

**ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK
JANUARY 17, 2012 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Greg Wass called the meeting to order at 1:12 PM and thanked everyone for joining.

Members present:

Greg Wass, Cook County	Kathleen Bloomberg, Illinois State Library
Amy Edwards, Illinois Board of Higher Education	Scott Norton, Illinois State Board of Education
Todd Jorns, Illinois Community College Board	Chet Olson, Mayor of Rochelle

Members absent:

Malcolm Weems, Central Management Services	Mike Dickson, Western Illinois University
Bonnie Styles, Illinois State Museum	

Staff and guests:

Lori Sorenson, Central Management Services	Robin Woodsome, Central Management Services
Tom Oseland, Central Management Services	Kirk Mulvany, Central Management Services
Deborah Kelley, Central Management Services	Frank Whitney, AT & T
Carla Poani, AT & T	Ed Conlon, The Conlon Group
Rusty Winchel, NIU Broadband Development Group	Tony Daniels, Cook County

Minutes

Greg introduced the first item on the agenda, the approval of the minutes from October 17, 2011. There was one correction: Amy Edwards had seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting not Anne Craig as reported. A motion was made by Scott Norton to accept the minutes with the correction; the motion was seconded by Kathleen Bloomberg. The motion carried.

Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership Update

Lori reported there are 91 miles under construction and vendors have been selected for construction on another 307 miles. The remaining 570 miles are in the quote process. The project includes about 1,000 miles of new construction and 1,000 miles of leased fiber. The new fiber construction is the critical path.

Lori reported that the current project spend is \$9 of \$62 million in federal funds and about \$2.3 million local match. Lori explained that while the project is in month 18 of 36, the project spend is below the half-way mark because the first year is mainly spent on the network design and the environmental assessment. Most of the budget is for construction and materials which are just getting underway. CMS is paying vendor invoices and then requesting reimbursement from NTIA. Vendor payments have been very quick. Staff are now working on the quarterly and

annual reports. Once those reports are done, CMS will submit another request reimbursement for \$2.5 million.

Kirk provided an overview on the status of each construction route. The new construction has been divided into 14 packages/segments to better manage the project. Each segment represents 80-100 miles of new fiber builds. Construction began in early December on Package 2 (Kankakee to Champaign). Package 1 (Kankakee to 95th Street in Chicago) should break ground this week. Packages 3 (Champaign to Bloomington and Lincoln to Chenoa) and 5 (Champaign to Effingham) have been awarded and are the next in line for construction. CMS has awarded Package 6 (I-57 to Paris, Lawrence and Olney). Package 13 represents small lateral builds to community colleges in northern Illinois. CMS has received the bids for Package 7 (Effingham to East St. Louis) and should be announcing the award in the next few days. Package 8 (Champaign to Springfield) has been posted and the responses are due next week. Packages 9 (Springfield to Barry) and Package 10 (Barry to Macomb) will be posted within the next couple weeks. Emphasis has been placed to select vendors and issues orders for the remaining construction packages.

CMS originally requested the vendors supply the fiber cabling, but decided to place a single bid for 500 miles due to concerns about lead time. Initial estimated lead times were around 40 weeks, but are so far vendors are receiving fiber in 10-12 weeks. One way the contractors are working around the fiber delays is by installing conduit with plans to pull fiber at later date. CMS did not require the use of conduit due to the added cost; however, even with the conduit costs are coming in under budget.

When asked if the paperwork is worse than the application process, Lori responded that the application process was a sprint and this is a marathon. NTIA is very flexible and cooperative. They developed rules in a short timeframe without testing. If we encounter a problem, they listen, gather input and make changes and clarifications along the way. There is a lot of interaction with the NTIA. CMS participates in a biweekly status call with the Program Officer as well as group drop-in calls where a topic is chosen and another applicant or specialist speaks. NTIA was provided very detailed reports on routes, speeds, capacity; any changes require NTIA approval.

CMS has signed an Indefeasible Rights of Use (IRU) with Level3 for the fiber between Collinsville and Springfield. The DWDM equipment is installed and the route is operational. The Level3 leased fiber continues north to Lincoln, Peoria and then east to I-55 where it ends in Bolingbrook. CMS is working to find a route over the river in Peoria. IDOT has installed fiber in Bolingbrook to connect the Level 3 fiber to Tollway fiber.

Construction is going well. Utilizing four vendors and having them quote the packages in a staggered approach has resulted in very favorable prices. All four vendors have received awards.

The number of committed CAIs continues to vary as the project progresses. ISU has had several anchors drop from the project. ISU continues to identify replacement anchors. CMS anticipates adding anchors within its service area. The first lateral to an anchor is nearing completion in Litchfield. The lateral will connect Litchfield High School and will interconnect with the Illinois Rural Health Net and the local hospital.

Cook County and South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association

Ed Conlon provided an update on a fiber project being led by Cook County and the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA). The project includes two segments - the western and southern corridors. The project is being funded by Cook County and a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

The County is tasked with a portion of the project. The County has issued a purchase order to Globetrotters Engineering for network design and engineering. The project will construct fiber to the Daley Center, County Building, and City Hall and will access CTA fiber at the Thompson Center to reach Stroger Hospital in the medical district. From Stroger, fiber will be constructed to connect the county jail and Hawthorne Warehouse which is home to the County's telecom equipment.

Members asked if any schools, colleges or libraries would be connected. There are a limited number of county sites being connected in the first phase. The County is interested in connecting other sites in the future.

The County is following the ARRA guidelines for an open network and will lease or sell fiber for transport service.

Rusty Winchel with the Northern Illinois Broadband Development Group provided an update on the rest of the southland portion of the project. This portion of the project includes a 26 mile fiber build along the I-57 corridor and 35 miles of laterals connecting with Cook County portion of the project and the 32 anchor institutions of which 14 are municipalities.

The 32 locations identified on the map as anchor institutions are all considered access points. When SSMMA reduced the project from the scale of the original BTOP application, it focused on economic development and the transportation industry. Of the initial 450 sites identified during a research project several years ago, over 250 of those sites are within five miles of the I-57 corridor. SSMMA believes this makes fiber connectivity affordable to a myriad of educational institutions as well as municipal governments and public safety.

Greg Wass introduced Tony Daniels who joined Cook County as the Chief Technology Officer. Tony articulated that the county will be open to feedback from the ICN. In turn, CMS will be happy to share services, term commitments, etc.

State Funding Allocation Model

Staff reviewed the State Funding Allocation Model that has been discussed during the past year. Robin provided an example of the impact the new allocation model would have on bandwidth for schools, higher education, library, and museum constituents.

Members expressed concern about input from the constituent groups before taking action. It was discussed how best to receive constituent feedback when the bandwidth rates were not ready to release.

Kathleen Bloomberg made a motion to publish the proposed rates and allocation formula and open a comment period that closes April 9th and defer adoption until April 16th. Scott Norton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Erate

Tom Oseland reported that CMS had received the last \$550,000 for the 2010 filing year bringing the total to just under \$3 million. The 2011 request is still under review. The filing window opened last Monday for 2012. CMS is gathering data and supporting documentation. It looks like it will be worthwhile to submit an application for next year.

Adjournment

Amy Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott Norton seconded the motion. The motion carried.