

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:08 a.m. on February 2, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Forrest Knox - Excused

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Jo Cook, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: Janet Bathurst, S & A Telephone Company, Allen, KS

Others attending: See Attached List

Chairman Holmes welcomed Janet Bathurst, who was appearing before the committee on behalf of the Kansas Rural Independent Telephone Companies. Ms. Bathurst shared a video presentation produced by the rural telephone companies as a promotional program. Additionally, Ms. Bathurst shared the accomplishments achieved as well as outlining the difficulties faced in providing reliable service to everyone in the sparsely populated areas of the state (Attachment 1). Also distributed to committee members were maps (both of which are available through Kansas Legislative Research Department). The maps showed the broadband areas as provided by the independent telephone companies and the Kansas Corporation Commission provided a map of Kansas that defined the telephone exchange areas. Archie Masias, Wheat State Telephone, shared information on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Ms. Bathurst responded to questions from the committee.

Chairman Holmes asked for bill introductions. Representative Kuether moved to introduce a committee bill that would address interconnect issues between the wireline and wireless carriers. Representative Sloan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A request was made to have Staff collect information about interconnect agreements already in place.

Representative Sloan updated the committee on the Federal Communication Commission's position on enhanced 911 VoIP.

The meeting adjourned at 10:19.

The next meeting is Thursday, February 3, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.