

**ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK
JULY 20, 2015 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Hardik Bhatt called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Members Present (Springfield):

Lori Sorenson, Central Management Services	Anne Craig, Illinois State Library
Bonnie Styles, Illinois State Museum	Todd Jorns, Illinois Community College Board
Eric Lichtenberger, Board of Higher Education	Michael Dickson

Members Present (Chicago):

Hardik Bhatt, Central Management Services	
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Members on Audio Bridge:

Chet Olson	Tom Steele
Brent Engelman, State Board of Education	

Members Absent:

Vicki DeWitt	
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Staff and Guests:

Essam El-Beik, Central Management Services	Tom Oseland, Central Management Services
Robin Woodsome, Central Management Services	Carla Poani, AT&T
Valerie Bolinger, Central Management Services	Judy Hessler, Central Management Services

Announcements and Remarks

Hardik Bhatt welcomed the board and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes

Hardik Bhatt introduced the first item on the agenda, approval of the minutes from the April 20, 2015 meeting. A motion was made by Mike Dickson to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Anne Craig. The motion carried.

E-rate

Tom Oseland reported the 2014 E-rate funding year ended on June 30, 2015. Claim forms were being prepared for the final three months of the funding year, April through June, to recoup invoicing discounts given to ICN customers based on their approved E-rate funding. Invoicing discounts claimed for reimbursement through this process totaled approximately \$232,162 for the first nine months of the funding year. In addition, several schools/districts have submitted reimbursement claims for E-rate funds totaling approximately \$30,267. Now that the funding year has ended, there will be several more claims submitted by schools that have been paying invoices for ICN services in full and will utilize the "BEAR" process to request reimbursements based on approved E-rate funding.

The 2015 E-rate funding year began on July 1, 2015. A total of 369 applications were submitted that listed ICN as the service provider. This is a significant increase over the past two years. To date, a total of 68 of these applications have been approved. The approved applications represent a total of approximately \$668,110 in ICN services supported by approximately \$446,128 in E-rate funds. There are many more applications to be reviewed and it is expected that the majority of them will be approved for funding.

Hardik inquired about the percentage of approved applications. Tom responded that it is well over 90 percent. Robin commented that the RTC's are reaching out to the K-12 schools that are within vicinity of our network

fiber. They are providing information/solutions to extend fiber to their premise. Eric Lichtenberger inquired about the number of schools that are within our network fiber. Essam stated that there are a little over 100 schools within vicinity of our network fiber.

Essam El-Beik reported on the ICN response to the FCC Eligible Service List (ESL) and stated that the ESL provides guidance on the eligibility of products and services under the E-rate program. The ICN submitted a response requesting clarification on costs associated with fiber and special construction as well as provide recommendations. Essam asked members to view page nine of the packet to review the recommendations.

Essam stated that statewide master contract/request for proposals for E-rate Category 2 is ready for public release. Category 2 allows schools and libraries to receive equipment (routers, switches, wireless access points, i.e. all the equipment they may need in a school or library to support broadband). The contract will make it easier for schools and libraries to order equipment via the E-rate process. ICN customers will have the ability to select a vendor from the master contract and submit their E-rate 471 form to receive funding. The goal is to simplify the process for schools and libraries thus encouraging more organizations to apply for category 2 E-rate funding. Lori commented that the FCC approved all E-rate Category 2 submissions for the current E-rate funding year.

Budget Update

Lori reported on this item and referred the board members to page 11 of the packet. Discussion held regarding budget concerns, cutting costs and how to generate revenue. Hardik stated that we cannot continue to sustain this deficit and opened the floor for ideas. Committee members directed staff to continue to seek revenue growth opportunities.

DWDM Ethernet Pricing Proposal

Lori reported on this item and referenced page 13 of the meeting packet. The rate changes approved in October 2014 included a reduction in the rates for 10 Gbps Ethernet point-to-point services for wholesale service providers. The proposed rate changes inadvertently omitted a corresponding rate change for the community anchor institutions (CAI). Staff recommends a rate change to the CAI 10 Gbps Ethernet point-to-point service. Staff also recommends a minimum twelve month commitment for the CAI 1 and 10 Gbps Ethernet point-to-point services. Staff also recommends simplifying the 1 Gbps Ethernet circuit pricing by combining the monthly recurring cost and annual port fee into a single monthly cost for CAI and service providers. A motion was made by Mike Dickson to accept the DWDM Ethernet Pricing Proposal. The motion was seconded by Tom Steele. The motion carried.

Advanced Engineering Task Force Membership

Lori reported on this item. The Advanced Engineering Taskforce (AET) works with ICN staff to develop network operations policies, services and rate recommendations, and plan for new technology. The membership matrix on pages 16 and 17 reflects current AET membership and attendance. The AET is seeking reappointments for eight members whose terms will expire in June 2015. The new three year terms would extend through 2018. A motion was made by Anne Craig to approve the renewal of those individuals whose term expired June 20, 2015. The motion was seconded by Todd Jorns. The motion carried.

Broadband Opportunity Council Update

Essam reported that President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum formally creating the Broadband Opportunity Council and appointed co-chairs. The council includes federal agencies and departments that will engage with industry and other stakeholders to understand ways that the government can better support communities in seeking broadband investment. In addition, the council issued a Request for Comment (RFC) asking for public input to identify regulations and barriers hampering the deployment of broadband. CMS led the effort to develop the State of Illinois response with input from state agencies. A copy of the response can be viewed on the ICN website.

Other Items

Hardik recommended that we move the meeting day to the second Tuesday of the month for the 2016 ICN Policy Committee Meeting schedule. Hardik stated that he would like to attend the meetings in person and is unavailable to attend on Mondays in Springfield. It was decided to leave the October 19 meeting as scheduled and set the 2016 meeting schedule on the second Tuesday of the month. The 2016 meeting schedule will be an action item at the October meeting.

Adjourn

Hardik moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Bonnie Styles and seconded by Anne Craig. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 19, 2015 at the Illinois Community College Board in Springfield, the JRTC in Chicago or via audio bridge.