MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Morrison at 3:35 P.M. on January 22, 2008, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Dan Johnson, Lee Tafanelli, Kenny Wilk, and Stan Frownfelter, all of whom were excused.

Committee staff present:
      Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research
      Jennifer Thierer, Kansas Legislative Research
      Renae Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
      Gary Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
      Eldon Rightmeier, Deputy Director, Bureau of Telecommunications, Division of Information Systems and Communications

Others attending:
      See attached list.

The minutes for the January 16, 2008, meeting were approved. (Motion, Representative Mah; second, Representative Kelley)

Representative Kelley commented that the Taxpayer Transparency Act passed by the Committee the previous session has become model legislation for other states and has been recognized by the federal government for its emphasis on taxpayer access to government information. She suggested that, because of the historic significance of the bill, the Committee might wish to re-introduce the bill so that members could sign on as co-sponsors. After some discussion as to protocol, the consensus of the Committee was that if there are no objections to such a procedure, the Committee will go forward with Representative Kelley's suggestion. Staff Renae Jefferies noted that the bill is **HB 2647**.

Eldon Rightmeier, Deputy Director, Bureau of Telecommunications, Division of Information Systems and Communications (DISC), traced the history of communications from voice networks (regulated, universal) to data networks (unregulated, not universal), stating that a new framework is on the horizon to merge voice, data, and video into one system called Unified Communications (Attachment 1). He commented that Kansas is facing two important questions: Should we move to UC? And how, what, and when do we move into UC? He noted that consultants (Gartner Group, Forrester Research, Calence) advise that a cultural shift is required, upgrading both the service delivery organization as well as the service delivery infrastructure. He explained that UC does not advance an existing technology, but transforms technology.

Members commented that VoIP (Voice-over IP) and using KANWIN (Kansas Wide-area Information Network) rather than commercial networks for KAN-Ed are presently prohibited by statute and would require statutory changes.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Government Efficiency and Technology Committee at 3:30 P.M. on January 22, 2008, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Mr. Rightmeier continued, saying that presently DISC is upgrading its systems to meet the requirements of UC. He stated that different agencies are presently considering differing system platforms upon which to build UC, a process that will seriously compromise state-wide interoperability for communications. He said what is needed is a UC strategy to obviate a "Swiss-army-knife" deployment by agencies, which will create islands of communication within the state. He noted that many voice systems are becoming obsolete and will soon not be supported by vendors. He listed a number of state departments that are currently considering upgrades, a direction which may make the agency systems incompatible with each other.

In discussing the consolidation of the KANWIN and the KAN-Ed networks, Mr. Rightmeier said the merging of the two networks will be completed by June 2010. Members queried Mr. Rightmeier regarding the consolidation project, to which he gave the following answers:

- UC will cross all branches of government.
- The federal government is pushing for migration to IPV6, but DISC is not yet ready for those standards.
- There are about 12,000 voice mail boxes in the state and about 50-75 stand-alone voice mail systems.
- If a unified platform is built, it could include the Regents institutions.
- The present cost of KAN-Ed maintenance is $5 million for 300 connected sites, and for KANWIN a cost of $2.7 million for 500 connected sites, a total of $7.7 million for 800 sites. Consolidation will result a total cost of $6.1 million with 1200 connected sites, a savings of $1.6 million and the addition of 400 sites, all on one standardized platform.
- The consolidated platform will not be able to accommodate Regents' traffic, which is carried by KANREN (Kansas Education and Research Network).

A member recommended including KANREN in the consolidation; Mr. Rightmeier said that, even though KANREN was a private network, the recommendation would be considered.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2008.