Advanced Engineering Task Force Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2014

Introductions/Roll Call

At 10:08 a.m. the Advanced Engineering Task Force meeting was convened by Jim Flanagan, AET Chairman who welcomed everyone. Jim proceeded with roll call.

Members Present:

Name	Affiliation	Location
Jim Flanagan-Chair	Illini Cloud	Audio Bridge
Scott Armstrong	Kishwaukee Community College	Heartland CC
Andrew Bullen	Illinois State Library	Audio Bridge
Robert Dulski	Brookfield Zoo	Heartland CC
Brandon Gant	CARLI	Heartland CC
Herb Kuryliw	Northern Illinois University	Heartland CC
Brian Murphy	Eastern Illinois University	Audio Bridge
Alan Pfeifer	Sauk Valley Community College	Audio Bridge
Raj Siddaraju	CC Presidents Tech Council	Audio Bridge
Tracy Smith	University of Illinois	Heartland CC

Members Absent:

Name	Affiliation
Troy Brown	IL Heartland Library System
Mike Dickson	Western Illinois University
Rich Kulig	College of DuPage
Joe Mambretti	Northwestern University
Anita Nikolich	National Science Foundation
Jim Peterson	Bloomington S.D./Illini Cloud
Michael Shelton	Southern Illinois University
Brian Tobin	DeKalb CUSD 428
Glen Trommels	City of Rockford
Ed Wagner	Chicago Public Schools
Rob Zschernitz	The Field Museum

Staff & Guests:

Name	Affiliation	Location
Lori Sorenson	Central Management Services	Audio Bridge
Robin Woodsome	Central Management Services	Heartland CC
Frank Walters	Central Management Services	Heartland CC
Adam Ford	Central Management Services	Heartland CC
Essam El-Beik	Central Management Services	Heartland CC
Valerie Bolinger	Central Management Services	Heartland CC
Michelle Medley	Central Management Services	Heartland CC

Meeting Minutes - Jim Flanagan, AET Chairman
Jim Flanagan recommended a correction for the August 18, 2014 meeting minutes. The AET meeting date should be corrected to reflect October 3, 2014. Jim called for approval of the meeting minutes with the correction. A motion was made by Allen Pheifer to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Andrew Bullen. The minutes were approved.

Budget Update - Lori Sorenson, Central Management Services
Lori Sorenson reported that Central Management Services (CMS) requested $6 million but received $1 million in General Revenue Funds to subsidize bandwidth for the schools, libraries, museums and higher education for FY2015. For now, we will continue to provide credits based on the $6 million. If the budget cut extends beyond FY15 we will need to revisit the credits.

Jim Flanagan stated that we should consider organizing an ICN Day to reach out to our current customer base and encourage them to communicate with their local legislators regarding the recent budget reductions. We need to emphasize how this cut will be detrimental to educational programs and students. The process itself will help inform our customers about important issues and allows them to feel like they are part of our movement. This could also trigger the General Assembly's attention to our issue.

In response, Herb Kuryliw and Allen Pfeifer agreed they would endorse and publicize an ICN Day by engaging their customers. Lori commented that participation would be needed by AET in order to make a difference.

Brandon Gant noted that CARLI has similar funding concerns. CARLI drafted and mailed "value letters" to their Library Directors. The one page letter contained an informative update about CARLI services and the benefits of their services. In response to the letter, Library Directors stated the communication was beneficial and enlightening. Brandon will provide a sample of the letter to the ICN for review.

PARCC Update - Jim Flanagan, AET Chairman
Jim Flanagan reported that schools have completed PARCC online forms for the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Jim provided an electronic copy/example of the PARCC document for committee review. The regular administration of testing includes electronic computer based testing. Robin Woodsome commented that PARCC testing is scheduled March 9 through May 22, 2015.

New Business
ICN Rates Presentation - Essam El- Beik, CMS
Essam requested that members refer to the ICN rates presentation handout and explained that slide two described the current landscape of the ICN. Slide four and five summarized our current recommendations to address the $ 5 million reduction in state appropriation and explains how we will facilitate the expansion of broadband with our customers. Removal of the free allocation will have the greatest impact on the small schools and libraries.

