

**ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK
October 19, 2015 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Anne Craig called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Members Present (Springfield):

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

Members Present (Chicago):

Tom Steele	
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Members on Audio Bridge:

Chet Olson	
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Members Absent:

Vicki DeWitt	Hardik Bhatt
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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
Kathleen Bloomberg, Illinois State Library	

Announcements and Remarks

Anne Craig, Chaired the meeting at the request of Hardik Bhatt who was unable to attend. Ann welcomed the board and thanked everyone for attending and proceeded with roll call. Lori Sorenson announced that Board Member Bonnie Styles with the Illinois State Museum recently retired and will no longer be part of the board. We are waiting to hear from the Department of Natural Resources regarding a replacement.

Minutes

Anne Craig introduced the first item on the agenda, approval of the minutes from the July 20, 2015 meeting. A motion was made by Todd Jorns to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Eric Lichtenberger. The motion carried.

E-rate

Tom Oseland reported that the 2014 E-rate funding year ended on June 30, 2015. There are still some applicants that continue to submit Form 472 "BEAR" reimbursement claim for costs associated with ICN services. Applicant claims are just under \$200,000. ICN reimbursement claims via the Service Provider Invoice (SP) have reached a total of \$320,498. Tom commented that \$500,000 for the funding year is very good activity. We are a few months into the 2015 funding year and most of the applications received have been reviewed. A total of 370 applications were submitted that listed ICN as the service provider. Three hundred forty one of the applications have been approved. This is a significant increase over last year and the approved applications represent over \$3.6 million in ICN services supported by approximately \$2.2 million in E-rate funds.

Essam El-Beik reported that the FCC issued the Eligible Service List (ESL) for funding year 2016 and provided a number of clarifications for CMS. The ESL clarifies and defines special construction as those activities only related to actual construction of network. Special construction does not include one-time upfront charges for dark fiber IRU's or electronic equipment. This is in line with the emphasis by the FCC on investment in new fiber networks versus paying a high monthly fee for on-going service. One time upfront charges for dark fiber and

electronic equipment would still be eligible for Category 1 funding but no special construction funding. This distinction is important because special construction funding is eligible for additional FCC contribution and the school match portion of special constructions costs can be paid over 4 years. Another clarification is that operations and maintenance is an eligible E-rate expense for school networks that have already been built, or for school networks consisting of dark fiber IRU's that have already been purchased. The operations and maintenance functions would be eligible as Category 1 services, and as per standard E-rate rules, have to be competitively bid. Two other clarifications state that basic firewall services provided as part of Internet access is eligible under Category 1 funding; however, firewall services provided by another vendor or priced out separately is considered eligible for Category 2 funding.

Essam also provided an update on the RFP for Category 2 (internal connections). To date, the RFP has not yet been published. The RFP is currently being reviewed by legal. We expect that review and publication of the RFP should be complete within 30 days.

Robin Woodsome reported that he is working with Essam and RTC staff to identify customers that are within a 1 to 5 mile radius of our fiber backbone to be considered as potential candidates for a fiber optic build from their premise. The build of the fiber optic circuit would be managed by the ICN and subsidized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) through E-rate. Our E-rate bid responses will include a proposal for a fiber build only in cases where it makes sense. The level of interest from schools is strong.

Broadband Opportunity Council Update

Essam reported the Council provided a report to President Obama on August 20, 2015. The report was released to the public on September 21, 2015. The report provided a set of recommendations in four areas where federal actions can strengthen broadband deployment, foster competition and promote broadband adoption: 1. Modernize federal programs to expand program support for broadband investments. A number of federal programs targeted to now include broadband support including programs that may include grants. The online report includes a list of programs and timelines. 2. Empower communities with tools and resources to attract broadband investment and promote meaningful use. In the online report, the NTA mentions a one stop shop for broadband assets and information. A connectivity index is currently under development for communities to determine their level of broadband connectivity. 3. Promote increased broadband deployment and competition through expanded access to federal assets. There is some ambiguity with respect to the Department of Transportation (DOT) assets. DOT is now tasked with providing clarification regarding infrastructure and their rights of way for broadband deployment. 4. Improve data collection, analysis and research on broadband. The report describes 36 actions with associated milestones that the federal agencies have committed to undertake. These agencies will provide regular update to the Council Steering Committee.

