
Meeting Minutes

Luke Erpelding
Communications Center

Curtis Woten
EMS

Vacant
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
May 14, 2026 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

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.

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

Voting Members Present In-Person: None

Voting Members in Attendance via Microsoft Teams: Michele Bischof, 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: Curtis Woten

Guests: Rhonda Braudis, Dave Brittain, Brad Button, Chase Clark, Kyle Danley, Blake DeRouchey, Josh Duden, Dave Gordon, Heath Hove, Tom Lampe, Chris Maiers, Zachary Mann, Terry McClannahan, Al Paredes, Jacob Reineke, Scott Richardson, Hannah Short, Paul Shriner, Jeff Swisher, Curtis "Wally" Walser

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

Approval of Agenda: Chair Bischof proposed two amendments to today's agenda. The first amendment is to change the COMU credentials for Zachary Mann to COMT. The second amendment is that due to time constraints and to ensure there is a quorum, she would like to move New Business before Other Reports.

Luke Erpelding motioned to approve today's agenda with the two proposed amendments. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

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

SWIC Report: SWIC Nichols reports that the COMMEX was very successful. The event was five full days with Position Task Book trainees in attendance every day. Resources used at the event included cache radios, Mobile Command Vehicle, West STR (used to create gateway patches and test capabilities), FirstNet COW, FirstNet compact rapid deployable, FirstNet cache phones, FirstNet RoIP connection, and an Iowa State Patrol fixed wing aircraft.

COMMEX stats:

- 21 people participated in the Communications Unit portion and 5 observers
- 7 different agencies were represented and 2 DPS Bureaus
- 12 Position Task Books had tasks checked off and 11 of those were completed
- 4 Communications Unit Leader (COML) task books were completed, and one had major progress toward completion
- 2 Communication Technician (COMT) task books were completed

SWIC Nichols also reported the following:

- More information regarding the INTD course in Carroll County is forthcoming
- May training topic is patching

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

- 911 program financials
- 911 network and the edge of the network where carriers meet and upgrading those points of interconnect into an IP format
- If interested, the meeting can be watched on the 911 Council YouTube page

User Group Committee (UGC): UGC Chair Vandewater reports there are three user applications up for approval under New Business.

Finance Report: Chair Bischof reports the Finance Committee did not meet.

The monthly net expenditures for April 2026 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$17,659.23. The remaining amount available is \$8,427.55.

SWIC Nichols reports that the questionable revenue that was on last month's finance report was due to funds in the amount of \$5,741.00 that were reimbursed by FEMA after the 2020 derecho.

Governance Committee: Governance Committee Chair Colby reports the Committee met and discussed the Broadband Push to Talk Over Land Mobile Radio policy. The policy will be brought to the Board for approval of 30-day public comment at the June ISICSB meeting.

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

- Standard 1.5.5 – Medical Interoperable Communications – minor changes made
- Standard 1.5.0 – ISICS Regional and Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups – get feedback from other groups and have a final review at the June Operations meeting
- Next standard to review at the June meeting is Standard 2.4.0 – Operational Management

Training & Outreach Committee: No report.

COMU Credentialing Subcommittee: Deputy SWIC Walser reports the subcommittee did not meet because there were no PTBs to review. There are five PTBs to review at the next meeting.

Technology Committee: Technology Chair Updike reports the Committee met twice and reviewed ISICS Standard 3.7.0 – Scanning. The standard is up for approval for 60-day comment under today's New Business.

The Committee also reviewed ISICS Standard 3.10.0 – Talkgroup and Radio User Priority. There are questions regarding the ten different definitions of priorities and how they relate to the user and the talkgroups. The Committee will continue to review this standard at the next meeting.

New Business:

New User Applicant Participation Plan Approval: Jeff Vandewater made a motion to approve the following user applications: Des Moines Water Works – Level 2, City of Marion (update) – Level 2, Tama County 911 Communications – Level 2. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approve new User Group Committee member – Wendi Hess: Luke Erpelding made a motion to approve Wendi Hess as a new User Group Committee member. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approve purchase of laminating pouches for new visor cards: SWIC Nichols reports the cost will be approximately \$35 to \$40. There is a laminating machine at DPS that can be utilized to make the cards. The visor card is in draft form. SWIC Nichols states she would also like to make discipline-specific visor cards as well. The cards will be handed out to end users.

