

**ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK
APRIL 12, 2016 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Kathleen Bloomberg called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. on behalf of Chairman Bhatt who was unable to attend.

Members Present (Springfield):

Lori Sorenson, Central Management Services	Michael Dickson, Western Illinois University
Kathleen Bloomberg, Illinois State Library	Eric Lichtenberger, Illinois Board of Higher Education
Todd Jorns, Illinois Community College Board	

Members on Audio Bridge:

Chet Olson	
Tom Steele	

Members Absent:

Brent Engelman, State Board of Education	Erich Schroeder, Illinois State Museum
Hardik Bhatt, Central Management Services	

Staff and Guests:

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

Announcements and Remarks

Kathleen Bloomberg welcomed board members and guests.

Minutes – April 12, 2016

Kathleen introduced the first item on the agenda, approval of the minutes from the January 12, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Todd Jorns to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mike Dickson. The motion carried.

E-rate Update

Tom Oseland provided the E-rate update and referred members to pages #8 of the meeting packet. Of the 369 applications submitted for the 2015 E-rate funding year with ICN listed as the service provider, a total of 353 have been approved to receive funding support. These approved applications represent a total of approximately \$3.8 million in ICN services supported by almost \$2.4 million in E-rate funds. Currently, data is being compiled to claim reimbursement of this funding via the Service Provider Invoice (SPI) method for the first 6 months of the funding year. This procedure allows the ICN to recover the funds disbursed to applicant customers via invoice discounts. The claim for the first half of the year will be approximately \$283,000. It is unknown at this time how many remaining applicants will be claiming approved E-rate funds via the “BEAR” (Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement) process.

On January 25th, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) officially announced the dates for the filing window for the 2016 E-rate application. The window opened on February 3rd at noon and will close April 29th at midnight eastern time. Applicants must now use the newly created E-rate Productivity Center (EPC), the new online filing portal, to submit their 2016 E-rate application forms.

USAC recently introduced a new download tool to access information on 2016 applications filed in the EPC. As of this writing, a total of 258 Form 471 applications have been filed in Illinois.

Essam El-Beik added that ICN has responded to 417 bids and continues to review all sites within vicinity for a fiber build. Bandwidth requests are 2–3 times higher than the level requested last year.

K-12 Broadband Initiative

Essam El-Beik reported that staff continues to work with Education Super Highway (ESH) on researching the broadband connectivity in Illinois. ESH issued a draft connectivity report on March 11, 2016. Next steps include working on an action plan for Illinois. In January, the National Governors Association (NGA) and ESH issued an RFP soliciting states to take part in the K-12 Broadband and Digital Learning Policy Academy. Illinois responded to the RFP and was selected to participate in the Policy Academy along with several other states. The first Policy Academy was conducted two weeks ago and we collaborated with representatives from NGA and ESH to narrow down the steps to enable broadband connectivity and support digital learning for K-12 entities. Another Policy Academy is scheduled in October.

Budget Update

Lori Sorenson referred members to page #13 of the meeting packet. Lori explained the budget report and explained the budgetary impact over the years outlined in the spreadsheet (2001-2016).

New Service Offerings

Essam El-Beik provided an update on new service offerings. ICN plans to provide new pricing for gigabit speed services. As outlined in the report, the price per megabit will decrease slightly for those customers who require more bandwidth. The pricing is competitive and in-line with current market trends. A motion was made by Erich Lichtenberger to accept the proposed pricing changes. The motion was seconded by Todd Jorns. The motion carried.

In addition, we will be adding two new services to our catalog. Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Trunking will deliver a cost effective way for customers to consolidate voice and Internet traffic over a single broadband connection. Pricing is outlined in the packet. In addition to SIP, the ICN recently partnered with StormWind Studios, an independent training company that offers a live classroom e-learning experience. ICN customers will have access to an entire catalog of training courses at a discounted rate.

Marketing & Outreach

Valerie Bolinger reported that the ICN will focus on several traditional marketing and outreach strategies in 2016. The goal is to increase general knowledge and awareness about new services, value-add services and customer support. Staff plans to utilize social media, continue to leverage speaking opportunities, and partner with business/organizations

Advanced Engineering Task Force (AET) Membership

Lori Sorenson referred members to pages 20-22 of the meeting packet. The AET is seeking reappointment for Mike Dickson; Tracy Smith; University of Illinois Champaign; and Andrew Bullen, Illinois State Library. These individuals participate on a regular basis and would like to remain on the task force. The AET is not seeking reappointment for Brian Tobin, DeKalb SD #425 and Jim Peterson, Bloomington SD #87 due to lack of attendance.

In addition, we have several new members for recommendation; Mindy Fiscus, Learning Technology Center (LTC 6); Shannon Smith, Tuscola CSUD #301; and Tom Donovan, Aptakisik Trip SD 102.

The last recommendation is to appoint Andrew Bullen as co-chair for the AET Task Force.

A motion was made by Erich Lichtenberger to reappoint Mike Dickson, Tracy Smith, Andrew Bullen; appoint Mindy Fiscus, Shannon Smith, and Tom Donovan as new members; and appoint Andrew Bullen as co-chair with terms that expire in June 2019. Todd Jorns seconded the motion. Motion passed with Mike Dickson abstaining.

Adjourn

Mike Dickson moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Eric Lichtenberger. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m. The next meeting will be July 12, 2016 at the Illinois State Library in Springfield, the JRTC in Chicago or via audio.