

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

JULY 31, 2002 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Submitted for: Action

Summary: Distribution of July 31, 2002 minutes for review by the Policy Committee.

Action Requested: Adoption of July 31, 2002 minutes.

Recommended Motion: *That the ICN Policy Committee adopts the July 31, 2002 minutes with any edits as noted.*

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JULY 31, 2002 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mary Reynolds.

Members present: Mary Reynolds, Governor's Office; Jean Wilkins, Illinois State Library; Dan LaVista, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Virginia McMillan representing Joe Cipfl, Illinois Community College Board; Bruce McMillan, State Museum; Lugene Finley, Illinois State Board of Education.

Others attending included: Anne Craig, Illinois State Library; Dave Snyder, Department of Central Management Services; Phil Davis; Todd Hart, Illinois Health Education Consortium; Deborah Seale, SIU Medical School; Neil Matkin, George Badger, Lynn Murphy, Lori Sorenson, Karlin Sink and Kristy Morelock, all from the Illinois Century Network.

1. Policy Committee Minutes

Staff requests the adoption of the July 31, 2002 meeting minutes.

Motion: Dan made the motion; Lugene seconded.

Dan moved that the ICN Policy Committee adopt the July 31, 2002 minutes with any edits as noted. (No edits were noted.)

Motion carried.

2. Announcements

Mary announced that House Bill 5911 was signed into law by the Governor on July 18th. House Bill 5911 made some substantial changes to the ICN and to the Policy Committee in the sense that the Director of the State Library, the Director of the State Museum and the Director of CMS may now designate an alternate to serve in their place. The other changes allow the Governor to make additional appointments within guidelines and to appoint a chair if he so chooses. The Policy Committee appointed Mary as the chair at the first meeting and she will continue to serve in this capacity legally until such time as the Governor appoints a new chair.

Neil commented that the motions from the first meeting have been misplaced; however, Mary's recollection is accurate.

Tech Town at the State Fair begins next Thursday evening with the parade and Friday morning will be the official opening. Inside the building there will be good representation not only of the ICN, but also a selection of on-line learning opportunities including the Virtual High School, Virtual Campus, community colleges, the library, and full representation of the Online Leadership Council, along with another two dozen State agencies and entities. The new additions for this year include the ICN as a separate exhibitor, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, and the Illinois State Board of Education. The Fair runs from August 9th – 18th. Mary encouraged everyone to visit the Fair.

Neil commented that the ICN is focusing on Internet safety – a subject that is of great interest to parents. SBC Ameritech donated several Xbox game systems and Microsoft donated several games. All children who play the Internet safety game will be eligible to register for a drawing to win one of the Xbox systems.

3. Remarks

Neil commented on and distributed a press release regarding the gentleman that was indicted and convicted under Operation Buccaneer, which is a federal probe into software piracy, an issue of national import. Neil then distributed an article from the Chicago Sun Times forwarded by Mary regarding the CEO of the State Chamber of Commerce, Doug Whitley. The article included some very kind remarks about the ICN. The ICN is very appreciative of this positive reference and offered to assist Doug with his technology planning on a statewide level. Neil also distributed an article that had been forwarded by Bruce McMillan, including the ICN staff summary and comments. Neil thanked Bruce for the article from the American Association for the Advancement of Science entitled *Chapter 1, Protecting the National Information Infrastructure*.

Mary commented that the Illinois Terrorism Taskforce has asked her to present to them a proposal to create a technology committee for that Taskforce. The committee will address a variety of safety issues throughout the state. Mary has named the ICN as a member of the subcommittee for technology. The work on that committee is related to an estimate that Mary and the ICN staff did last fall for the federal government as they looked to determine the cost to truly network public safety in the state using the ICN. The federal initiative for Illinois alone was 13 to 15 million dollars.

Neil announced that Mary was featured in a profile in the *Government Technology* magazine as one of the CIOs discussing digital government in the 21st century. The article highlights five states. Neil commented that staff from CMS and the ICN had met last week to try and determine a way for county entities to communicate with one another, get back to central state resources and maintain their security in response to a question Mary had posed. Alice is putting together a committee at CMS to examine the issue and the ICN will participate. The issue of security and quality are also discussed in the AET report.