Michael Colby made a motion to approve the purchase of the laminating pouches. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approve posting for 60-day public comment: Luke Erpelding made a motion to approve posting the following ISICS standards for public comment: Standard 1.13.0 – Public Safety Communication Center (PSCC) Interoperability, Standard 1.16.0 – Interoperable Control Station Access, Standard 2.10.0 – Training Technical Staff, Standard 2.12.2 – Security System Keys, Standard 2.13.0 – Subscriber Radio Standards, Standard 3.4.0 – Fleetmap Standards, Standard 3.7.0 – Scanning. Chair Bischof explained that the reason there are so many standards to post for comment is because the website was under review for ADA compliance; however, this project is now paused, and these standards can now be posted. The reason for recommending a 60-day period rather than a 30-day period is due to the quantity of standards. This will allow people a longer period of time to review all of the standards.

SWIC Nichols reports that it is recommended to retire Standard 1.16.0.

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

INTD Credential – Zachary Mann: SWIC Nichols presented a COMT credentialing certificate to Zachary Mann.

FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee: SWIC Nichols reports the subcommittee met and discussed a date for the next coverage workshop. A date has been set for August 11, 2026, and will be both in person at DPS Headquarters and virtual on Teams.

AT&T representatives provided a presentation on the FirstNet Fusion application.

Other Reports:

Information Sharing Board Members: SWIC Nichols reports that we will be transitioning to a new statewide public comment web page.

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

- Safety and compliance are top priorities. To stay fully aligned with regulations, a company is currently installing new lighting systems across 11 different sites.
- There was an issue recently where communication was partially interrupted. During this time, users in different virtual zones were unable to talk with each other. Motorola techs identified a hardware issue and an unresponsive exit router. After replacing the faulty hardware and rebooting the router, full communication between all zones was restored.
- Quarterly patching is scheduled for the first week of June – notifications will be sent out
- Juniper router conversion is still ongoing
- ISICS Numbers for April 2026:
 - Radios = 48,216 (up 153 from March 2026)
 - Talkgroups = 3,650 (down 1 from March 2026)
 - Push-to-Talks = 3,045,378 (down 197,774 from March 2026)

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

- The coverage workshop planned for August will provide an update on the progress of Iowa's coverage submissions from the previous workshop.
- The survey for coverage recommendations is still active at <https://arcg.is/0LGK0q>
- Coverage workshops will occur yearly
- Dept. of Commerce awarded FNA an additional \$2 billion - \$1 billion of this will be used for "in kind" funding

AT&T Update: FNA Representative Tom Lampe reports that Bart Blank is no longer with AT&T, and Iowa will be assigned a new AT&T representative.

CISA Update: CISA Representative Chris Maiers presented the following slide deck:

CISA | CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT MAY 2026



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New Initiative: CI Fortify

What is it?:

- Nationwide initiative to help agencies enhance resilience of critical infrastructure (CI) against escalating cyber threats.

Why is this important:

- Nation-state cyber actors look to disrupt essential communications services.
- Threat actors have pre-positioned in various systems.
- Public safety communications systems are critical.

Key Concepts:

- Proper isolation – Can it work without the Internet?
- Recovery – If an intrusion occurs, what does your agency's ability to recover look like?
- Concepts can also apply to natural disaster resilience.



CI Fortify: <https://www.cisa.gov/topics/industrial-control-systems/ci-fortify>

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Regional News of Note

FIFA World Cup 2026 begins in June.

- Matches and base camps in Kansas City
- Base camp in Lawrence (KS)
- Exhibition/friendly matches being announced.

Technical Assistance News:

- Illinois
 - SCIP refresh on-going.
- Iowa
 - Requests being assessed.
- Missouri
 - NSTR
- Kansas
 - Governance document for Interoperability Advisory Committee
- Nebraska
 - NSTR



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For more information:

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Old Business: None

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 11:07 am.

YouTube link for the May 14, 2026, ISICSB Meeting: <https://youtu.be/gp0gf-kUvyY>