

**Iowa Telecommunications & Technology Commission
Grimes State Office Building, 1st Floor
400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319**

FINAL

August 19, 2009

To ensure the most efficient use of State resources, the August 19, 2009, ITTC meeting was held via conference call pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8. A conference call also ensured more Commissioners were able to participate in the meeting and reduced the risk of delays caused by weather or other impediments to travel. The meeting was accessible to members of the public through attendance at the Grimes State Office Building.

Commissioners Present

Betsy Brandsgard, Chairperson
Pamela A. Duffy, Member
Michael W. Mahaffey, Member

Commissioners Absent

David A. Vaudt, Ex-Officio Member
Robert R. Hardman, Member
Timothy L. Lapointe, Member

Iowa Communications Network Staff Present

John Gillispie, Executive Director
Joseph Cassis, Deputy Director
Dave Lingren, Service Delivery Administrator
David Marley, Operations Administrator
Mike Cruise, Accounting Manager
Vicki Wallis, Engineering Administrator
Tami Fujinaka, Government Relations Manager
Lori Larsen, Administrative Assistant (Recorder)

Guests

Adam Humes, Attorney General's Office
Kyle Holmgren, Qwest

Call to Order

Commissioner Brandsgard called the meeting to order at 10:35 A.M. It was noted that a quorum of members was not present for the meeting.

Approval of 7/16/09 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the July 16, 2009, meeting minutes was informally tabled until the September 17, 2009 meeting.

Old Business

Internet Addresses (IPv6) - Vicki Wallis

There has been a lot of discussion in the last several years about the internet running out of address space. The existing address structure, IPv4, has limited addresses left of the nearly 4.3 billion it can contain (nearly 4.3×10^9). There is a new standard that has been out for about 10 years, IPv6, that expands to 3.4×10^{38} . Most of the equipment purchased in the last few years is IPv6 compatible. The ICN is currently planning a trial connection to the University of Iowa's IPv6 lab before the end of the year, and concurrently determining if the routers can do the translations between IPv4 and IPv6. If the routers do not provide this function, the ICN will then find the best transition method. While the available addresses are limited, there is no established expiration date on IPv4. The federal government mandated all federal agencies be IPv6 by mid 2008, though this deadline has been extended due to availability of equipment.

OSS Update - Vicki Wallis/Joseph Cassis

The ICN received five OSS bids, and requested demonstrations from three vendors. After evaluating, there did not seem to be a good fit between the responses received and the functionality desired. The ICN is cancelling the RFP, and intends to address the issues individually. While a complete system would make integration a non-issue, many other factors are consistent regardless if one system or multiple systems are used. The ICN learned a lot from the process; about our current systems, processes, and where gaps exist. While the team is disappointed at the lack of an award, the team can keep the momentum going and continue to address the issues raised on a more incremental scale. Improvements in any of these areas will assist the ICN to better serve our customers – effectively and efficiently.

To that end, there are three follow ups to this RFP at this time:

- 1) To create an IT Governance Board for ICN, which will manage systems – upgrades, enhancements, etc across all divisions to ensure priorities for the agency are taken into consideration as well as having a unified view of software within the agency.
 - a) Deputy Director Cassis stated that the IT Governance Board relates to establishing the prioritization of ICN projects. Designated managers/employees will present the projects and objectives to this board. The Board has not been created. Notices have been sent out to all employees. Board members will be selected based upon background and IT technical understanding. Protocols have not been defined.
- 2) To pursue the most difficult of the areas which is not currently covered by another system – circuit design: including equipment, cabling, assets, and possible other items. This is the most complex, and is the highest risk internally to build due to the complexity and continually changing technology. This is to be put in a separate RFP for bidding. As the requirements for this was included in the OSS RFP, the difficulty is in determining where the dividing line should fall. A team is meeting to get this resolved and determine the scope for the circuit design RFP.
- 3) The item with the largest impact to the ICN as a whole is work flow. To address this, a separate team is being formulated to determine ICN needs from a work flow system. Then the ICN can evaluate how well any current systems meet those needs, and if not, then an RFP can be released.

Regional Redundancy Update - Dave Marley

ICN is installing 17 Ethernet switches on a 10 GB backbone around the state. Sixteen of the seventeen Ethernet switches are installed. The Ethernet switches will give the ICN additional redundancies and failure response capabilities. If one Ethernet switch fails, it can seek another switch. ICN did report problems early on, but those problems have been resolved.

ARRA BTOP Grants - Joseph Cassis

ICN will be submitting two BTOP applications for the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) federal grant programs.

Sustainable Adoption Program focuses on H.323 upgrades to the ICN system, so the ICN's video conferencing allows H.323 software applications and equipment to be available throughout the network. The grant will also provide a cart system to vulnerable sites, which will enable schools that don't have capabilities to the ICN system to gain access. The total amount that is being requested for the grant is \$12.1 million with a matching of \$2.4 million.

Infrastructure/Middle Mile Program focuses on replacing much of the core equipment and enabling the ICN to provide 1 Gigabyte of bandwidth throughout the network. ICN received 15 letters of support from other agencies such as: Department of Education, Iowa Community College Association, Iowa Hospitals Association, and Iowa Workforce Development. The emphasis on the broadband grant program is to provide jobs as well as educational opportunities throughout the country. The total amount that is being requested for the grant is \$15 million with a match of \$3.1 million.

