



Dina McKenna, Chair
Thomas Lampe, Vice-Chair

John R. Benson
Homeland Security &
Emergency Management

Tom Berger
Epworth Volunteer Fire
Department

Tom Boeckmann
Department of Public Health

Bridget Edson
Floyd County Emergency
Management

Judy Flores
Black Hawk Consolidated
Communications Center

Ted Kamatchus
Marshall County Sheriff's
Office

Tom Lampe
Department of Public Safety

Jason Leonard
Waverly Police Department

Dina McKenna
Story County Sheriff's Office

Ron Miller
Member At-Large

Sandy Morris
Des Moines Police
Department Communications

Rick Roe
Clive Fire Department

Jason Sandholdt
Department of Natural
Resources

Patrick Urdike
Department of Corrections

Robert A. Younie
Department of
Transportation

Legislative Members
Senator Joni Ernst
Senator Tom Hancock
Representative Joel Fry
Representative Bob Kressig

Jim Bogner
Statewide Interoperability
Coordinator

July 5, 2012

Commission's Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20002

Quarterly Report #9 by 700 MHz Waiver Recipient – Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB)

By FCC Waiver Order 10-79, 700 MHz waiver recipients are required to file quarterly reports advising the FCC of progress in building-out a conditionally approved 700 MHz public safety wireless broadband system. Therefore, ISICSB reports as follows:

I. Planning

A. The ISICSB applied for, but was not awarded a BTOP grant. That factor substantially set-back Iowa's planned build-out of a 700 MHz public safety broadband network during the originally anticipated period.

B. Now, with the passage and signing of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Spectrum Act) legislation in February, 2012 creating the structure and process for the build-out of a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), some of ISICSB's planning activities have been appropriately suspended pending further guidance from the FCC, NTIA, and FirstNet. However, the ISICSB is actively engaged with the PSST-OAC (Operators Advisory Committee) in monitoring the progress of the NPSBN, participating in working and feedback groups and providing input and comments to the FCC and NTIA.

C. Planning activities have included:

- The ISICSB has been an active member of the PSST-OAC (Public Safety Spectrum Trust-Operators Advisory Committee), and active in discussions with the FCC, PSCR (Public Safety Communications Research), BTOP Grant recipients, NTIA, DHS/OEC (Office of Emergency Communications), National Governors Association (NGA), NCSWIC (National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators), and others in promoting the development and refinement of rules, regulations, and requirements for this new and evolving technology and now the NPSBN;



Dina McKenna, Chair
Thomas Lampe, Vice-Chair

- Engaging in dialogue with the FCC and NTIA; accumulating industry information related to the required technology and architecture; and attending specifically focused NPSBN informational and planning conferences, including the recent APCO Broadband Summit and NGA Broadband conference;
- The ISICSB participated in responding to NTIA's RFI regarding conditions and requirements for the upcoming legislatively mandated planning grants and hopes to secure the necessary planning grant funds for a comprehensive study in preparation for the NPSBN and FirstNet's national architecture requirements;
- The ISICSB issued an RFI (Request for Information) on July 1, 2011 to explore Iowa's build-out options under its waiver. The ISICSB developed a Master Plan to build-out a public safety 700 MHz land-mobile radio (LMR) statewide backbone. With this broadband waiver, issued in 2010, the ISICSB desires to build-out a complementary 700 MHz public safety broadband network, which is why it sought the FCC waiver. The RFI sought information on both components to update our plan with this new waiver capability and hopefully lead to a funding strategy to implement that plan. As a result of the NPSBN legislation, an appropriate level of this planning activity has been accordingly suspended.
- Additional planning activities have included:
 - Communicating with public safety officials and industry representatives at national meetings as well as within Iowa.
 - ISICSB has attended every meeting involving the waiver recipients hosted by the PSCR in Boulder, CO;
 - ISICSB attended the APCO Broadband Summit in Washington, DC in May, 2012 and the NGA Broadband Conference in June, 2012 as part of its planning activities;
 - The ISICSB sponsored a DHS/OEC statewide Broadband 101 Workshop in March, 2012 to educate Iowa's public safety and elected officials on this emerging technology and the new legislation;
 - In July, 2012, the ISICSB will distribute a follow-up DHS/OEC designed broadband needs assessment survey to Iowa's public safety officials statewide in preparation for the NPSBN;
- ISICSB issued an RFP in May, 2012 soliciting proposals for one or more short duration broadband 'Demonstration Projects' using LTE technology in Iowa for 2012 to educate and demonstrate LTE capabilities to Iowa's public safety and elected officials in preparation for FirstNet's stand-up and the NPSBN. Response proposals were selected and ISICSB hopes to hold such 'Demonstration Projects' in August, 2012 and over the following six month period.



Dina McKenna, Chair
Thomas Lampe, Vice-Chair

The ISICSB filed comments to and appeared in-person at the FCC in May, 2012 in support of its strong belief that it is essential that the FCC transitions its Waiver to FirstNet to allow it to continue planning as described above for the successful deployment of one anchor state of the NPSBN.

II. Funding

- A. As previously advised, the ISICSB applied for BTOP grant funds to provide the much needed catalyst for a build-out of a wireless broadband public safety project. Unfortunately, Iowa was not awarded any such funds.
- B. As a result of not receiving BTOP grant funds, the ISICSB and officials in Iowa have been re-examining funding solutions, in connection with the planning activities noted above. In January, 2012, the ISICSB held a statewide funding strategies workshop to involve public safety and elected officials in exploring funding solutions for our LMR and broadband build-outs.
- C. The Iowa Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) continues to meet with the Board's legislative members to develop a suitable funding strategy and seek multi-year funding for a comprehensive statewide public safety network. In 2011, this was not successful due to the substantial shortfall in state revenues, the economy, and the focus on the December 31, 2012 FCC narrowbanding mandate. The FCC mandate remains with a deadline of this year-end. It is hoped that as the economy and state revenues improve and the narrowbanding mandate is addressed, appropriate funds can be found in the 2013 legislative session. Additionally, should funds become available through the forthcoming NTIA NPSBN planning grant or other grants, the ISICSB will apply for any such funding.
- D. Clearly the amount of funding required will depend on the final NPSBN model developed by FirstNet and ISICSB awaits that required information.

III. Deployment

- A. Any deployment timetable will now depend on the NPSBN network, as developed by FirstNet. NTIA has suspended LTE equipment build-outs of its BTOP recipients, as has FEMA through its grant process. Therefore, the ISICSB will not undertake any deployment until FirstNet is stood-up and the appropriate guidance is received. The ISICSB is actively engaged in the activities of the PSST-OAC and awaits the outcome of the FirstNet network design.



Dina McKenna, Chair
Thomas Lampe, Vice-Chair

Site development, including use of existing towers

- A. This planning is on hold pending the outcome of FirstNet's guidance and requirements for the NPSBN. No additional site acquisitions or developments are planned until that appropriate information is received.

Deployments and upgrades (commencement and completion), including site information and location

- B. Projected deployment timelines will be better known after FirstNet issues its network plan.
- C. The ISICSB did not submit an Interoperability Showing as it is not in a position for immediate build-out, as explained above.

Applications in development or in use

- A. None at present time.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bogner
Iowa Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems Board (ISICSB)