

Note: These minutes are a draft and are not to be considered official until approved at the next meeting.

**Iowa E911 Communications Council Meeting
 Wednesday, July 28, 2010
 West Des Moines City Council Chambers
 4200 Mills Civic Parkway
 West Des Moines, IA**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steven Ray at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was determined from the roll call as indicated below.

Roll Call

	Representative	Attendance
Iowa Association of Public Safety Communications Officers (APCO) Secretary	Sally Hall	Present
alternate	Cara Sorrells	
Iowa Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA)	Kirk Hundertmark	Present
alternate	Cherese Sexe	
Iowa State Sheriff's & Deputies Association (ISSDA)	Tom Heater	Present
alternate	Dean Kruger	
Iowa Chiefs of Police & Peace Officers Association (ICPPO)	Jack O'Donnell	Excused
alternate	Sandy Morris	Present
Iowa Professional Firefighters (IAPFF)	Mike S. Bryant	Present
alternate	vacant	
Iowa Fireman's Association (IFA)	Mark Murphy	Excused
alternate	Tom Berger	Excused
Iowa Emergency Managers Association (IEMA) Vice-Chairperson	Bob Seivert	Present
alternate	Jo Duckworth	
Iowa Department of Public Safety (IDPS) Chairperson	Steven P. Ray	Present
alternate	Todd Misel	Present
Iowa Emergency Medical Services Association (IEMSA)	Paul Andorf	Excused
alternate	Rob Dehnert	Present
Iowa Telephone Association <15,000	Jim Suchan	Present
alternate	Pat Snyder	
Iowa Telephone Association >15,000	Natalie Stallman	Excused
alternate	Dan Halterman	Excused
Cellular Providers	Bill Tortoriello	Absent
alternate	Jason Fenton	Absent
PCS Providers	David Kaus	Present
alternate	Joe Sargent	
Auditor of the State, Ex-Officio member	Warren Jenkins	Absent

Staff:

Barbara Vos, E-911 Program Manager	Present
Kathy Karn, E-911 Program Planner	Present

Guests:

Dina McKenna, Story County Sheriff's Office	Gary Brown, Woodbury County EMA
Dave Hanson, Calhoun County Sheriff's Dept.	Joni Walston, SCI Regional E911
Mike Miller, Racom	Terry Brennan, Racom
Scott Locker, Polk County Sheriff's Office	John Smith, Polk County Sheriff's Office
Jim Bogner, Iowa SWIC	Brian Kelley, Intrado
Dan Taylor, Greene County E911	Chris Moore, Pottawattamie County E911
Tom Hancock, Senate District 16	Richard Reimann, 911-Inc.
Beth Lenstra, LSA	Catherine Engel, Iowa Senate Democrats
Jennifer Colby, Westcom	Aubyn Bjornsen, Westcom

Brad Button, Westcom
Brett Davis, Keokuk PD
John Benson, HSEMD
Jamie Carlund, Windstream

Stacen Gross, GeoComm
David Murray, Lee Comm
Connie Hambly, Story County E911

Introductions

Chair Steven Ray welcomed everyone. Board members and those in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes

Motion by Dave Kaus, seconded Kirk Hundertmark to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2010 meeting. All ayes. Passed.

Agenda

Motion by Dave Kaus, seconded by Tom Heater to approve the agenda for the July 28, 2010 meeting. All ayes. Passed.

State of Iowa Administrator Reports – Mrs. Barb Vos

911 Program Financial Report

Mrs. Vos distributed the financial report for the second quarter of calendar year 2010. Funds available this quarter were \$4,285,012.60. Total expenditures for the quarter were \$3,403,080.49. Balance in the wireless carryover fund is \$3,042,433.19. Total obligated wireless carryover funds are \$1,683,456.30. The intertandem trunking amount of \$525,000.00 was removed from the obligated wireless carryover funds since that project was discontinued due to the cost.

Question was asked who TCS was. Mrs. Vos replied that TCS is TeleCommunication Systems which is headquartered in Maryland. TCS is a third party provider like Intrado that provides ALI/Selective Routing. There are a few companies that use their services while the remaining companies use Intrado.

Program Update

The Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in June. Any questions by the respondents were due July 23rd with a reply by Mrs. Vos to be posted by July 30th. The respondent's proposals are due August 23rd. The selection process will follow. Mrs. Vos could not field any questions because of all the vendors in attendance.

Kathy Karn has been working on a cross checking project to verify the state is receiving 911 surcharge from all of the wireless vendors doing business in the state. Mrs. Vos reported that in the future this cross checking process will be done with the VoIP companies.

