

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK
NOVEMBER 20, 2006 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Submitted for: Action

Summary: Distribution of the November 20, 2006 minutes for review by the Policy Committee.

Action Requested: Adoption of the November 20, 2006 minutes.

Recommended Motion: *The ICN Policy Committee adopts the November 20, 2006 minutes with any edits as noted.*

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

NOVEMBER 20, 2006 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Lori Sorenson called the meeting to order.

Members present: Todd Jorns, Illinois Community College Board; Bonnie Styles, Illinois State Museum; Lynn Murphy, Board of Higher Education; Anne Craig, Illinois State Library; Brian Foster, Illinois Hospital Association; Mike Dickson, Western Illinois University; Ryan Croke, Office of the Lieutenant Governor; Chet Olson, City of Rochelle; Scott Norton, Illinois State Board of Education;

Springfield guests: Lori Sorenson, Central Management Services; Tom Oseland, Central Management Services; Cindy Daniele, Central Management Services

Chicago guests: Beth O'Mahoney, Central Management Services

Announcements and Remarks

Lori shared some good press that the ICN has been receiving in the last several months. Central Management Services has a public information office that has been writing articles, press releases, and pitching the ICN to various reporters. She referenced a handout with a story from an Associated Press (AP) article. The AP article appeared in multiple papers throughout the state and gave the ICN some good coverage. There have also been mentions in the Chicago Tribune technology columns and in local papers about the regional meetings. This is part of an effort to be more aggressive in generating interest, support, and awareness of the ICN.

Minutes

Lori asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes. There were none so she asked for a motion to approve.

Motion: Mike Dickson moved; Anne Craig seconded, that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

There was a discussion about the length and detail of the minutes. Lori indicated that the minutes are recorded on a CD and are available on a transcript. It was decided that a more condensed meeting summary would be appropriate going forward.

E-Rate Update

Tom Oseland gave the e-rate update. To date, the ICN has not received any new e-rate funds during fiscal year 2007. As of last week, there is a small library application funded for the last e-rate funding year (2005/2006). Initially it totaled about \$1.3 million in funding requests, but it's going to end up being a little over \$200,000 in actual request for reimbursements. This is due to the drastically lower cost for the network over the last fiscal year.

The 2006/2007 funding year application remains in initial review. The new application window is open for the upcoming e-rate funding year. The cost recovery model and its related e-rated incentive got some attention with constituents already. Several school districts have sent in their e-rate forms for demonstration of compliance with the program. There is now a brief update on the ICN website to help constituents understand what is needed for them to demonstrate their compliance. ISBE also distributed the communication on their list serv which is viewed by all the school districts in the state.

Advanced Engineering Task Force Membership

At the last Policy Committee meeting new members were voted into the task force. All accepted their new positions. Lori stated that the first AET meeting was held last Friday November 17. There was a good turnout by the new members. Jim Flanagan, the new chair, conducted a planning session to identify some of the priorities for the year.

There are two additional nominations for the task force since the September meeting. One is Dr. Meredith Mahoney, who is the assistant curator of zoology at the Illinois State Museum. Her name was put forth to take the position that was previously held by Jessica Theodor, who has since left the museum.

The next nomination is Ryan Croke with the Lieutenant Governor's office. Ryan has a Master's in Communication from the University of Illinois. His thesis is on 'Regulation and Penetration of Broadband Video Telephony in America' and he is working with the Lieutenant Governor's office on the broadband deployment council and rural affairs council.

Motion: Bonnie Styles moved; Chet Olson seconded, that Meredith Mahoney with the Illinois State Museum be appointed to a three year term on the Advanced Engineering Task Force. Motion carried.

Motion: Scott Norton moved; Bonnie Styles seconded, that Ryan Croke with the Lieutenant Governor's office be appointed to a three year term on the Advanced Engineering Task Force. Motion carried

Lori was asked about whether the AET is now set for members. She responded that the number of members is good and there is representation for each group. The only possible exception could be healthcare with only one representative. She explained that while Kevin Rademacher, the former CIO of the Department of Public Health, was appointed to the committee at the last meeting, he has since left Public Health to work for CMS and is therefore no longer involved with healthcare. There is an updated list of members on the ICN web site at www.illinois.net/aet.

