

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

September 17, 2007 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

- Submitted for:** Action
- Summary:** Distribution of the September 17, 2007 minutes for review by the Policy Committee.
- Action Requested:** Adoption of the September 17, 2007 minutes.
- Recommended Motion:** The ICN Policy Committee adopts the September 17, 2007 minutes with any edits as noted.

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

SEPTEMBER 17, 2007 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Lori Sorenson called the meeting to order:

Members present:

Jay Carlson, Charter Communication;
Mike Dickson, Western Illinois University;
Scott Norton, IL State Board of Education;
Todd Hart, Illinois Hospital Association;
Carolyn Brown Hodge, Office of the Lt. Governor

Kathleen Bloomberg, Illinois State Library;
Amy Edwards, Board of Higher Education;
Chet Olson, City of Rochelle;
Todd Jorns, IL Community College Board

Springfield staff and guests:

Lori Sorenson, Central Management Services;
Tom Oseland, Central Management Services

Stacey Mattera, Central Management Services;

Chicago staff:

Robin Woodsome, Central Management Services

Announcements and Remarks

Jay welcomed everyone and made a brief comment on the importance of promoting the ICN. He proposed the Committee develop a mission statement that would dovetail off the work being done with the Advanced Engineering Taskforce.

Lori welcomed Amy Edwards representing the Board of Higher Education as a new member. The Next Century Network Report was distributed to Committee members. The Report has also been distributed to the legislature along with a custom report listing constituent connections within each legislator's district. The report is available on the ICN website <http://www.illinois.net> under What's New.

Minutes

Jay introduced the first item on the agenda, comments and approval of the June 18, 2007 minutes.

Kathleen Bloomberg mentioned that there needed to be a correction on page 7 of the minutes to change the word Liberian to librarian.

Jay motion that the minutes be approved with corrections as noted, Chet Olson seconded the motion on the June 18, 2007 minutes. Motion carried.

E-rate Update

Tom Oseland provided the E-rate update. As of July 31, 2007, CMS/ICN received \$25,948 in E-rate reimbursements during Fiscal Year 07 and \$18,152 in Fiscal Year 08. This represents all approved funding associated with the Funding Year 2005 library application.

FCC Forms 472 (BEAR forms), the vehicle by which applicants submit reimbursement requests to USAC, were prepared for requests associated with the Funding Year 2006 application. These forms were submitted to USAC on August 17, 2007. The requested amount totaled \$984,050 after adjustments were made due to unreturned CIPA compliance forms.

Final preparation is being completed for requests related to the Funding Year 2005 school application. BEAR reimbursement requests will be made totaling approximately \$2,380,803. These forms will be submitted in early September once reviews of actual spend is completed.

Jay asked if there were any indication on when we'll hear back on the \$2.3M application.

Tom answered that the requests had been moving forward quickly. However, due to the higher dollar amount, he expected the review process to take a little longer.

Kathleen Bloomberg asked why the requested amount dropped by almost 50% from Funding Year 2005 to 2006.

Tom explained the decrease is primarily due to the consolidation of the state agency network into the ICN. The increase in non E-rate eligible entities significantly reduces the percentage of network utilization that can be attributed to E-rate entities. However, the decrease in E-rate funding is somewhat offset by the reduction in overall per user operating costs due to increased volumes and economies of scale.

Jay asked Lori how the E-rate collections and appeals are impacting the fiscal conditions for ICN/CMS.

Lori responded that FY08 funding remained level. Pending E-rate reimbursements are not included in the proposed operating budget due to the unpredictability in receiving the funds. Thus delays in receiving E-rate reimbursements does not have a significant impact.

Advanced Engineering Taskforce

Lori introduced a new nomination to the Advanced Engineering Taskforce. Philip Bierdz has served on the Taskforce for the past year representing the Illinois Community College Association Technology Committee. Mr. Bierdz has indicated a desire to continue to serve on the committee representing community colleges, specifically Moraine Valley. Based on Mr. Bierdz' past participation, CMS staff and the AET recommend Mr. Bierdz be reappointed to the Committee.

Carolyn Hodge Brown made a motion, Todd Hart seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Regional Technology Center Update

Robin Woodsome presented an update on the field operations. The Regional Technology Centers (RTCs) have been busy providing consultation and assistance to constituents looking to upgrade their connection. Additionally RTC staff have been assisting customers to implement ICN services such as filtering content and video conferencing. Many constituents are beginning to utilize new fiber-based last mile connection options, especially in the Chicago area. The Ethernet-based services are provided by the cable companies and most recently the telecommunications carriers. The Ethernet-based service provides for a higher speed connection at a more affordable cost. These connections are scaleable in that the capacity can be increased without having to replace the physical line. The RTCs are noticing an increase in the amount of online

curriculum being utilized by constituents. As a result, customers are fully utilizing their bandwidth. Much of this content is being purchased from vendors outside of Illinois which does increase traffic at the network's Internet Egress points. The RTCs are talking with some of the vendors to consider collocating servers on the ICN backbone. By collocating the content services on the backbone, constituents will notice improved delivery of service and the network will realize a reduction in the amount of bandwidth leaving the network via the Internet Egress points.

Another interesting project is the implementation of MLPPP which is a new protocol to load balance traffic across multiple T-1 circuits. The MLPPP protocol results in a significant improvement in performance.

Todd Hart asked if the MLPPP offering was considered an additional service with an associated fee.

Robin replied there is no charge for MLPPP as it's actually to the ICN's benefit to implement.

Lori asked Robin if he could talk a little more about the metro Ethernet activities with AT&T.

RTC and Network staff have been collaborating with AT&T to plan for the expansion of metro Ethernet services within AT&T's territory. AT&T and ICN staff have evaluated current constituent's connections to identify those customers who would most likely benefit and convert to a metro Ethernet last mile connection. AT&T will begin to expand the service in Illinois based on ICN constituent need/interest. In essence, ICN constituents are providing the customer base to ensure an acceptable rate of return for AT&T's investment. ICN is also negotiating a discounted price for ICN customers based on overall volume. As AT&T expands this service within Illinois, non-ICN customers will be able to purchase the service but at a different rate.

Regional Meetings

The ICN annual regional meetings will begin in October and continue through November. The meetings are designed for both current constituents and other organizations or entities who are interested in learning more about the ICN. Meeting dates and locations can be found at www.illinois.net/meetings.

Mission Statement

Lori distributed two items that she thought people might want for this discussion. The first one was the ICN enabling legislation and the second an excerpt from the *Next Century Network Report* which included a mission statement and a vision for the network.

Jay mentioned based on the legislative powers, we're either positively or negatively impacted by the constraints or latitude of its authority. But within those confines Jay proposed that the ICN Policy Committee structure a mission statement that speaks to the evolving network. Jay suggested organizing a subcommittee together to work on drafting a mission statement that has tangible and reachable views for the next board meeting.

Kathleen Bloomberg, Todd Hart and Mike Dickson volunteered to serve on a subcommittee. Lori will convene a meeting of these individuals to begin working on a draft statement. Jay also mentioned he would like to be involved.

Todd Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chet Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried.