

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

June 19-20, 2002
Room 531-N—Statehouse
Kansas Expocentre

Members Present

Senator Tim Huelskamp, Chairperson
Representative Jim Morrison, Vice-Chairperson
Senator Paul Feleciano
Senator Larry Salmans
Representative Tom Burroughs
Representative Doug Gatewood

Staff

Richard Hays, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Robert Chapman, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees

Bruce Roberts, Executive Chief Information Technology Officer
Rick Miller, Chief Information Technology Architect
Ken Nelson, Manager, Data Access and Support Center, Geographical
Information Systems
William Sanders, Chief Information Officer, and Director, Division of Employment
Security, Kansas Department of Human Resources

Wednesday, June 19 Morning Session

The morning meeting was scheduled to coincide with the Kansas Technology Showcase at the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka. Senator Huelskamp moderated the keynote presentation with a panel of government and private-sector leaders addressing the

topic, "The Future of Broadband Communication in Rural Kansas." Panelists included Kevin Krufky, staff for U.S. Senator Sam Brownback; Joel Bannister, staff for U.S. Representative Jerry Moran; Jon Cody, Federal Communications Commission; Representative Carl Holmes, Chairperson, Kansas House Utilities Committee; Senator Karin Brownlee, Chairperson, Kansas Senate Commerce Committee; John Wine, Chair, Kansas Corporation Commission; Randy Tomlin, President, Kansas Southwestern Bell; Jay Allbaugh, Cox Communications; Howard Siegel, IP Communications; Kendall Mikesell, Kansas Independent Telephone Companies; and Mike Lura, Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board. Following a video presentation by U.S. Senator Sam Brownback addressing the difficulty of reaching the "last mile" for broadband internet deployment, panelists discussed how best to accomplish more rapid expansion into rural areas of Kansas. Answers varied: let the market control deployment; deregulate telecommunications; assure parity for all members of the communication industry to equalize competition; form a public/private partnership.

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session was held in Room 531-N of the Statehouse. Bruce Roberts, Executive Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO), introduced Rick Miller, Chief Information Technology Architect and Director of the Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO). Mr. Miller reviewed the latest state three-year Strategic Information Management (SIM) Plan, a document which provides governance, policy, control, management, coordination, and implementation for information technology for Kansas agencies (Attachment 1). He said the SIM Plan includes a vision to enable every Kansas citizen to have access to all the services and information of government and to make Kansas government more efficient and effective. He said the three-year plan is an evolving, dynamic document that allows Kansas to keep abreast of advancing technology.

Mr. Miller responded to questions and concerns of Committee members. He noted that the Information Technology Advisory Board (ITAB) includes a member from Southwestern Bell, which was of concern to some members. He said the SIM Plan allows a waiver from established standards, but to date only one variance has been granted, with the Department of Health and Environment (DHE) allowed to maintain a noncompliant interface with county health departments. Regarding a Department of Agriculture project that a Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee learned of late in the 2002 Session, Mr. Roberts said the project was approved by the Executive CITO in January 2002, but that, since the JCIT did not meet during the legislative session, members probably did not know of the project. Members of the Committee requested a list of those state agencies which were not participating in the SIM Plan.

Mr. Miller noted that 83 of the 127 agencies were 100 percent compliant with the SIM Plan and that JCIT oversight of projects encouraged agency attentiveness to the SIM standards. He said the KITO presently is tracking 35 projects in 14 agencies, with costs totaling \$117 million. He noted that the KITO has been exercising more oversight for agency projects, requiring agencies to upgrade twilight architecture, to provide accurate cost-benefit analysis, and to submit to peer review at the close of a project. Members expressed concern regarding escalating costs and ostensibly unproductive consultants. The

Chairperson noted that a proviso in SB 517 passed by the 2002 Legislature provides for JCIT authority to review certain agency hardware purchases (Attachment 2). Regarding terrorist threats, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Miller said each agency has contingency plans, but these do not cover the statewide network. Senator Salmans expressed concern that the new 800 MHz statewide radio system is ineffective, especially in some rural areas of Western Kansas.