Mary commented that the Illinois Geographic Information Council, which the director of the Department of Natural Resources co-chairs along with Representative Burns, met yesterday. They are also interested in integrated, standardized infrastructure for local, county, state and federal governments.

4. Advanced Engineering Taskforce Update – a. 2002 Report and Staff Comments

George Badger discussed the 2002 Advanced Engineering Taskforce (AET) report. He commented that the AET is very impressed with the quality and performance of the network, the high reliability of the network and the ability of the staff to keep up with demands for bandwidth. The AET has gained a great deal of confidence in the staff. Last year the Taskforce focused on the issue of procurement and the AET is extraordinarily pleased with the progress that's been made. They are also pleased with the progress in procuring dark fiber.

Issues discussed in the report include: dark fiber, backbone infrastructure, video transport and services, the digital divide, and transition of the Regional Technology Center (RTC) staff. The AET has pushed very hard that the ICN be aggressive in building a video plan that takes advantage of the previous investment in H.320 video. There is also some very positive movement towards the ICN offering video servers and some discussion about the provision of web servers as an ICN service. This is beneficial to those who produce materials but do not have the technical support or other resources to maintain their own servers. The AET was asked to examine the role of the RTCs as the contracts with the fiscal agents were ending. The AET believes that the RTC staff is well equipped to move from a building phase into supporting expanded ICN services.

The ICN was built from the K-12 LincOn network, which was fairly well established when the ICN was created. The emphasis of the network shifted from providing access to the Internet back to connecting constituents. Higher education also viewed the network as an educational delivery system enabling institutions to deliver advanced placement courses to students. These two different views of why the network was created generates a certain amount of tension about priorities and how the network should evolve. Both of them put a big emphasis on connectivity, on reliability, on having an extensive, high quality network and on bridging the digital divide. The educational delivery system requires much more bandwidth than simple access to the Internet, particularly as it moves towards video.

The emphasis on video is much higher now because people believe educational tools utilizing video will be very important. The most important question is how soon video will become a priority. Representatives from both K-12 and Higher Education believe that it will become a more critical issue in the next year or two. Another area where there are differing opinions is Internet versus intranet. The Taskforce believes that the intranet is an area where Illinois can have a competitive advantage over other states.

Combating the digital divide issue seems to be a very critical investment for the state to make in conjunction with the educational goals of the network. Those most in need are

the poorest schools with the least facilities available to them, the communities with the poorest medical services where telemedicine could be enormously valuable and communities where economic development is the weakest. Because the education market is not big enough to create incentives for companies to make the needed investment, the AET believes the state needs to look at the issue more broadly and build on the success of the ICN.

Lastly, George commented on the need for user groups. The original charge to the RTC fiscal agents had each of them running a small user group related to their own community. There were two or three successes; however, there was not a process in place to bring it all together as a state plan and an ICN priority. The AET has been asked to advise the ICN management on how to maximize the potential of the user groups.

Neil presented the ICN staff response. He commented that the document was not intended as a point / counter point, although the formatting tended to give that impression. The format was intended to integrate the two separate documents, the report and staff response, in response to reader's comments. Next year, the AET report will be presented in sections with clear numbering of issues so that the report and staff response are easily tracked without appearing to be argumentative. The ICN staff has received several interim reports throughout the year allowing work to begin on some AET suggestions.

The regional user groups that George mentioned were funded through eight regional grants that have been discontinued in concert with the budget presented to the Policy Committee, which moved staff from the employment of the regional fiscal agents to the Board of Higher Education as the sole fiscal agent for the ICN. The staff is investigating how to ensure that the users have the resources they need to communicate successes and problems, not only with the ICN but also with one another.