Illinois: The Next Century Network

Lori began by briefly summarizing the effort so far. A year ago, the Advanced Engineering Task Force initiated an effort to rewrite the vision for the Illinois Century Network. The original vision document was created in 1997 by the Higher Education Technology Task Force. The goal then was that a T1 to every K-12 school would be high speed and maybe a DS3 or multiple T1s for higher education. The ICN has met this goal and there is a need to move forward.

The AET gathered a subcommittee of members and also other representatives to add different points of view. CMS funded a group of consultants to gather information for the report, conduct surveys and focus groups, and to prepare the final document. The consultants recommended a planning leadership committee that included the executives from different constituencies. A draft document is now being distributed and final comments are due by December 1st. The final report will be presented to the Policy Committee at the February meeting. The consultants will make their final presentation and answer questions about the report. The rest of the meeting will focus on what will be the next steps for the report. Specifically the questions are what role the policy committee, constituents, and the AET will take in generating interest in the recommendations in the report. Lori mentioned that ISBE has their electronic reporting initiatives and healthcare has the electronic health records initiatives. These needs can be tied in with the needs of additional bandwidth and network upgrades for the ICN.

Mike Dickson said it is more of a blueprint for where the network needs to go next rather than just a report. There is going to be an exponential growth in the coming years and the ICN needs to be ready to meet the need. He urged the group to review the final draft when it is available and think about what it means to their organization.

Brian asked if the report will be made public. Lori responded that members can share the draft prior to the next meeting for comment, but the final report won't be distributed until after the February 20th meeting when the committee has had a chance to make any final comments. At the next meeting any edits will be discussed and the final report will be approved by the committee.

Mike added that he would like to see all of the constituencies formally comment on the report. There are a lot of initiatives out there that depend on the ICN and it is important that the network continue to evolve and meet the growing needs.

Brian asked about the next steps once the report is finished. Support from legislators was discussed along with ways to get the report in front of the right people. Suggestions included the broadband groups around the state, through constituent lobbyists, and the Lieutenant governor's office.

Lori pointed out that in addition to agreeing to the mission and goals, later in the report there is a section called 'Conditions for Success.' This section further outlines what is needed to reach these goals. This needs to be agreed to as well for the goals to be met. In some cases the report may need to be edited or customized for the audience to make sure that the main points of the

report are read and understood. Brian agreed and said that in many cases only the first couple pages or the executive summary is read.

Ann Craig asked about the goal of better communications. Lori clarified that this came from the focus groups. Many constituents felt they were not receiving good information from staff. The day to day responses from the RTC staff were fine, but they were looking for proactive communication on what the ICN is working on and what is new. Lori went on to explain that in the early days of the ICN there was a lot of marketing and communications while the network was being built and growing. After the merger into CMS there was a lot of focus internally on the backbone upgrade and moving state agencies onto the network rather than marketing.

As a result of these comments the ICN recently held the regional meetings in October. The ICN also continues to have a presence at K-12 conferences on an annual basis. Lori asked the members to let her know if there are any conferences or events that the members would like to see them participate in. Anne mentioned the Illinois Library Association conference in Springfield in October 2007. Bonnie mentioned the Illinois State Museums conference in the spring.

Regional Meetings Update

Beth O'Mahoney gave an update on the recent regional meetings. The last time the regional meetings were held was in June of 2004, before the ICN merged into CMS. Constituents had been requesting the meetings and there was a lot to report with the changes to the cost recovery model. Eight meetings were scheduled around the state. Regions 2 and 3 in the Chicago suburbs were combined. The topics covered were an ICN update, network update, cost recovery changes and an introduction to the Illinois: The Next Century Network initiative. There was a good turnout at the meetings and a lot of questions. The CMS public information office sent out press releases prior to each of the meetings which resulted in press coverage in some communities outside of the Chicago area. The handouts and presentation from the meetings are available on the ICN website at www.illinois.net/meetings.

Lori added that the meetings were very well received and that the ICN will continue to hold them in October of each year.

Closing

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for February 20th. The main focus of the meeting will be the strategic planning effort since the report will be completed by that time. Several members brought up the broadband deployment group. Brian Foster stated that the group never intended to produce a report. The council has achieved all of its objectives, but is looking at revisiting the duties of the council as established in the executive order that the governor released a year ago or so. Mike Dickson suggested having a representative of the group present to the Policy Committee on their findings. Lori agreed this was a good idea.

Motion: Chet Olson moved; Brian Foster seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.