

MINUTES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Jointly

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

2:00 PM

Oaklawn Event Center, Ballroom B, 2705 Central Avenue, Hot Springs

Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Ronald Caldwell, Chair; Matt Stone, Vice-Chair; and Breanne Davis; Representatives Jack Fortner, Chair; Roger D. Lynch, Vice-Chair; Brandon Achor, Howard M. Beaty Jr., Bruce Cozart, Ron McNair, and DeAnn Vaught

Other members present: Senators Linda Chesterfield, and Mark Johnson; Representatives Brian Evans, Jon Eubanks, Jimmy Gazaway, Rick McClure, and Johnny Rye

Senator Caldwell called the meeting to order.

Comments by Committee Chairs

Representative Fortner welcomed the committee.

Consideration to Approve the Minutes from the February 9, 2024, Meeting [Exhibit C]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Update on Arkansas Broadband Office New Portal

Glenn Howie, Director of Broadband, Arkansas Department of Commerce and Philip Powell, Federal Program Officer, United States Department of Commerce, gave an update on the current Arkansas Broadband Office initiatives. They discussed federal funding opportunities such as the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, which is providing funding for infrastructure planning and implementation of high-speed internet access.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.