Ken Nelson, Manager, Data Access and Support Center, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), demonstrated GIS services, which include interface with federal data banks, web-based information to state agencies, coordination with local government entities, and emergency management (Attachment 3). Answering questions, Mr. Nelson said GIS is budgeted primarily through the Kansas Water Office.

William Sanders, Director, Division of Employment Security, Department of Human Resources (DHR), reported on the implementation of the TABS Project (Tax Appeals Benefits Self-Service) that has helped with the increased workload for Unemployment Insurance (Attachment 4). He estimates that, because of the economy, the current calendar year will produce 190,000 initial claims, 300,000 inquiries, 100,000 determinations, and 20,000 appeals, a 30 percent increase from last year and an 80 percent increase from two years ago. He noted that TABS on-line service will help train and retain state employees, level the workload, and reduce appeals, as well as provide an interface with Kansas JobLink, the agency's on-line employment service. Answering questions, Mr. Sanders said there are 120,000 job seekers, but only 3,000 employers use the JobLink site. Members requested information regarding the location of these 3,000 employers, and requested a cost-benefit analysis of the TABS project.

Thursday, June 20 Morning Session

The JCIT reconvened in the Wheat Room, Maner Conference Center, Kansas Expocentre. Bruce Roberts reviewed the bi-monthly agency project reports for the period of March-April 2002 (Attachment 5). He noted that the report's format has been revised for easier comprehension, is available on the Internet, and that JCIT members would be included for e-mail notices when future reports are published. He said agencies submit the data 15 days after the end of a reporting period, and that the report is released within one month. Summarizing the current report, he said the KITO is tracking 31 agency projects, with costs totaling \$117 million. The four most expensive projects total \$74.9 million: the Department of Transportation's 800 MHz radio project, \$34 million; the Social and Rehabilitation Services' Medicaid Management Information System, \$26 million; the University of Kansas Student Information System, \$14 million; and the DHR TABS project, \$5.5 million. Other projects range from \$0.5 million to \$4.0 million.

Mr. Roberts answered questions and received various requests from the Committee. He said the DOT Electronic Accident Data Collection and Reporting system is a good example of interagency cooperation between Kansas Highway Patrol, DOT, and local units of government. Senator Salmans requested a briefing regarding statewide radio

communication problems, noting one consequence of the move to the 800 MHz system has been to dismantle radio towers still needed in areas of Western Kansas. Senator Feleciano, noting that the Executive CITO evaluates projects, requested a list of projects that have been rejected. Representative Gatewood, commenting on the Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations, encouraged the Division of Information Systems and Communications (DISC) to be involved with the Council. Senator Huelskamp inquired about funding agency projects, whether CITO approval or budgetary authority comes first. Mr. Roberts said that before any project begins, the agency submits a DA 506, which outlines the financing of the project. However, he noted some agencies, in anticipating approval, include the project when submitting their budget requests. Members discussed tracking agency budgets. Staff observed the difficulty of relating a specific project to funding sources for interagency projects, such as the aerial photo project.

Answering further questions, Mr. Roberts said the state's current budget shortfall has delayed some projects, but none had been canceled. When asked why not hire a single consultant for all Regents institution administration and information systems, Mr. Roberts said his authority is limited to individual projects. Only the Board of Regents has authority to require integration of IT projects. *Senator Feleciano made a motion, seconded by Representative Burroughs, requesting a letter be drafted recommending that the Regents build an integrated administrative and student information system for all Regents institutions, thus reducing costs and increasing intercommunication. The motion passed.* The motion applies to the six Regents universities and the Medical Center, but does not include community colleges or Washburn University.

Members requested further briefing on the Department of Revenue's on-line vehicle registration project, the SRS Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS), and KU's Student Information System. Representative Morrison commended Mr. Roberts on assistance provided in the Committee's work. Senator Salmans requested a statement about DOT as to why the agency does not permit a siren on its 800 MHz towers. Senator Feleciano requested information regarding the lack of employer participation in the DHR JobLink site.

Next, the Committee attended a presentation by Lt. Col. Bill Flynt, United States Army Director for Homeland Security, after which the Committee was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, August 22-23, 2002.

Prepared by Gary Deeter
Edited by Julian Efir

Approved by Committee on:

August 22, 2002