



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

## 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  
August 13, 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.

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

**Voting Members Present In-Person:** Luke Erpelding, Curtis Woten

**Voting Members in Attendance via Microsoft Teams:** Michele Bischof, Michael Colby, 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:** Benjamin Andrews, Nic Briseno, Dave Brittain, Brad Button, Chase Clark, Rob Dehnert, Blake DeRouchey, Josh Duden, Joe Garcia, Heath Hove, Tom Lampe, Alex Mathais, Terry McClannahan, John Nicpon, 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:** Michael Colby 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 July ISICSB Meeting Minutes. Curtis Woten seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

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

- August RIC training is about the COMU program
- Iowa's 2026 Interoperability markers were reviewed last month – yearly review of where we are based on interoperability capability and our own goals and objectives identified in the SCIP. The markers are identified as initial, defined, or optimized, and all of our markers fall within the more sophisticated and stabilized categories while none are in the initial phase.
- Central States Exercise registration has been filling up quickly – there is a group from Iowa signed up to attend
- Still waiting to scope the TA request for Incident Tactical Dispatcher (INTD) – dates have not been determined yet, but Carroll County has agreed to host
- Waiting to hear if approved for the state-sponsored COML TA request
- Wisconsin has an INTD course with seats open on September 21<sup>st</sup> if anyone is interested
- There will be a system admin and sub-system admin in person meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Oran Pape DPS building
  - Standard 2.4.0 states that there will be periodic meetings to review operations and share ideas and issues
  - Meeting is for Level 3 and 4 users – designated sub-system administrator and/or their designee
  - Invitations will go out this week – contact SWIC Nichols if you do not receive the invite as it is possible that we have outdated contact information

**911 Council Report & E911 Program Manager:** E911 Program Manager Blake DeRouchey reports that the council reviewed the quarterly financials. There was also some discussion regarding the future legislative session. The 911 Council Meeting can be viewed on YouTube.

**User Group Committee (UGC):** UGC Chair Vandewater reports there were no new applications to review, so the meeting was cancelled.

**Finance Report:** Chair Bischof reports the Finance Committee met and reviewed the financials for July. Everything is in order except the salary adjustments have yet to take place.

The monthly net expenditures for July 2026 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$8,583.10. The remaining amount available is \$34,567.48.

**Governance Committee:** Governance Committee Chair Colby reports the Committee met and discussed capacity issues, which is an ongoing discussion taking place with the Technology Committee.

**Operations Committee:** Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and information from RIC 1 was shared concerning the expansion and the need for added talkgroups in Region 1. The Committee will continue discussing this topic.

The Committee also continued working on the visor cards. At the next meeting, the Committee will review Policy 2021-02.O – Requiring frequency coordination by vendors or agencies deploying mobile LTE broadband vehicles.

**Training & Outreach Committee:** Training and Outreach Committee Chair Woten reports the Committee met and continued discussions regarding the ISICS onboarding training plan.

**COMU Credentialing Subcommittee:** Deputy SWIC Walser reports there were no PTB's to review last month.

**Technology Committee:** Technology Chair Updike reports the Committee met once and reviewed the licensing application that SWIC Nichols has been working on for the six 800 MHz frequencies that are 35 watt and the five 800 MHz frequencies that are low power 2 watt channels.

The Committee also continued discussing capacity issues that may exist in the future. The Committee is seeking further help regarding the capacity issue and whether or not a standard or policy should be developed to address the issue.

**FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee:** SWIC Nichols reports the Committee met in person at the DPS Oran Pape Building for the coverage workshop. There were several AT&T/FirstNet representatives in attendance. The Committee has been tasked with submitting six new locations by December. Please complete the survey at <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1613e87c916441a4b4d287ae779cace1>.

There was also discussion regarding emerging technologies and where the funds are being spent and what is planned for 2027.

### **Other Reports:**

Information Sharing Board Members: Chair Bischof reports that the Committees discussing the capacity issue are seeking help from the Board regarding how to proceed with addressing the issue. After speaking with SWIC Nichols and committee chairs, it was determined that it would be beneficial if the Board came together for a working session to determine how to move forward and what resources are needed to address capacity. Chair Bischof also feels it would be beneficial to review the SCIP goals and what is left to be addressed.

All Board members are in favor of meeting for a working group session immediately following the October 8, 2026, ISICSB meeting.