Bob Seivert asked if the LEC transport charges would be eliminated if we go to an IP environment. Mrs. Vos stated it would depend on the solution and maybe not in the beginning but at some point she hoped they would.

Legislation – Mrs. Vos reported she had met with HSEMD Administrator Dave Miller and Legislative Liaison John Benson to discuss proposed changes to Chapter 34A. When the RFP has been issued and a new contract is issued, the wireless plan will need to be rewritten. Chapter 34A should also be changed to reflect the changes of a new IP network. Mr. Miller is willing to run this as an agency bill and continue to work with the 911 communications council with open discussion and recommendations. Mr. Miller does not want to increase the surcharge. He feels it is time to look at this as a totally different model by getting away from two surcharges and working toward a common surcharge language. It was not certain this could be accomplished in the next legislative session or whether is the right time. Mrs. Vos thought that Mr. Miller was on board with the other changes to Chapter 34A that were proposed this past legislative year.

Mrs. Vos asked the council whether they still wanted to have the same legislative committee that was appointed last fall and then meet with Mr. Miller to discuss this further.

Bob Seivert expressed his concerns about “being the right time” to increase the surcharge. There continues to be the loss of revenue on the wireline side. The equipment at the PSAPs is dated and in need of being updated. The final piece of legislation that was proposed last session had language that

included additional expenditures for reverse mass notification such as Code Red without changing the amount of surcharge. Now is the time we need to work together since we are all facing similar problems.

Mrs. Vos stated that they are not completely unwilling at looking at the surcharge but Mr. Miller wants to look at it in a different way. Mr. Miller doesn't want to increase the wireline now and then a year or two later think that it should have been done differently.

Kirk Hundertmark asked if Mr. Miller wanted the wireline and wireless surcharges combined and then take away local authority.

Mrs. Vos – Mr. Miller does not want to take away local authority but to develop a common surcharge language. The state realizes that each local authority has the responsibility of equipping the PSAP and the state does not want to be in that business.

Some of the questions that lay before us are:

- Next Generation 911 and interoperability?
- How does this all tie together?
- Should the wireline and wireless surcharge be combined?
- Do we need to have something other than a 911 surcharge?
- If so, how do you do it?
- How do you distribute the funds?
- How do you keep the local authority?

The first step would be for the legislative committee that was appointed last fall to meet and discuss this and see if the committee could come up with some ideas. Without doing that, I don't think we can move forward. We need input from other board members.

Mr. Seivert felt we lost out last year because the telephone industry and the wireless industry weren't on board with us. It was his suggestion for the full council to have a special meeting or meetings with this legislative issue being the only topic.

Mrs. Vos also suggested bringing in some of the wireless and teleco industry partners and having a meeting before the next regular meeting in September.

Mr. Seivert asked John Benson whether he or Mr. Miller had anything specific in mind to as how to develop one surcharge.

Mr. Benson – Conceptionally that is the way Mr. Miller wants to go. He is looking at evolving it into an emergency 911 surcharge that would support the 911, radio and data. The difficulty is in how to develop it and make it happen.

Mr. Seivert – Is there any discussion about going beyond the surcharge on our cell phones and telephones in order to fund communications in counties.

Mr. Benson – Yes, that really becomes the challenge. If you are going to go down that path to fund it There are a lot of nontraditional devices that access 911 that do not fit into the model.

Reports of Officers, Boards and Standing Committees

Technical Advisory – Dave Kaus

In a recent European 112 newsletter, which is the same as 911 in the United States, it stated their education committee is fighting a battle that says 75% of the European citizens do not know about 112. Mr. Kaus felt that most of our citizens know about 911 and expect a lot from it.

911 and the Sync feature for Ford Motor Company – The Sync feature only works with a Bluetooth activated cell phone. If a cell phone is not Bluetooth compatible this feature will not work. Sync utilizes a call center that the 911 call goes to then the call center contacts the appropriate PSAP. The information as to how they determine the appropriate PSAP was not available.

Google Voice – This feature allows a customer, through a Google Voice phone number, to forward received calls to their cell phone, work phone or home phone when someone calls the Google Voice phone number. It is unknown whether they have any access to 911. A word of caution to PSAP operators you could be receiving calls from a Google Voice phone number.

Iowa Interoperability Governance Board – (Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board ISICSB) – Jim Bogner

The ISICSB website has been updated with more information about narrowbanding, what they are doing with the 700 MHz spectrum, the National Emergency Communication Plan, upcoming meeting dates and agenda items.