Regarding the RTCs and manpower allocation, the ICN is very much focused on needed services in relation to the many requests received from users. The staff wants to be sure that these services are provided in a way that allows the ICN to sustain the core mission of providing a reliable, robust and well-sized backbone. The staff is attempting now to establish guidelines that identify what services can be provided at current staffing levels and at what point management will need to come to the Policy Committee to discuss the need for additional resources in the future. A goal of any additional service in response to user needs is that the service be self-supporting or a strategic investment for Illinois education.

Regarding the issue of the Internet versus the intranet, the ICN predicted 14 – 16% of all ICN traffic never left the intranet last year, and this year it is expected to be 16 – 20%. Like the AET, the staff is somewhat concerned about the educational uses of the network and believes that much more is possible. The ICN wants to make sure that we are putting resources in place that allow institutions to work together across boundaries. The staff has built a public education and information plan that communicates the network's uses

to a much broader audience and continues to collaborate with K-20 partners including Internet2 to develop more robust content offerings.

In regard to the digital divide and the availability of telecommunications facilities, the ICN has been working with the Illinois Commerce Commission very closely to try to lower prices across the state for like services. The ICN was part of the rewrite of the telecommunications act and had the opportunity to add to Senator Sullivan's bill specific language that targeted funds collected via ILEC penalties to help fund the building of infrastructure in areas of the state where it was most needed. However, more could certainly be done and the staff is going to ask the AET to provide more direction. The staff is excited to continue working with the AET in the outreach efforts to municipalities and help with municipal planning models. The staff is also looking at extending endpoints to other parts of the state – taking resources and continuing to distribute them where most needed as outlined in the draft telecommunications facilities analysis distributed to the Policy Committee last month.

Neil then took the opportunity to thank George and the members of the AET publicly for their work on the report. The staff is very grateful for the voice and leadership the Taskforce provides.

Mary commented on several of the digital divide initiatives currently underway. One is the Commerce Commission's community technology fund created as a result of the SBC Ameritech merger. Part of that is a grant program headed by Midwest Technology Access Group (MTAG). The grant to MTAG and its consortia is just getting started. Another effort was a two-year appropriation of which 1.5 million dollars have been spent through DCCA and digital divide grants through the Eliminate the Digital Divide Act. That appropriation has now been integrated into the telecom rewrite. The telecom rewrite calls for 5 million dollars per year for three years available to DCCA and a new committee called the digital divide advisory committee appointed by the Governor and four appointments by legislative leaders. Mary asked Neil for copies of the AET report to share with the digital divide advisory committee.

A discussion of digital divide issues followed.

Lugene commented that he did not see where the staff or AET had communicated with the 15 K-12 Learning Technology Centers (LTCs). Neil responded that ICN staff has fairly routine communication with the LTCs and suggested that an LTC representative could be added to the AET. Neil will contact Lugene for a recommendation.

Motion: Bruce made the motion; Jean seconded.

Bruce moved that the Illinois Century Network Policy Committee accepts and endorses the 2002 report of the Advanced Engineering Taskforce and the ICN staff comments regarding the report.

Motion carried.

4. Advanced Engineering Taskforce Update – b. Advanced Engineering Taskforce Appointments 2002

The first round of one-year appointments that were suggested by various Policy Committee members have expired. There is a correction to the list of revised or updated appointments presented to the Policy Committee. Kelton Davis is serving in the second year of his three-year term. Veletta Bell is replacing Arlene Love from Chicago Public Schools and Linda Winkler has been suggested by Charlie Catlett (Argonne Labs and IWIRE) to replace him as he has assumed additional responsibilities. The staff is still working with CMS to find another state agency representative and appreciates other suggestions from the Policy Committee members. Staff has also asked the Illinois Hospital Association for suggestions for AET representation. The appointments are staggered three-year terms with the noted exceptions where those appointed to a one-year term have been asked to serve another three-year term.

Bruce questioned whether or not there was some type of evaluation system for those representing the various constituent groups and whether or not the staff would seek the Policy Committee's recommendation again as appointments expire, or whether those serving would continue. Neil replied that the staff would come back and ask the Policy Committee for their recommendation for either the same or new representatives and give the Committee the opportunity to provide feedback and guidance on the selection. George noted and Neil concurred that the museum representatives were very valuable additions to the Taskforce.