The soonest applicants will hear if they receive funding will be mid to late September.

Annual Contract Amount Authorization Adjustment - Mike Cruise

The contract spending limit the ICN is subjected to is roughly \$2 million. That rate is adjusted yearly due to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This year the CPI decreased to 1.4 percent from June 2008 to June 2009. For the period of September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010 the ICN's contract limit will be reduced to \$2,070,600.

Q – What impact does the ICN expect to have in the upcoming months?

ICN does not approach that limit. The contract limit is for purchases of equipment and services. The annual contract amount adjustment will be published in the administrative bulletin by September 1.

Federal/State Economic Stimulus Package Update - John Gillispie

ICN will be submitting two applications to the BTOP program. There have been a number of entities stating that they will not be submitting to the federal program based upon dissatisfaction of rules. Due to the business of the servers, there should be a large quantity of applicants pursuing those funds.

By October 10 all agencies receiving federal government stimulus funding must report back to the federal recovery.gov website. Once received the federal government will begin publishing the data on their website.

There are three rounds of funding from BIP and BTOP. One concern is if the applicant is not successful in round one, will round two close before the applicant knows they are successful in round one due to the magnitude of submissions. ICN's intent is to submit an application for each round if not successful in the previous round.

Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board Update - John Gillispie

The Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board is working on writing the administrative rules. Writing the administrative rules is critical for the operations of the Board. The plan is to complete the rules for submission to the Department of Economic Development (IDED) for their September 22 meeting. At this time the board is considering emergency adoption of the rules, so applicants coming out of round one of the federal program will have access to the state dollars. Rules approval is determined by the IDED Board.

The state application is in the process of being debated by the Board's subcommittee due to the different requirements for pursuing state dollars than federal dollars. The state law requires that applications exceed the federal standards (768 kbs download and 200 kbs upload) and the program must be sustainable. The members of the sub-committee are representatives from the private sector.

The plan is to finish the administrative rules by September 22, complete the application that implements the rules, and be prepared for applicants to submit applications for funding. The Board has developed an information request for possible submissions that will give the board an idea of how many interested parties are out there. One of the challenges the Board has is if they receive \$25 million worth of requests in round one, is the board going to grant the full amount in round one or will the board reserve funds for each of the rounds.

Q - The board could opt to exhaust the complete amount?

A - Yes, it could.

Q - Is there a limit on the amount the entity could apply for?

A – That was a large discussion between the Board. At this time, the Board probably won't place anything in the rules that will create a minimum and/or maximum request.

Healthcare Network Update - Dave Lingren

Alcatel-Lucent, who is the vendor that was selected by the Iowa Rural Health Care Consortium to provide the core electronics, received their funding approval letter on September 19 from the FCC/USAC. ICN will begin to schedule training for ICN staff and identify specific installation timeframes. It is anticipated that the core electronics in the western part of the state will begin to be installed in the mid September and/or early October timeframe (step one is to have the core electronic in place).

Concerning the fiber vendors, three of the four vendors have received their funding letters. ComTech, who has the largest amount of fiber installation, has not received their letter due to the delay in signing their contract.

ICN anticipates that seven or eight customers that are currently connected by fiber to the ICN will be able to be moved over to the health care network sometime this fall. ICN foresees that it might have ten new revenue producing health care providers added by the end of the 2009 calendar year, due to short fiber runs.

New Business

FY 2011 Video Rates Comment Period - Dave Lingren

On Friday, August 14, ICN posted on its website asking its customers their opinions regarding ICN's proposal for video rates. The posting said, "In response to tightening budgets associated with the current recessionary trend, the ITTC will be considering a proposal to make no change to the current Video rates during the September 17, 2009, ITTC Commission meeting". This will keep the same rates as FY 2010 effective in FY 2011. ICN received one comment from the ETC that recommended no increase in video rates.

Other Business

Commissioner Brandsgard wanted to formally congratulate Executive Director Gillispie in being selected as a Henry Toll Fellow. Executive Director Gillispie is among many strong leaders in state government. The Henry Toll Fellowship is sponsored by the Council of State Governments. The Henry Toll Fellowship Program selects 40 people, and the program brings in premiere speakers to help develop leadership skills in areas of legislative interest. This years topics are focused on economic recovery, and what state legislatures can do to improve that. The program is funded primarily by the State of Kentucky. Executive Director Gillispie is honored to be selected, and is looking forward to the interesting opportunity.

Since Executive Director Gillispie will be attending the Henry Toll Fellowship Program during the scheduled ITTC September meeting, the group needs to find another accommodating date to meet in-person. Executive Director Gillispie reminded the Commissioners that the critical items for the September meeting is approval of video rates and budget approval, which needs to be sent back to Finance for entering into systems.

Tami Fujinaka will get back with all Commissioners to accommodate for the change of the September meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioners Brandsgard and Mahaffey made motions to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 A.M.

ATTESTED TO:



Betsy Brandsgard, Chair, Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission