

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

June 16, 2008 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Submitted for: Action

Summary: Distribution of the June 16, 2008 minutes for review by the Policy Committee.

Action Requested: Adoption of the June 16, 2008 minutes.

Recommended Motion: The ICN Policy Committee adopts the June 16, 2008 minutes with any edits as noted.

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

June 16, 2008 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Greg Wass called the meeting to order:

Members present:

Greg Wass, Office of the Governor	Mike Dickson, Western Illinois University;
Anne Craig, Illinois State Library;	Scott Norton, IL State Board of Education;
Bonnie Styles, IL State Museums;	Chet Olson, Mayor of Rochelle
Todd Jorns, IL Community College Board;	Carolyn Brown Hodge, Office of the Lt. Governor
Jay Carlson, Charter Communications	

Springfield staff and guests:

Lori Sorenson, Central Management Services;	Stacey Mattera, Central Management Services;
Tom Oseland, Central Management Services;	Ted Hasara, Central Management Services;
Cindi Hitchcock, Central Management Services;	Kathleen Bloomberg, Illinois State Library
Kirk Mulvany, Central Management Services	Jay Bales, Central Management Services
Melissa Camille, Central Management Services	Lisa Griffith, Central Management Services

Chicago staff and guests:

Guy Ballard, Niles Township High School	Alan Krauss, NIU Regional Dev. Institute
Robin Woodsome, Central Management Services	

Announcements and Remarks

Greg Wass called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes

Greg introduced the first item on the agenda, the approval of the minutes from the February 25, 2008 meeting. Greg asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Chet Olson motioned that the minutes be approved. Mike Dickson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Advanced Engineering Taskforce Membership

The AET is seeking reappointment for the following members whose terms expire in June 2008. The new three year terms would extend through 2011.

- Alan Pfeifer, Sauk Valley Community College
- Charles Kline, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Greg DeYoung, Eastern Illinois University
- Troy Brown, Shawnee Library System
- Robert Dulski, Brookfield Zoo
- Louis Kirkbride, Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network

The following names were brought forth by AET members to fill vacant spots and/or replace members who have been unable to participate during their term.

- Ken Kobus, Adler Planetarium
- Steve Menken, Illinois State University
- Dr. Deanna Raineri, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Greg asked for a motion to reappoint and appoint new members of the AET, Todd Jorns motioned to reappoint and appoint the candidates as presented to the AET. Anne Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Constituent Profile – Niles Township High School

Guy Ballard, Chief Technology Officer from Niles Township High School presented this topic on the agenda. Niles High School belongs to a regional network, Skokie I Net, which includes public and private schools, the park district, a library, and the City of Skokie. Skokie I Net connects to the ICN for broadband access. Niles Township utilizes its ICN connection to assist in meeting its mission to provide a student center learning environment where every student succeeds. Mr. Ballard highlighted some of the key applications and uses of their ICN connection:

- Streaming video to every desktop in the classroom. The video content includes information and educational videos from a variety of sources including video created within the District.
- Publishing student grades in an online grade book available to students and parents. Parents can check grades as frequently as desired, track student attendance, and subscribe to an automatic email notification system should to be notified if grades fall below a certain level.
- Publishing classroom web pages. All teachers are required to have a web page with classroom policies, student expectations, homework assignments, and quiz and test schedules. The district has provided teachers with Microsoft SharePoint templates which draw teacher's schedules from the scheduling database to facilitate the process. Students can upload assignments and teachers can establish discussion boards for collaborating with students and other faculty.
- Publishing individualized learning plans. Starting with the class of 2010, an individualized learning plan is developed for each of student. The plan includes individualized goals, learning plans, standardized test scores, and academic history. The plans are accessible via the web by students, parents, teachers and counselors.
- Creating and publishing digital stories of the local senior citizens. Students and teachers work with senior citizens within the community to create a digital story of their life. These stories can include audio, video, and pictures to create a multimedia experience. The stories are published to the world wide web at www.digitalstories.org.
- Expanding professional development. The District has created a variety of training resources available via the District's website for students and faculty.
- Expanding access to administrative information. An employee web portal provides staff with access to administrative information such as salary information, personnel records, and other important forms and documents.
- Communicating with the local community. The District website is used to provide the community with access to the latest District news, calendars, contact information, and other critical information.
- Online access for the District computers. The District has a four to one student to computer ratio and maintains multimedia computer labs with connectivity to the Internet via the ICN. All three campuses offer WiFi for wireless access to the network.
- Supporting email communication. Niles provides email accounts for students and faculty.
- Central document repository. An FTP site is available for students to store documents that can easily be accessed at school or remotely without having to email documents or store them on a memory stick.
- Emergency notifications to students and parents. The District has established a system to easily activate calls and emails for rapid distribution of emergency information.

Looking to the future, Niles Township is exploring or beginning to deploy Web 2.0 applications. The district is currently exploring moving to Google applications for email, calendaring, and documents. Mr. Ballard explained that these dynamic web-based applications would only require an Internet connection, eliminating the need to install software or check for compatibility.

