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***RIC Region 2 Meeting Minutes***  
***Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems Board***  
Regional Interoperability Committee Monthly Meeting  
July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - 2:00 PM

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Conference Call to Listen 866-685-1580, 850-060-6706#  
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**Call to Order – Conference Line**

**Roll Call**

Marilyn Stayner, Worth county; Chris Maiers, SWIC; Ethan Vanous, Admin ISICSB; Steve Vandenbrink, Winneshiek County; Charlene Schmidt, Decorah; Creighton Cox, Olson Associates; Cherese Sexi, Humboldt County; AJ Seely, Chickasaw County; Jason Schluttenhofer Wright County

**Introduction of RIC members**

Brian Blodgett, Chair  
Joel Rohne, Vice Chair

**Chair / Vice Chair – Welcoming Remarks**

SWIC Chris Maiers gave a quick introduction. SWIC Maiers has been a part of the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) since early May. SWIC Maiers was with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) where he was an Environmental Specialist before joining the ISICSB team. Prior to the DNR, SWIC Maiers was an Operational Meteorologist with Channel 5 in Des Moines.

Right now, SWIC Maiers is focusing on reaching out to departments to see what their interoperability needs are as ISICSB drafts policies for the Iowa Statewide Communications System (ISICS) and also exploring the realm of FirstNet and the concerns and wish lists potential users may have.

**Approval of Today's Agenda**

Vice Chair Rohne made a motion to approve the agenda. Marylyn seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.

### **Approval of Last Month's Meeting Minutes – N/A this month**

Chair Blodgett mentioned that last month's meeting was less than stellar due to some confusion and the time of the meeting.

### **FirstNet Updates**

Chair Blodgett shared that he was able to attend the FirstNet opt-in press conference and signing at the Iowa State Capital on Tuesday July 18. By opting-in, Governor Kim Reynolds made Iowa the fifth State to opt-in to the FirstNet network.

SWIC Maiers explained that, as of now, the priority aspect of FirstNet should be working for all of our first responders who are registered within the FirstNet realm. The preemption part of the FirstNet network will be coming at some point in December of 2017. There are some upgrades that AT&T has to do to their cores in order to make preemption a reality. It is important to note as well that the network expansion timeline is now active. The slides that were in Iowa's State Plan that showed AT&T network maps representing coverage date of opt-in, 12 months after opt-in, 24 months and 36 months after opt-in are now in effect. For Iowa, the bulk of the network expansion will happen between year two and three. Thirty-six months from now, band 14 should be quite prevalent across the State if not covering nearly the entire state. AT&T's goal is 95% service with download speeds of 760 kilobits and upload speeds of around 256 kilobits with a reliability around 95%. That is the approximate end goal of the LTE network. After year five, AT&T will most likely be looking to expand 5G. AT&T has not given much detail into this as of yet.

SWIC Maiers mentions that there are some devices out there that can take advantage of band 14. But, those devices will not do much good in Iowa until the band 14 network is built out. Any AT&T device that is relatively new should be able to access FirstNet on the priority side of things. For those agencies looking to make a cost effective decision, maintaining the status quo with the current carrier may be the option and once the maps and coverage starts expanding in your arear, perhaps the move to the FirstNet network may be advantages.

Chair Blodgett asked SWIC Maiers if he wanted to get a phone today, ultimately at this point it doesn't do a ton of good until more of the build out is complete. SWIC Maiers explained that the question may be an over simplification. You would still get the priority aspect of the FirstNet network. It's nonsensical to sign a contract with FirstNet if it's not active and reliable in your area as far as coverage and capacity. Thirty-six

months from now, coverage will be vastly different from now with the continued buildout of the FirstNet network. As of right now, the network is about 75% built in Iowa and AT&T will have to fill in the coverage gaps in the rural areas. There are currently more and more broadband mobile applications that are coming into view.

SWIC Maiers noted that one thing that he would like to see this year is to have some basic broadband demonstrations at the state fair or large college football games and possibly phase in some of the concepts and uses of public safety mobile applications in those instances.

SWIC Maiers made sure everyone knows that there are some significant penalties for AT&T if they do not buildout the network in the timeline that they are obligated to do from the date of sign on. SWIC Maiers verified this with Federal FirstNet representatives. The representatives plan to fully hold AT&T accountable for expanding the network in States even if they are less populated than other areas around the country. SWIC Maiers was asked if the infrastructure included the Data Centers for each of the regions. SWIC Maiers advised that he is unfamiliar with this but can reach out to Iowa's FirstNet contact to see what their thoughts are on the Data Centers being included in the infrastructure.

## **LMR – ISICS Updates**

Chair Blodgett noted that additional towers are continually being built. The new radio sites being built in region 2 are in Allamakee, Fayette, Franklin and Howard Counties. These sites were noted in the ISICSB newsletter as sites in the process of being built.