Essam stated that the ICN will encourage all schools and libraries to take advantage of E-rate and will be conducting a webinar in the near future. Various pricing scenarios were analyzed. Staff looked at the potential revenue from the current customer base and predicted the revenue based on the percentage of customers that stay with ICN if these recommendations are adopted.

Lori provided possible last mile connection solutions:

- Our focus will be centered on building fiber to additional CAIs. The target audience will be schools and libraries covered by E-rate. The cost can be amortized which will enable us to provide a service that is eligible for E-rate reimbursement.
- We are currently pursuing arrangements with private partners in different parts of the state that will share the build cost. This will help expand our footprint. Collaborating with private partners allows them to take the lead role for construction.
- We will continue to use Metro-Ethernet service offerings and leverage those services with various vendors.
- Provide end to end relationship, even if we have to rely on Metro-Ethernet as a service provider. Our customers will only have to deal with the ICN.

Essam commented that the ICN is developing a SIP service. Although rates have not been established yet, we anticipate we can offer the service at a lower cost than what ICN customers are currently paying. We anticipate that this structure will create the tipping point for our customers. Manteno currently has SIP trunking and will serve as our proof of concept. Another significant cost savings of SIP trunking is that any phone call made within the ICN network or to another entity connected to our network via SIP will be a free call.

Jim Flanagan commented that once SIP rates are available we should bundle and market quickly. AT&T will be introducing new service offering that will replace their traditional telephone services. School districts are looking for other options for their current telephone services. If we wait too long, we may lose these districts. They may sign into long term contracts for SIP services with other businesses.

Essam emphasized, when the ICN starts supporting SIP, reliability and redundancy will become very important for customers. After speaking to school IT Directors, many stated they were looking at installing SIP and VoIP service on their networks.

Brandon Gant requested information about customer trending for the ICN. What type of customers are leaving the ICN? In response, Robin Woodsome stated, low bandwidth entities that cannot afford Metro-Ethernet connectivity and are seeking other solutions. In most cases, these entities select a cable modem type service. They include K-12 schools that require more bandwidth than what they receive through their allocation. Pricing is the important factor for this particular group and they will traditionally select a provider that is less expensive.

Brandon Gant requested trending information about libraries. In response to the question, Robin Woodsome commented that many libraries are purchasing commodity Internet for the public access computers and using the ICN connection for the administrative computers

Essam El-Beik provided copy of the Commercial Service Provider Rates Sheet for committee review. Essam stated that we are considering a price reduction for Commercial Service Providers as well. The pricing for Internet egress and 10GB Ethernet wave will be decreased to match market rates. If we are going to sell in a commercial market place, we need to provide competitive pricing aligned with current market rates.

Jim Flanagan asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the proposed service pricing. A motion was made by Andrew Bullen to approve the new pricing. The motion was seconded by Bob Dulski. The motion carried.

Network Update - Frank Walters, CMS

Frank provided the following updates:

- ICN is currently in a position to begin implementation and testing On-Net versus Off-Net with a customer.
  The 100G circuit to Starlight is operational.
- ICN is moving forward with a DDoS protect service Frank provided current statistics on DDoS recent attacks and noted that the DeKalb outage was a direct result of a DDoS attack.
- Monthly network performance stats will now be posted to the website.
- ICN is moving forward with AT&T usage based egress model. As a result of the RFP, we were able to establish better pricing, as well as, usage based pricing.
- Work for Macomb to Moline via Galesburg is ongoing. We are considering the WIU campus or possibly Blackhawk campus.

Other Items

Jim Flanagan asked if any members would be interested in serving as Co-Chairman for the AET committee. If interested, please contact Jim directly.

Jim Flanagan commented that last year the ICN, gathered feedback concerning network performance and PARCC testing through customer interviews. A report was created for the Policy Committee. We should consider soliciting for this type of information again.

The next AET meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2015. Jim Flanagan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andrew Bullen made a motion for adjournment. Allen Pfeifer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The motion carried.