Illinois Rural HealthNet Overview

Alan Krauss with the NIU Regional Development Institute was present representing the Illinois Rural HealthNet initiative. In March of 2007 the Federal Communications Commission created the broadband healthcare pilot program to expand the use of E-rate funds from the Rural Healthcare program. Under the existing program participation has been lower than expected resulting in unexpended funds. The pilot project provides funding for 85% of the cost to construct regional networks to provide high-speed connectivity to rural hospitals. Funding is available to universities offering healthcare instruction, teaching hospitals, medical schools, rural nonprofit hospitals, health clinics and mental health clinics. The FCC program rules encourage multiple healthcare providers in the state to join together for the purpose of formulating and submitting proposals.

Northern Illinois University organized rural hospitals and universities from across the state to form a consortium and for the purpose of submitting a proposal to provide connectivity to 87 locations throughout the State. The Illinois Rural HealthNet proposal was awarded \$21 million over here years. The Illinois award is the third largest in the entire program.

Alan reported they are currently working closely with the state to identify funding to address the 15% local match. Efforts are also underway to establish subcommittee to focus on areas key to the overall success of the Illinois Rural HealthNet project. The committees include one focus on applications which is chaired by Deborah Seale with SIU School of Medicine. An education and outreach committee is chaired an executive from the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network. NIU is chairing the broadband technology committee. Roger Holloway from NIU is leading a sustainability committee.

In the end, The Rural HealthNet will provide gigabit speeds to as many hospitals as possible.

Network Update

Kirk Mulvany stated that the Network Services and Field Operations teams continue to work with vendors to establish affordable, higher capacity “last mile connectivity” to meet the demands of ICN constituents. The agreement reached with AT&T for the fiber based, Opt-E-MAN service has resulted in a number of constituent orders for higher capacity circuits. At this time, there are live Opt-E-MAN circuits connected to ICN POP sites in Chicago, Champaign, and Collinsville, with additional circuits ordered for Peoria, Springfield, and Chicago.

Additionally, talks have progressed with Norlight, Inc., a fiber service provider. Network Services and Field Operations teams have met with Norlight, Inc. to discuss business and technical models, and are currently working to establish an agreement to allow Norlight, Inc. to transport constituent connectivity to designated ICN POP sites.

The DWDM Equipment RFP has been posted with vendor bid responses due later this month. Network Services has worked with the Illinois Department of Transportation and Level 3 to determine fiber build work that needs to be completed for the Collinsville to Springfield and Springfield to Peoria portions of the state-owned fiber connectivity.

Network Operations staff have been working to retire the Cisco 7500 series distribution routers and replace them with Cisco 7600 series distribution routers at each of the ICN POP sites. Migration to the newer platform will help ensure that distribution routers continue to be robust enough to “stay ahead of the curve” in terms of the increasing traffic load being placed on them as the network grows.

Jay asked for an update on the Cisco contract. Lori reported that a new contract has been awarded to AT&T for a five year term with five one year renewals. The discount level remains the same for education customers; however, the discount is slightly less for local governments and health care. Jay requested that at a future meeting AT&T provide more information on the rational for the differing discount levels.

E-rate Update

Tom Oseland provided the E-rate update. As of May 31, 2008, CMS has not received any new E-rate funding reimbursements since the last Policy Committee meeting. However, on March 28, 2008, USAC issued a revised Funding Commitment Decision Letter approving funding for the ICN 2004 funding year application that had previously been denied, appealed, and then remanded by the FCC to USAC for further review.

Reimbursement request forms have been submitted to USAC for the 2004 funding year. Initial funding requests previously reported to the Policy Committee totaled \$5,474,865. Due in a large part to actual spend being significantly less than original projections, the final total of this request is \$2,497,427.

USAC has also approved the ICN 2007 funding year application in a letter dated April 8, 2008. The total amount approved is a little over \$1.1 million. This funding is for the current year which ends June 30, 2008. Once ICN E-rate eligible expenditures for the CMS fiscal year have been finalized, reimbursement requests will be calculated and E-rate forms will be processed to claim funding support for the year.

Annual Regional Meeting

Lori reported that staff will once again host a series of information meetings through the state. The meetings are scheduled for October and are designed primarily for connected constituents and focus on network plans and constituent issues/concerns.

The meeting dates are communicated to constituents via email and the ICN website.

Meeting Date and Time	Location
Thursday, October 2, 2008 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Lincoln Land Community College Springfield, IL
Wednesday, October 8, 2008 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Rend Lake College Market Place Mount Vernon, IL
Friday, October 17, 2008 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	South Suburban College South Holland, IL
Tuesday, October 21, 2008 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	College of DuPage Glen Ellyn, IL
Wednesday, October 29, 2008 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Sauk Valley Community College Dixon, IL
Friday, October 31, 2008 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Harper College Palatine, IL

Jay reported that he plans to attend the College of DuPage meeting, Chet mentioned he will try to attend in Dixon and Greg stated he will try to attend in Palatine.

Meeting adjourned.