

MINUTES**JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY****Thursday, November 8, 2012****1:30 p.m.****Room 171, State Capitol****Little Rock, Arkansas**

The Joint Interim Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology met on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 1:30 p.m., in Room 151 of the State Capitol, in Little Rock, Arkansas. The following committee members attended:

Representatives Mike Patterson, Chair; Sheilla Lampkin, Vice Chair; Greg Leding, and Karen Hopper.

Also attending: Representatives Tommy Baker, Toni Bradford, David Powers, Johnnie Roebuck, and Jeff Wardlaw.

Representative Patterson called the meeting to order. He recognized members-elect; Mr. Joe Jett, District 56, and Mr. Charles Armstrong, District 30.

Consideration to approve Minutes of October 18, 2012 [Exhibit B]

Without objection, the motion was approved by the Committee.

Review of the Department of Information Systems (DIS) Proposed Rate Adjustments Report [Exhibit C]

Ms. Claire Bailey, Director, Department of Information Systems (DIS), was recognized and gave a brief overview of the Proposed Rate Adjustments Report. She stated that DIS is required to have the rate adjustments reviewed by the committee and acts in accordance with federal guidelines given by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for individual cost allocations. She noted that rate changes, new rates and services were added.

In response to a question by Representative Mike Patterson regarding the number of filled positions in DIS, Ms. Bailey replied that DIS has 257 authorized positions with 234 positions currently filled.

Representative Greg Leding made the motion to approve the Proposed Rate Adjustments Report. Without objection, the motion was approved by the Committee.

Review of the DIS Advice and Recommendations Report (Quarter ending September 30, 2012) [Exhibit D]

Ms. Claire Bailey was again recognized and gave a brief overview of the Advice and Recommendations Report. She stated the quarterly report contains questions, answers, and the different types of services provided to state agencies boards and commissions. The report is provided to the Committee for review, and will help move the State forward with looking at technology from an enterprise view point.

Representative Leding made the motion to approve the Advice and Recommendations Report. Without objection, the motion was approved by the Committee.

Status of ConnectArkansas Projects and Outlook for 2013

Mr. Sam Walls, President, ConnectArkansas, was recognized. He stated that legislation passed by the General Assembly charged ConnectArkansas with preparing the people and businesses of Arkansas to fully utilize the capabilities of internet technology. Mr. Walls informed the Committee that ConnectArkansas is an education operation and its principle objective is to change Arkansas' ranking in terms of the percentage of the population that uses technology by exposing them to applications. According to Mr. Walls, an individual's age, income level, and education level are the 3 principle driving factors behind individuals utilization of the internet. He noted that Arkansas is challenged in all three of these areas.

Mr. Sam Walls shared the annual ConnectArkansas report via video presentation as presented to the ConnectArkansas board members and the Arkansas high-speed internet service providers.

According to Mr. Walls, the Marketing Subcommittee of the Connect board is running advertisements with 114 newspapers, 47 radio stations, and 3 television stations targeting non-internet users across the 57 counties where ConnectArkansas is providing funding. An annual report will be produced for 2012, with a December publication date. ConnectArkansas will continue to issue news releases and conduct media outreach to inform everyone about Connects program updates and success stories. ConnectArkansas' mapping and planning grant includes funding to develop a comprehensive, state-level, broadband strategic plan process that is highly collaborative and representative of diverse stakeholders. The first meeting of this Coalition was September 10th. One of the goals of the Coalition is to have an agreed upon process on how to develop strategies to guide the State in moving forward with broadband adoption, deployment, an access in the coming years. Mr. Walls stated that many guests and Committee members that attended the meeting agreed to serve on a Super Committee that was formed. Since then, a need for a subcommittee of that group was identified. According to Mr. Walls, ConnectArkansas' role has been to staff and help volunteers facilitate the process. He noted that those committees have been meeting regularly since September 10th. Mr. Walls informed the Committee that the next ConnectArkansas board meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2012.

[Handout #1]

Ms. Marie Bruno, Vice President, ConnectArkansas, was recognized. She gave a brief update on Arkansas' Broadband Plan. She stated that the Super Committee met on September 19th. Ms. Bruno stated that some of the discussions included providing incentives to service providers to do more with broadband deployment. From these discussions, the subcommittee met on September 24th, October 1st, October 16th, and November 1st. Ms. Bruno stated that the Super Committee and subcommittee's vision statement was created and states that, "Arkansans will have available, affordable, and adequate broadband throughout the State". The Committees would like to present the Arkansas Broadband Strategies document to the full Coalition that met on September 10th when completed. Ms. Bruno concluded by stating that the next subcommittee meeting will be held on December 15th.

Mr. Walls stated that ConnectArkansas is a marketing program for the service providers. ConnectArkansas recognized from the outset that the broadband issue was a significant problem for the State, noting that this issue needs to be a noncontroversial subject. He concluded by stating that Arkansans have to depend on the providers to make this happen.

Joe Molinaro, Executive Director, Arkansas Cable Telecommunications Association (ACTA), was recognized. Mr. Molinaro stated that 4-members of ACTA sit on ConnectArkansas' board. He noted that ConnectArkansas plays a vital role with getting information to individuals that help the economy, ACTA, the education system, and telehealth.

Mr. Shelby Johnson, State Geographic Information Officer (GIS) was recognized. Mr. Johnson explained his handout by stating that GIS created an application to display House and Senate district maps for legislators. This tool is also available to the general public. The handout provides detailed instructions on how to install the application on a Smartphone. Mr. Johnson volunteered and will assist Committee members with loading the application, as needed. **[Handout #2]**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.