SWIC Maiers mentions that the ISICS Platform is still in the buildout phases and have not had a whole lot of new happenstances across Iowa with the exception of Woodbury County going live using ISICS for operations and interoperability. There are currently only a few sites not currently locked in, but those are in the final processes to begin building those sites. Nearly all the sites have the regulatory proceedings taken care of and from there, steel and concrete can be ordered which will in turn be the start of tower builds. A lot of these towers will be completed in the next couple of months and the acceptance testing will start once they are completed. Motorola is still on track to complete all towers by the end of December of 2017 with acceptance testing completed approximately around July of 2018. Once acceptance testing is completed on all sites, the system will officially be live throughout the state. Policies are continually being developed and looked at by ISICSB. Encryption is also being looked at by ISICSB on interoperable talk groups. SWIC Maiers is assembling a team to figure out what exactly the usage of encryption would be, consist of and then

determine what devices would be needed. A device list will hopefully be out by or before final acceptance testing is completed. Devices and policies are contingent on if encryption on interoperable talk groups is necessary. SWIC Maiers hopes that he can have something outlined on paper that is comprehensive in its approach regarding encryption in about 2-3 years from the time the committee starts meeting.

Chair Blodgett noted additional items regarding LMR. In the last User Group meeting, a couple of additional agencies requested to join the ISICS platform. Their applications were reviewed by the User Group Committee (UGC) and will be brought to the August ISICSB Board Meeting. More and more agencies are looking to join the ISICS system due to the interoperability aspect of it.

Vice Chair Rohne noted that the FAA is starting to decommission some towers along the I-35 corridor. The hope is to swoop in and obtain a tower for LMR use that is located in Vice Chair Rohne's county. Wright County may be gearing up to obtain one of the decommissioned towers as well. For the counties that have not looked, it may be beneficial to look and see if there is a decommissioned tower in your area. Chair Blodgett explained that the LMR system is set up to have 95% on street mobile coverage. Chair Blodgett asked Vice Chair Rohne to explain what his county is looking for in coverage and what they are doing to achieve it. Vice Chair Rohne described that his county decided to adopt LMR for their day to day communications. The fire departments have decided to do this as well. Vice Chair Rohne is looking at doing 12 DB across 85% of the county and -6 to -12 DB would be the in building coverage. The county has been working with Motorola to get heat maps in place.

Chair Blodgett reiterated that if there is anyone interested in reviewing some of the standards and policies, as they are being distributed, to let Chair Blodgett know so the whole group does not have to be buried in the standards and policies paperwork.

SWIC Maiers mentioned that Outreach Specialist Shawn Wagner and Admin Ethan Vanous are working on redesigning the ISICS website for joining the ISICS platform. Testing is ongoing regarding the forms section of the site. The estimated time of completion for this project is in a couple of weeks. As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, the new ISICS join site is up and running, you can find it by going to the original ISICSB website and click the join button on the menu link on the main page.

<https://isicsb.iowa.gov/iowa-statewide-interoperable-communications-system-isics>

## Interoperability Updates

SWIC Maiers gave a brief update regarding interoperability. SWIC Maiers was just on a SAFECOM call and they are releasing their new nationwide survey this fall and wanting a large response. Look for an email from SWIC Maiers coming in August or September when the survey is released. The reason this is important is that the last survey they conducted similar to this was in 2006. The answers that they receive are going to shape the conversation going forward for the next five to ten years regarding priorities, funding, LMR, broadband and needs of large and small departments. Decisions will then be made at the Federal level and trickle down to States and Local levels.

### **RIC Outreach Efforts**

Vice Chair Rohne mentioned that he and the ICIT group ran into Shawn and Ethan at the ITAG Conference where great conversations were had regarding interoperability in Iowa.

Admin Vanous mentioned that he and Outreach Specialist Wagner have decided to put the Public Safety Mobile Application Summit on hold for the time being. The decision was made to put this summit on hold until after Iowa joins FirstNet and after vendors come out with mobile apps that are compatible with the FirstNet network. Once the mobile application become more available and vendors start to show interest in developing FirstNet capable mobile apps, the Outreach Team will start strategizing a mobile app summit.

### **RIC Action Target**

RIC action target is important in trying to get representation on the RIC's from every county in the region. Chair Blogdett is going around to a couple fire meetings over the next couple of months continuing to provide internal information and making sure that there is representation from all over the county.

Vice Chair Rohne mention that ITAG will be have a class at the end of August in which a few members get together and talk to the elected officials where FirstNet and ISICS will be brought up and explained. The county IT folks are looking to do an "Octoberfest" in October. Information on this will be forthcoming.

### **Other Reports**

No report.

### **Old Business**

No report.

### **New Business**

The next RIC 2 meeting may not have a lot of participation due to a few other events that will be overlapping the week of August 22.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Next Meeting – *Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2PM***

### **Motion to Adjourn – Adjournment**

Marylyn made motion to adjourn. Steve seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.