Lugene suggested that representation on the AET should also reflect the ethnic participation in communities that have not had access to technology in relation to the discussion of the digital divide.

Motion: Jean made the motion; Lugene seconded.

Jean moved that the Policy Committee approve the appointments to the Advanced Engineering Taskforce.

Motion carried.

5. Emergency Egress for Commercial ISPs

This item is based on a request received from a local Internet Service Provider, Springnet, to use the ICN as backup for Internet egress. The ICN staff has discussed the topic for several months and has consulted with legal counsel. The staff is sensitive to the issue in terms of the network's fit in the marketplace in the sense that the ICN does not desire to compete with for-profit business. The staff found that there was no for-profit business offering targeted emergency backup services for ISPs. Should the network be in a circumstance where the for-profit market begins to offer the kinds of service that would result in competition with the commercial market the ICN would reevaluate accordingly.

The ISPs can buy redundant services, doubling their costs, but those costs would be passed on to their customers. Their customer ultimately is the ICN's customer – a student trying to access sources from home or other locations. The staff feels that this is a service that should be considered and recommends it to the Policy Committee.

Lugene questioned whether or not providing this service would deplete any more of the dollars available to support the ICN. Neil replied that it takes zero public fund dollars and recovers all dollars expended in terms of staff time and equipment; it is a no cost service option to the ICN acting as a “good neighbor” to for profit industry seeking to provide more reliable service. The ICN staff does not plan to market it broadly and it is something the ICN can do reasonably within the cost parameters that have been established.

Lugene suggested that as the ICN moves forward with this effort it would be very important to keep the Policy Committee updated on the progress. Neil agreed and stated that the Policy Committee would be kept informed as instructed.

Mary questioned the contract terms that would be used to offer this service. The ICN staff has worked with legal counsel on the contracts that would be used. There is a cancellation provision and an annual review with provisions to go back and renegotiate or adjust based on utilization of the service.

Motion: Jean made the motion; Lugene seconded.

Jean moved that the Illinois Century Network Policy Committee endorses and agrees with partnerships as described between the ICN and commercial Internet Service Providers that enhance reliability of services for all Illinois citizens.

Motion carried.

6. Participation Agreement Revision

The participation agreement is a document that the ICN requires of all constituents. The document must be signed prior to connecting a constituent to the network. The participation agreement is a standard document outlining the usage policies for the network and the overall purpose of the network. In light of the cost recovery policies, the staff has updated this document and added a second document called a service agreement. The service agreement is the document that will be used for those constituents who are impacted by cost recovery or as a result of purchasing bandwidth. The document will clearly outline the amount of bandwidth purchased, at what cost and the terms of the payment. ICN legal counsel has reviewed both of these documents and it is recommended that this agreement be signed by both the ICN and by the constituent. Staff estimates having at least 3,000 documents that will require ICN signature at the beginning. That is an unmanageable number for the Director to sign. Legal counsel has recommended that the staff seek Policy Committee authorization for Neil to delegate signature authority on a limited basis for processing these documents in a timely fashion.

Motion: Dan LaVista made the motion; Bruce seconded.

Dan moved that the Illinois Century Network Policy Committee grant the ICN Director the ability to delegate limited signature authority as necessary to facilitate processing of revised Participation Agreements and Service Agreements on behalf of the ICN.

Motion carried.

Lugene suggested that the Policy Committee begin thinking about a bylaws structure in which the Committee approves items and gives the Director responsibilities. Mary agreed that drafting bylaws or JCAR rules was appropriate and suggested looking at Bruce's example before moving forward. Neil suggested, and Mary agreed, the ICN staff would gather examples from the organizations represented by the Policy Committee and draft a document for Committee review at a future meeting.