Smart Cities Initiative

Essam reported that the White House launched the Smart Cities initiative on September 14, 2015. The initiative invests over \$160 million in federal research that includes more than \$35 million in new grants and over \$10 million in proposed investments to build a research infrastructure for Smart Cities by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Nearly \$70 million in new spending and over \$45 million in proposed investments to unlock new solutions in safety, energy, climate preparedness, transportation, health and more by the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Transportation, Department of Energy, Department of Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency. More than 20 cities participating in major new multi-city collaborations that will help city leaders effectively collaborate with universities and industry. The ICN is exploring partnership with cities, universities and commercial companies to advance the state of Smart City technology and applications in Illinois.

K-12 Broadband Initiative

Lori reported that she, Essam, and Robin along with Beth Purvis, Governor's Office and Amy Jo Clemmons, Illinois State Board of Education are working with Education Superhighway to develop recommendations and

next steps for leveraging the current infrastructure and federal E-rate funds to connect K-12 schools to fiber and networks to support high speed wireless connections. Education Superhighway is a not-for-profit organization funded by philanthropic organizations to develop and assist with advocating changes with the E-rate program by educating the FCC and legislators about K-12 connectivity throughout the United States. Through the E-rate application process, they have gathered data about connection speed and fiber connections to prepare a gap analysis.

ICN Proposed Rates & Services

Robin Woodsome reported that there are three service proposals to review; multi-year contracts, end to end service, and membership.

End to End Service – ICN will offer end to end lit service to schools and libraries which will be available via the E-rate form 470 along with our standard Internet egress service. This offering allows schools and libraries to order service and work with just one provider (ICN). When issues arise, the school or library no longer has to work between multiple providers. We are finalizing pricing with last mile service providers and plan to have this service available for E-rate funding year 2016.

Multi-Year Contracts – In addition to month to month contracts, the ICN will offer one, three and five year contracts. Refer to page 18 of the meeting packet to review price discounts. Customers will be locked into the contract for both the contract price and term. By purchasing a multi-year contract, schools and libraries do not have to rebid their required service each year via the form 470 and it will significantly reduce administrative burdens on schools and the ICN.

Membership – Customer becomes a full ICN member by spending a certain monthly minimum and will then be eligible for various free services. Free services may include special event bandwidth, expedited service, last mile QoS, on-net traffic to defined on-net locations, point to point and multi-point on-net circuits at reduced rate or at no cost in addition to purchased service.

Anne Craig reiterated the recommended proposal, that the ICN Policy Committee approve the adoption of the end to end and multi-year contracts service. A motion was made by Tom Steele. The motion was seconded by Eric Lichtenberger. The motion carried.

Advanced Engineering Task Force Membership

Lori conveyed that this follow-up report from our previous meeting. AET is seeking the appointment of two additional members, Raj Siddaraju with Spoon River College and RJ McGarry. Raj has participated on the AET as the representative for the Community College President’s Technology Council. Raj’s term as Chair of the Council ended and he would like to continue to serve on the AET. Raj has been a valuable contributor to the AET. In addition, Scott Armstrong with Kishwaukee College will be moving out of state and will be stepping down from the group. We are seeking appointment of RJ McGarry, Assistant Director of IT for Kishwaukee College as Scott’s replacement. Their terms would extend through June 2018. Mike Dickson made a motion to appoint Raj Siddaraju and RJ McGarry to three year terms. The motion was seconded by Todd Jorns. The motion carried.

2016 Meeting Schedule

Lori presented the 2016 meeting schedule. Meetings are scheduled January 12, April 12, July 12 and October 11th. Chet Olson made a motion to approve the meeting schedule. Eric Lichtenberger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adjourn

Mike Dickson moved to adjourn the meeting. Todd Jorns seconded the motion. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m. The next meeting will be January 12, 2016 at the Illinois Community College Board in Springfield, the JRTC in Chicago or via audio bridge.