In July of 2011 National Emergency Communication Plan assessment will be due. This is a nationwide effort in which each county will be assessed on their communications ability and interoperability. The data will be on performance (i.e. exercises/planned events). How do you communicate or can you communicate, do you have common policies, do you have continuity of communications and what is the quality of your communications.

The interoperability continuum will be used to grade each county. There will be 99 reports that will be going in. This is not finalized yet. Mr. Bogner anticipates within 30 days he will be receiving information from a conference in which he attended. This final product and a letter will be sent out to educate each county about this. When you are talking about interoperability, you are also talking about the 911 centers. We are not looking at creating a new exercise for everyone. What they are looking at is if you have an existing situation (i.e. traffic accident) where you have multiple agencies from multiple districts that respond to an incident, to see if they can talk to each other and what kind of communication or interpretation you have to use through the dispatch centers to be able to handle this or call for additional help. That will be coming out within the 30 to 60 days.

We will have a year to look at exercises and planned events. It could be something like RAGBRAI that would be evaluated through out the counties it went through or the State Fair. We are getting this a little late to be able to assess this year's events. But that is what the assessment entails. Filling out 99 reports then Mr. Bogner has to answer 12 questions on each county and send it in. This is part of a national initiative and then a report will be generated to give to Congress as to the state of interoperability.

Congress has poured money into interoperability over the last few years and this is a status assessment of where are we with the money, what has been put into interoperability and where do we need to go from here.

ISICSB has applied for a grant. The 700 MHz spectrum is part of the national plan to ultimately have everyone go to that frequency for total interoperability. Will we do that in Iowa and other states? That is something that is in progress. No, you don't necessarily have to go there but they are looking at that spectrum to make it a public safety spectrum for voice channels and a broadband section on it. That is a focus on part of our grant to look at the broadband section. Can we build up a broadband infrastructure in Iowa and have broadband service to public safety to be able to share files and video to fire, police, EMS, to any first responder or public safety. That is on going and we should find out by September some time whether we were awarded any money from the grant and what we will do for the build out.

Dave Kaus – I presume that the interoperability community is looking at the internet as a vehicle for communications.

Mr. Bogner – Everything in broadband is geared toward LTE (long term evolution) technology which is IP based so that everything can talk to each other.

Mr. Kaus – I have observed that there are only 32 million IP addresses left which is good for about 160 days. Then there will be an evolution in the IP addressing. Another concern is firewalls. Anyone can hack into the internet. I see interoperability as a big pathway to public safety's so called secured communications.

Mr. Bogner – The industry is developing the LTE technology with those security measures in mind. The technology is so new that there aren't products out there that we can use. It is under development. There is a national testing site that is looking to test these devices in the latter part of this year. If we get

some grant money, we are looking at a three year period to build this out as the technology is being developed. The industry will be looking at these issues to make sure that this is not an open portal to public safety information. Also in this technology, to be able to separate public access and public safety access. They will not use the same channels.

The total project design for Iowa is \$154 million. The federal grant that has been applied for is \$107-108 million with a 30% match from the state to build out this network. We are working with the legislature and the Governor's office concerning the 30% funding match and support. This grant opportunity came out last month. Obviously, we will have to wait until January to see what the legislature will do and also wait to see if we are recipient of the full amount grant money applied for, part of it or none. The federal funds have to be spent by September 30th. We should know by the September meeting whether we are a recipient.

Jim Suchan – Will the 700 MHz be leased from someone? Who owns that currently?

Mr. Bogner - The ISICSB has applied for a waiver and has been granted a license for that spectrum. This is a long term lease arrangement. As this network is built out, they will be working on the coordination of the use of the frequency.

Mr. Hundertmark – If you do get this grant, has there been any discussion of incorporating the proposed 911 IP network with this?

Mr. Bogner – Yes, I have had many discussions with Mrs. Vos about this. The Next Generation 911 and all of those components will be a part of it.

Items for Discussion

Plain Language – Mr. Bogner stated the Office of Emergency Communications has reiterated the idea of plain language. Plain language is a part of the NIMS process of not using codes so that responding agencies/jurisdictions can understand and talk to each other when responding to an incident. This is part of the national plan and it is being encouraged to be used nationwide so that interoperability can be further advanced. The ISICSB website has information available about plain language. ISICSB will be addressing whether to take a position and formally adopt the use of plain language at their meeting today.

Chair Ray asked the council if they wanted to take a position on plain language. No formal action was taken at this time.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None.

Travel Request

None.

Business from the Floor / 911 Issues at the PSAPs

None.

Announcements

The next meeting of the E911 council will be on September 29, 2010 – West Des Moines City Hall Council Chambers 9:00 a.m.. The November meeting will be moved to December 1st same time and location.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hall, Secretary