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

- Annual RF maintenance continues with 6 more sites scheduled through the end of August (Audubon, Adair South, Atlantic, and 3 sites in Harrison Co)

- We are tracking a few broken MW radome covers at Hooper, Lourdes & Emmet – Motorola to schedule a tower crew for repair
  - Tower light issue at Shelby affecting a side marker – Motorola to schedule a tower crew for repair
  - Recently we had an issue with “phantom” mic clicks on several units within DPS. Upon checking with other agencies, some others were affected as well (The symptom manifested as a radio that appeared to make a transmission where dispatch would see the identifier appear on the dispatch screen; however, no audio would be received. Upon checking with the officer, the officer reported that they did not key the mic, and in some cases were not even in the vehicle at the time. This only affected a few individual radios from several different agencies with no rhyme or reason as to which units were affected). Motorola changed a configuration in a border router, and that appears to have corrected the issue. We have not had any reported incidents since the configuration change on Aug 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - ISICS Numbers for July 2026:
    - Radios = 49,847 (up 250 from June 2026)
    - Talkgroups = 3,665 (up 1 from June 2026)
    - Push-to-Talks = 3,484,537 (up 248,358 from June 2026)
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FirstNet Authority Update: FirstNet Authority (FNA) Representative Tom Lampe reports the following:

- On July 30<sup>th</sup>, AT&T launched the 5G standalone core
  - Need to submit six additional coverage locations by December
  - Please submit survey at <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1613e87c916441a4b4d287ae779cace1>
  - Deployable at Field of Dreams – Compact Rapid Deployable (CRD)
  - AT&T has “market cow” at Field of Dreams
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AT&T Update: No report.

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CISA Update: CISA Representative Joe Garcia briefly mentioned the TA request for INTD and state-sponsored COML course, as well as the state markers that were already discussed by SWIC Nichols.

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**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Receipt of request of additional sub-regional talkgroups per Standard 1.5.4: Chair Bischof reports the Board has received a formal request from Dave Lockard with the Des Moines Radio Shop for encrypted sub-regional talkgroups. He is working to get that into a standard format as laid out in standard 1.5.4. The request will then go to the User Group, Technology, and Operations Committees for review. Standard 1.5.4 states that the talkgroups will either

come out of the ISICS shared talkgroups or they will come out of local talkgroups. After the Committees review the request, the Chairs of the Committees will meet to report their findings and come to a consensus as to what the recommendation to the Board is. The request will then go to the Governance Committee for review.

Michael Colby motioned to receive the request for additional sub-regional talkgroups per standard 1.5.4. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of 30-day comment on ISICS Standard 1.5.0 – ISICS Regional and Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups: SWIC Nichols reports edits were made to include the sub-regional talkgroups in the list. There was also a chart explaining where the talkgroups are required and for whom they are required. This chart was removed and users are now directed to Standard 1.7.0 – Minimum Programming Requirements

Curtis Woten motioned to approve posting Standard 1.5.0 for 30-day public comment. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adopt the following Standards – 1.10.0 – Cross Spectrum Interoperability, 1.13.0 – Public Safety Communication Center (PSCC) Interoperability, 1.16.0 – Interoperable Control Station Access, 2.10.0 – Minimum Training Requirements for Technical Staff, 2.12.2 – Subscriber Security with Advanced System Keys, 2.13.0 – Subscriber Radio Standards, 3.4.0 – Fleetmap Standards, 3.7.0 – Scanning: These standards had been put on hold due to website updates and were then posted for 60-day comment.

Michael Colby motioned to approve New Business item c1 through c8 on today's agenda. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Retire Standards 1.1.0 – Subscriber Security and 4.6.0 – System Maintenance: Programming and Qualifications: SWIC Nichols explained now that the above standards have been adopted, Standard 1.1.0 and Standard 4.6.0 can be retired.

Curtis Woten motioned to retire New Business items d1 through d2 on today's agenda. Luke Erpelding seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

COMU Credentials: SWIC Nichols presented a COMU certificate to Benjamin Andrews (COML) who is with the Des Moines Police Department.

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion to Adjourn:** Curtis Woten motioned to adjourn the meeting. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes and the meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.

YouTube link for the August 13, 2026, ISICSB Meeting: <https://youtu.be/yaYEpRjU3y0>