
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
September 10, 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.

Six 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, 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: Dave Brittain, Brad Button, Chase Clark, Fran Cueva, Blake DeRouchey, Brian Flynn, Allyssa Hepke, Heath Hove, Chris Maiers, Alex Mathais, Terry McClannahan, John Nicpon, Cara O'Donnell, Al Paredes, Jacob Reineke, Scott Richardson, Hannah Short, Paul Shriner, Curtis "Wally" Walser

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

Approval of Agenda: Chair Bischof reports that there is a need to amend today's agenda. Under New Business, Nic Briseno is unable to attend the meeting to receive his COMT and INTD credentials. He will attend next month's meeting instead.

Jeff Vandewater motioned to approve the amended agenda. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of Minutes: Luke Erpelding motioned to approve the August ISICSB Meeting Minutes. Michael Colby seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

SWIC Report: SWIC Nichols reports the following:

- September RIC training is about the Communications Unit program
- 800 MHz channels previously approved have moved to the next step and been sent to the regional planning committee – will update as progresses
- Still waiting to scope the TA request for the Incident Tactical Dispatcher (INTD) course to be held in Carroll County – dates have not been determined
- There are reports that scene flight requests over ISICS have been working very well for some counties, and it is getting people straight to the trauma centers, especially for some of those agencies that are further out in more rural areas. Contact SWIC Nichols if you would like more information.

911 Council Report & E911 Program Manager: E911 Program Manager Blake DeRouchey reports that the council approved two training applications – one for the APCO fall conference to be held in October and the other for Polk County Emergency Medical Dispatch training.

User Group Committee (UGC): UGC Chair Vandewater reports there were no new applications to review and no new agenda items.

Finance Report: Chair Bischof reports the Finance Committee met and reviewed the financials for August. Regarding an update on the salary charges from when the ISICSB fund was depleted (before the DOT funds were received) – those salaries were paid out of another DPS fund, and the decision was made not to transfer the money in/out of buckets and just expense the alternate DPS account which the ISICS budget is also part of.

Michael Colby asked if the Board would need to make an amendment to offset those funds. Chair Bischof explained that it all falls under the DPS budget and the Board is not obligated to do a budget report to the state, so no amendment is necessary.

The monthly net expenditures for August 2026 for the Interoperable and Broadband Communications Fund were \$18,642.69. The remaining amount available is \$121,837.28.

Governance Committee: Governance Committee Chair Colby reports there was no Governance Committee meeting due to the Labor Day holiday.

Operations Committee: Operations Committee Chair Erpelding reports the Committee met and finalized the work on the visor cards. The Committee also discussed Policy 2021-02.O –

Requiring frequency coordination by vendors or agencies deploying mobile LTE broadband vehicles. The Committee has sent the policy to the Technology Committee for review.

Training & Outreach Committee: Training and Outreach Committee Chair Woten states there is nothing new to report.

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 continued discussing the capacity issues.

The Committee also discussed the development of subregional and regional encrypted talkgroups. The group will continue to discuss this as adding additional talkgroups could present some capacity issues. Some of these discussions also still need to be had in the RIC committees.

FirstNet Broadband Subcommittee: SWIC Nichols reports there were no new agenda items, so the meeting was cancelled.

Other Reports:

Information Sharing Board Members: Michael Colby reports that he had a brief interview with Motorola regarding the 50,000th radio coming onto the system.

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

- Recently, the Van Wert tower went into site trunking. This means it was temporarily isolated from the main network. This happened because all microwave links were damaged due to a lightning strike. Motorola crews successfully replaced four outdoor units and four internal hardware cards to repair all four links, getting the site fully reconnected and communicating properly again.
- The Juniper equipment conversion continues in the metro area this month. On the 21st Motorola will be doing preparation work for the changeover – should not notice any impact. On the 23rd at 10:00 AM the simulcast sites will be offline for a brief 10-minute window – this is when they physically move the connections over to the new equipment.
- ISICS Numbers for August 2026:
 - Radios = 50,018 (up 171 from July 2026)
 - Talkgroups = 3,667 (up 2 from July 2026)
 - Push-to-Talks = 3,324,558 (down 159,979 from July 2026)

Motorola Presentation: Fran Cueva and Brian Flynn with Motorola presented three plaques in recognition of achieving the 50,000th radio on ISICS. When the ISICS system was originally designed, it was forecasted for approximately 40,000 radios over a 10-year period. As of today, which is 6-years in since the system was designed, the total number of radios has reached over 50,000.

The first plaque was presented to the ISICS Board for their continued leadership and partnership in keeping Iowa's first responders safe. The second plaque was presented to the DPS Interoperability Communications Bureau for their leadership, coordination, management, and building and sustaining a system that serves all agencies statewide. The third plaque was presented to Curtis "Wally" Walser and the City of Cedar Rapids Police Department who was officially issued the 50,000th radio ID.

FirstNet Authority Update: No report

AT&T Update: AT&T Representative Cara O'Donnell attended the meeting in person and inquired as to whether or not there were any questions regarding network changes. She also reports that AT&T will be attending a state IT conference on December 6th and will also be attending the Iowa Homeland Security Conference.

CISA Update: CISA Representative Chris Maiers reports the following:

- He will be sending a list of new documents to SWIC Nichols for distribution.
 - The INTD course has been delayed due to a lack of a CISA instructor available to support it.
 - The TA request period is now open through October 23rd.
 - Central States COMMEX will take place September 21st through the 25th.
-

Old Business: None

New Business:

COMU Credentials: SWIC Nichols presented a COMT certificate to Allyssa Hepke who is with Cedar Falls State Radio.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Adjourn: Michael Colby motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Vandewater seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes and the meeting adjourned at 10:53 am.

YouTube link for the September 10, 2026, ISICSB Meeting: <https://youtu.be/d60BEcFPFBc>