

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

**FEBRUARY 7, 2001 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Reynolds.

Members present: Mary Reynolds, Governor's Technology Office; Keith Sanders, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Jean Wilkins, State Library; Bonnie Styles, representing Bruce McMillan, State Museum; Michael Schwartz, Department of Central Management Services; Joe Cipfl, Illinois Community College Board; Lugene Finley, Illinois State Board of Education (attended executive session).

Others attending included: Bill Vetter, Department of Central Management Services; Brent Crossland, Governor's Technology Office; Ross Hodel, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Alice Engle, Department of Central Management Services; Doug Dougherty, Illinois Telecommunications Association; Neil Matkin, Frank Whitney, Lori Sorenson, and Rebecca Dineen all from the Illinois Century Network.

I. Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting were distributed as a draft for review and approval at the next meeting.

II. Network Updates

Community Networking: ICN staff is developing a community networking white paper that will address the questions surrounding the viability and long-term sustainability of community networks. Community network applications are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis, with particular attention paid to technical and financial feasibility. ICN staff is also soliciting success stories from ICN constituents. The emphasis is being placed on identifying those applications that are now made possible due to participation in the ICN, that couldn't be supported before. Michael Schwartz suggested sharing these success stories with the local community press to build positive public relations, giving credit to the Governor for his leadership. Keith Sanders suggested letting local legislators know which entities in their area are connected in order to keep them informed. Keith also supports extending the network out to other entities, but wants staff to be sure that the primary constituents named in the legislature are being served.

Neil Matkin noted that staff has the ability to produce reports based on legislative district, library district, school district, county, higher education consortia, zip code, and other

parameters. It was suggested that specific benefits of connection should be highlighted in these reports, i.e. the ability to participate in the Illinois Virtual High School.

Backbone Circuits: Alice Engle reported that four of the backbone circuits are now installed. Although there has been some difficulty in acquiring facilities, it is hoped that all circuits will be up by May. The state telecommunications RFP is in final stages of review. Michael Schwartz indicated that any difficulty with vendors should be referred to his office, Mary Reynolds, or the Policy Committee. Discussions regarding utilization of fiber, where beneficial, are continuing with the Department of Transportation.

Interagency Agreement: Discussions between the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Board of Higher Education regarding the interagency agreement are progressing. Currently it is at ISBE. A draft will be brought to the Policy Committee for edits, changes, and consideration.

Circuit Inventory and Connectivity Update: Staff continues to work on an extensive audit of all ICN connections. Frank Whitney distributed draft database reports for review. Comments and suggestions were made about making the reports easier to understand. In addition to identifying the institutions connected to the ICN, the report also intends to identify those schools that have no Internet access as well as those that get their Internet access from another service provider.

ICN is working with ISBE and CMS to acquire a circuit tracking software package called Remedy.

Marketing Efforts: ICN staff is in the final stages of preparing a mailing to municipalities, communities, and K-12 schools that are not connected to the ICN or have access to the Internet via another provider. RTC staff has been instructed to target those schools and bring solutions to them. In preparation for the anticipated response to the mailing, all RTC staff has been trained in the circuit-ordering process. Community Colleges are not targeted in this mailing because all are connected. Michael Schwartz noted again that marketing materials should emphasize success stories.

State Agencies to Connect: Equipment has been purchased and should go into place in the next 30 to 60 days to provide Internet access to the 48 state agencies through a CMS connection to the ICN.

Connected Institutions vs. Physical Network Connections: In order to avoid confusion when reporting the number of connections to the network, the ICN staff will modify future reports to make a clearer distinction between the number of institutions connected to the network and the number of physical network connections.

Ongoing Policy Briefs: In response to issues such as peering vs. transit to the Internet, physical vs. logical connections, community network options, ICN staff is to prepare a series of executive summaries for the Policy Committee. The summaries will give a

background and brief overview so the Policy Committee is informed and has the opportunity to provide input and feedback.

Keith Sanders suggested briefing papers in the following areas: provide an updated connectivity list at each meeting in the priority order specified in the enabling legislation (schools first); pricing over time – how the network can produce some income without damaging the goals to reduce or not increase ICN's appropriation; an imaginative set of future uses that might come to fruition in order to stay ahead in a rapidly developing field. Mary Reynolds suggested consistency in pricing. Michael Schwartz suggested getting a staff member to start building some of the emerging success stories and update the committee at the next meeting (ICN staff has already begun this process).

Jean Wilkins suggested that if the committee does decide on some type of charge back, notice should be given well in advance. Experience at the State Library has shown that when a service is offered at no cost for a period of time, users become alarmed when a charge back is discussed. Neil Matkin assured the committee that enough notice would be given to institutions in order to make appropriate adjustments in their budgets.

Keith Sanders explained that there are other states and private vendors that would like to have access to the ICN. A possible fee structure for providing this access should be investigated. One example is Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio who has contracts with up to 17 community colleges to provide baccalaureate completion programs, parts of which could ride on the ICN.

Neil Matkin identified several opportunities and partnerships that are under consideration as the backbone develops and network growth and capacity are determined. Discussions are ongoing with Ameritech/Southwestern Bell's philanthropic division, Cisco and the Illinois Commerce Commission. Interest in the ICN Chicago Network Access Point has been expressed by states that are contiguous to Illinois.

Advisory Groups: The Advanced Engineering Taskforce is focusing on updating and revising the 1998 engineering study. Special attention is being paid to the integration of video with the ICN. Future issues that impact bandwidth demands and the capacity of the backbone are also under consideration.

The Illinois Online Leadership Council is working on an e-learning portal, which is up and running. Input from all online content initiatives will be solicited for inclusion in the e-learning portal. Neil Matkin asked the Policy Committee's permission to have Beth Aper contact them to solicit their input on the educational e-learning portal. The IOLC is also developing a print brochure.

Regional User Groups: The regional users groups have been meeting to bring ICN constituents together across sectors to identify network uses and help to anticipate further network demands. The user groups have taken the leadership in inviting local legislators and the press to attend these events. Many of the questions raised by the users groups are the same as those raised by the ICN staff and the policy committee. Michael Schwartz

suggested that the Policy Committee receive 8-10 bullet points of success stories that they could use to discuss the network.

### III. Next Steps/Discussion

The meeting February 26, 2001 will be held for the purpose of interviews only in executive session.

Motion: Joe made motion; Keith seconded.

Joe Cipfl moved that the Policy Committee go into closed Executive session at 11:25 a.m. Wednesday, February 7, 2001 for the purpose of screening potential candidates for the Illinois Century Network executive director search pursuant to Section 2(B)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

Motion carried.

### IV. Executive Session

The Committee moved into executive session.