7. Policy Committee Meeting Schedule

Early on, the Policy Committee came together and decided to meet more often in the beginning as the groundwork for the network was established. As time has progressed, the Policy Committee has developed a solid policy foundation. Therefore, the staff is asking the Committee to consider changing the six meeting per year schedule to a four meeting per year schedule plus ad hoc meetings as or if necessary.

Motion: Jean made the motion; Lugene seconded.

Jean moved that the Illinois Century Network Policy Committee meet on a quarterly basis according to the schedule presented.

Motion carried.

8. Illinois Video Education Network Transition

This item outlines how the ICN is trying to help the video consortium as they move from H.320 video to H.323 video. The staff is proposing a five-year transition plan to migrate from H.320 video to H.323 video. Funding for the formal higher education consortia was eliminated for fiscal year 2003, so it will be difficult to determine how many of the individual institutions who are using video will continue to do so in the absence of state support. This plan will be sent to the consortia directors and the staff will meet with them again on August 15th.

Mary asked about conversations that may have occurred with the state video network. Lynn responded that the staff had conversations with the state video network when the super switch was installed in Chicago and the staff continues to have contact with them as the transition progresses.

Neil added that the staff is going to put services on the back of the network that are required to make an H.323 application work statewide.

Mary encouraged the staff to educate users of the state video network on the increased capabilities as the transition is implemented.

Jean commented that the staff's willingness to work with the consortia to make certain that their services and classes continue is wonderful. Neil expressed his appreciation for Jean's comment. He added that for the ICN to continue its ability to be right sized and reliable, the kinds of connections currently supported for H.320 have to cease to allow the network to move towards a more advanced network protocol that will deliver other types of services such as multicast and Internet2. This will occur in the next year to eighteen months, however, staff believes that the H.320 environment can be maintained for the five year period by utilizing direct connects to the 'Super Switch' in Chicago or other Madge 200's strategically located through the state. Neil commented that in the long run IP or H.323 video would prove a much more economical route as it allowed the utilization of the same circuit for both ICN connectivity to Internet and Internet2 services.

9. Public Education and Information Plan

The public education and information plan focuses on educating the public and specifically users of the ICN on what can be done with the network once institutions are connected and why it makes a difference. This item provides overall goals and an outline of the deliverables that the staff hopes to produce by further developing and refining its communication strategies. The staff has already started increasing communication with constituents and is getting good feedback from early efforts. Page 31 of the agenda outlines what the staff will work on during this coming fiscal year and content is at the top of the list. The staff is going to host a series of public information meetings in the early fall in each of the nine regions to solicit input on cost recovery revisions and what services the network will roll out in addition to connectivity.

The mass mailing to the municipalities is complete. The staff is also working with interns at the University of Illinois at Springfield to develop municipal planning network guides so that they can connect to the network with fewer problems and less difficulty. Neil noted that the staff is planning on publishing a draft of the FY04 cost recovery plan at the end of September or early October and these public meetings are specifically intended to get feedback on that draft before the item is brought to the Policy Committee.

Mary would like to make sure the staff works with MTAG, especially in the local community once they get organized. Mary will provide Lynn with the director's name and number.

Items 10. Illinois Cisco Academies Inventory. The inventory of Cisco Academies was distributed. Neil noted that the staff is working with different education boards to determine which Cisco Academies and how many have been funded by grants and other

sources. The network fully intends to tap many of these academies for interns and other labor sources in the Regional Technology Office as the network continues to grow.

Dave Snyder, CMS, questioned whether state agencies could use the academies as a source for education and training. Neil replied that he thought they could. High schools, community colleges, and private or public universities are also providing some of these services.

Mary suggested this resource should be coordinated to avoid duplicating efforts. Neil agreed and indicated that ICN staff would work to keep this inventory updated.

12. Executive Session

Motion: Mary made the motion; Lugene seconded.

Mary moved that the Policy Committee go into closed Executive Session at 3:55 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2002 for the purpose of discussing personnel pursuant to Section 2(B)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

Motion carried.

13. Resume Meeting

The meeting resumed at 4:25 and a unanimous motion to adjourn carried. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.