911 Program Manager:** E911 Program Manager Blake DeRouchey reports the following items were discussed at the 911 Council meeting:

- West Des Moines data center move to Raleigh, NC
- Davenport data center move to Council Bluffs
- NextGen 911 transition
- APCO NENA Conference April 20-21 – Council approved funding for the training sessions to take place during the conference

**User Group Committee (UGC):** There are two user applications up for approval under New Business.

**Finance Report:** Chair Bischof reports it was a standard report for the month of March. There was one question regarding a deposit made to the account. SWIC Nichols is following up to find out what the deposit is for.

The monthly net expenditures for March 2026 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$24,437.23. The remaining amount available is \$25,940.08.

**Governance Committee:** Governance Committee Chair Colby reports the Committee met and discussed the merger of standards 1.1.0 and 2.12.2. The combined standard 2.12.2 V2 was approved, and the committee recommended to retire standard 1.1.0.

**Operations Committee:** Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and members agreed to change the monthly meeting date and time to the first Tuesday of the month at 3:00 pm.

The Committee continued discussions regarding ISICS Standard 1.13.0 – Public Safety Communication Center Interoperability. The standard is now ready to be posted for 30-day comment once the website is back in service.

The Committee also discussed the broadband PTT over LMR policy. The Committee will table their discussions on this policy and move the policy to the Finance Committee for review.

**Training & Outreach Committee:** Training Committee Chair Woten reports the Committee met and there are no new items to report on at this time.

**COMU Credentialing Subcommittee:** Deputy SWIC Walser reports the Subcommittee does not meet until April 16, 2026.

**Technology Committee:** Technology Chair Updike reports the Committee met twice and completed a final review of ISICS Standard 2.10.0 – Training Technical Staff and ISICS Standard 2.12.2 – Security System Keys. Standard 2.10.0 was consolidated with standard 4.6.0 – System Maintenance: Programming and Qualifications and is ready for a 30-day comment period. Standard 2.12.2 was consolidated with standard 1.1.0 – Subscriber Security. Standard 2.12.2 is also ready for a 30-day comment period on archiving 1.1.0 and establishing V2 of 2.12.2.

The Committee also continued its review of the Broadband PTT policy. There were some suggested word changes, and the policy was sent back to the Governance Committee for further review.

ISICS Standard 3.7.0 – Scanning is the next standard up to be reviewed by the Committee.

**FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee:** FirstNet Subcommittee Chair Benson reports the Committee does not meet until Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am.

Chair Benson also reports there was an Amber Alert issued last week out of Black Hawk County. The alert did not hit a lot of FirstNet AT&T phones. Chair Benson is actively working with our AT&T partners and Jensen Connor from Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management to determine why the alert did not hit many of the FirstNet AT&T phones. More information will be forthcoming.

### **Other Reports:**

Information Sharing Board Members: Chair Bischof reports that the Board has reached out to Fayette County and Oelwein PD to assist them with a review of their radio systems and potentially coming forward with a waiver. More information will be forthcoming.

Chair Bischof thanked Mindy Benson for her participation on the Board, as this will be her last meeting. The Board is currently awaiting approval of the next person who will take Mindy's seat. Chair Bischof states that the Board members whose terms will expire next year are herself, Luke Erpelding, and Patrick Updike.

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

- State ISICS sites are currently being transitioned to Juniper routers. Sixteen sites have been completed. The router hardware upgrade is due to GGM8000 router becoming end of life in the next few years. Most end users won't notice any impact although a brief site trunking event may occur.
  - The Lourdes site sustained some wind damage recently that caused loose cables involving some old VHF equipment on the tower that was no longer used. A tower crew was onsite last week for repairs, and that equipment has now been removed from the tower. The tower was also plumbed, and guy wires were tensioned at the time as well.
  - The Buchanan site had taken a lightning strike/power surge on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The site sustained damage to the tank sensor, Eltek DC power system, and the generator. Those units have since been repaired. The site did stay operational after the initial damage and throughout the repairs.
  - ISICS Numbers for March 2026:
    - Radios = 48,063 (up 493 from February 2026)
    - Talkgroups = 3,651 (up 3 from February 2026)
    - Push-to-Talks = 3,243,152 (up 329,139 from February 2026)
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FirstNet Authority Update: FirstNet Authority (FNA) Representative Tom Lampe reports the following:

- Reauthorization of FNA was approved through September 2037
  - Secretary of Commerce announced a \$2 billion deal for FirstNet
  - FirstNet is supporting the FIFA World Cup in Kansas City
  - FNA requires AT&T to provide two push-to-talk options – newest option is called Fusion and it is mission critical push-to-talk; the second option is FirstNet Rapid Response
  - Will be working with FirstNet Subcommittee to schedule another coverage workshop where it will be announced where the funds will be spent and which sites will be built in Iowa
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AT&T Update: AT&T Representative Bart Blank reports the following:

- Network modernization continues
  - New product – Sonim has launched XP Pro thermal (cell phone with thermal camera on it)
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CISA Update: No report.

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**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

New User Applicant Participation Plan Approval: Jeff Vandewater made a motion to approve the following user applications: Des Moines County Sheriff's Office (update) – Level 3 and US Army Corps of Engineers-Rock Island – Level 1. UGC Chair Vandewater explained that the Des Moines County update was only to write a letter of support in granting American Ordinance, a private company, and the US Military personnel who operate the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Des Moines County access to the system. There are security, fire and EMS departments on the plant and they respond to requests for mutual aid outside of the plant.

Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

INTD Credential – Alyssa Lappe: Chair Bischof recognized and congratulated Alyssa Lappe for recently obtaining her Incident Tactical Dispatcher (INTD) Credential.

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion to Adjourn:** Michael Colby motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

YouTube link for the April 9, 2026, ISICSB Meeting: <https://youtu.be/Taz8CeVZwNA>