

**MINUTES
of the
FOURTH MEETING
of the
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**September 4, 2007
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

The fourth meeting of the Information Technology and Telecommunications Oversight Committee (ITTOC) was called to order by Representative Debbie A. Rodella, chair, at 10:00 a.m. at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Present

Rep. Debbie A. Rodella, Chair
Rep. Janice E. Arnold-Jones
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Rep. Don L. Tripp
Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varela
Rep. Richard D. Vigil
Rep. Peter Wirth

Absent

Sen. John Arthur Smith, Vice Chair
Sen. Rod Adair
Sen. Vernon D. Asbill

Advisory Members

Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros
Sen. Kent L. Cravens
Rep. Kathy A. McCoy
Sen. William H. Payne
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

Rep. Elias Barela
Sen. Mark Boitano
Sen. Pete Campos
Sen. Phil A. Griego
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino

Staff

Mark Guillen, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Manu Patel, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC)
Ralph Vincent, LCS
Doug Williams, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Copies of all handouts and written testimony are in the meeting file.

Tuesday, September 4

The minutes of the August 10, 2007 meeting were approved.

Welcome from the University of New Mexico (UNM)

—David Schmidley, President, UNM

President Schmidley welcomed the committee to UNM. He stated that he will be attending the Lambda Rail meetings.

Representative Varela stressed the importance of cooperation between UNM and the Public Education Department (PED).

President Schmidley responded that UNM is expanding its recruiting efforts to encourage more New Mexico high school graduates to attend UNM.

Representative Rodella thanked the president for hosting the committee.

Networking Activities; Federal, State and Metro Areas

—Moira Gerety, Director, Information Technology Services

—Barney Maccabe, CIO

Current university efforts at the national level include:

- Internet 2:
 - original high-speed research network;
 - infrastructure not owned; and
 - acceptable use policy in place.
- Lambda Rail:
 - UNM sits on the board on behalf of the State of New Mexico;
 - national and international high-speed network;
 - operational since last year;
 - business goal to be self-sustaining; and
 - merger discussions with 12 have been on the table.

University efforts in the metro area include:

- west side campus (education);
- south campus (research);
- Mesa del Sol (digital media);
- Sandia National Laboratories (research);
- research park (Lambda Rail); and
- veterans' hospital (telehealth).

University networking at the state level includes:

- links to other research universities;

- Los Alamos National Laboratory;
- branches;
- economic development;
- education and distance education;
- New Mexico Computing Applications Center colleges; and
- Santa Fe Institute, NCGR, etc.

High-speed and statewide networking is important for universities in the following areas:

- Education:
 - videos/real-time media;
 - delivering distance education;
 - student access to global multimedia; and
 - virtual reality already in some classrooms.
- Telehealth:
 - increased access to health care, especially for rural areas, providing video consultation with specialists, radiological images and post-traumatic stress consultation, all of which avoids unnecessary transport.
- Research:
 - remote data collection, i.e., long-wave length array, Very Large Array, etc.;
 - New Mexico Computing Applications Center;
 - getting cost-sharing members to Lambda Rail; and
 - e-science: research partners at other universities want common data sets.
- University networks can support state-mandated programs (and vice versa):
 - telehealth;
 - public safety;
 - distance education IDEAL;
 - New Mexico Computing Applications Center;
 - rural library access;
 - digital media; and
 - Lambda Rail.

The principles that should guide further state and university investments are:

- Build a network of networks:
 - each investment should be complementary;
 - all infrastructure can be shared;
 - all public networks talk to all public networks;
 - speed is such that many applications can run over the same network;

- security is such that each application can be "isolated" from others;
- partner where possible;
- invest strategically to support all state-mandated programs; and
- plan for sustainability: shared costs.

Representative Arnold-Jones observed that rural libraries cannot connect to the fiber-optic system and asked how connectivity is going to be advanced. She compared the fiber-optic system to a highway.

Mr. Maccabe responded that the difficulty is funding and suggested that grants from the Gates Foundation may be a source. He noted that New Mexico has made a lot of progress and that the state needs to develop a sustainable funding source in order to complete the needed connectivity.

Representative Varela asked how interoperability between the state and UNM will be accomplished. Ms. Gerety responded that creation of the Department of Information Technology (DOIT) is a major step in promoting interoperability.

Representative Varela stated that he is interested in one-stop shopping for the public to access government services. Ms. Gerety noted that universities are already developing a one-stop shop for higher education.

Representative Wirth asked about the genesis of the Lambda Rail Board. Mr. Maccabe stated that the national board and the New Mexico board are both 501(c)(3) organizations. Roy Soto, secretary, DOIT, is a member of the New Mexico board. The board owns physical Lambda Rail facilities. Ms. Gerety added that the \$1 million appropriation from the legislature to UNM for each of five years has been paid to National Lambda Rail, as dues, for the purpose of building out the infrastructure.

Senator Cisneros asked if there is a dedicated tax used to fund Lambda Rail. Ms. Gerety responded that there is no dedicated funding stream; the source is simply a general fund appropriation.

Representative Vigil expressed concern about the lack of connectivity in rural elementary schools. Mr. Maccabe responded that rural connectivity is very important to UNM. He suggested that DOIT might take a leadership role in this effort.

Representative Tripp asked how much of New Mexico has access to high-speed internet. Mr. Soto responded that Qwest has extended DSL to 75% of its customers and that approximately 80% to 84% of New Mexico now has access when all telecommunications carriers are included.

New Mexico Broadcasters Association (NMBA); Interoperability; Amber Alert System

—Beverly Allen, NMBA

The NMBA proposes to create a warning and emergency public information network in collaboration with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The plan is to develop and implement a comprehensive public information dissemination plan utilizing New Mexico's radio and television broadcasters to create a multifaceted media-based approach to emergency preparedness and public information dissemination that meets the needs of the following groups:

- general population;
- special-needs population;
- non-English speaking population;
- noncompliant and resistant population;
- rural communities with limited resources; and
- urban areas.

The program would focus on four primary areas:

- training program: develop, plan, implement and expand statewide media and public relations training program for state, county and local first-response personnel;
- preparedness partnership: develop, plan and implement a media-based community education program on emergency preparedness customized for each part of the state and that region's most probable disaster needs. Develop consistent criteria and implementation protocol for EAS activation and communicate and train law enforcement and broadcasters on the program;
- NCSA campaign: New Mexico's radio and television broadcasters will air noncommercial sustaining announcements (NCSA) to support the state's emergency preparedness campaign messages; and
- web site: work with the EOC to develop and implement an online media resource center and an online public information center.

The NMBA will provide the following:

- a staff person to manage and coordinate the program and grant;
- all printed materials needed to implement the program;
- a commitment of a minimum of 2:1 return on the NCSA scheduled airtime;
- display space for the EOC at the annual NMBA convention with access to the state's broadcasters;
- production costs incurred for the NCSA announcements; and
- quarterly reports outlining activities and services delivered, outcomes and identification of any problems encountered.

As the NMBA is the only entity that can provide the NCSA program in New Mexico and has ongoing and established relationships with the radio and television broadcasters throughout the state, New Mexico has designated NMBA as a sole-source

provider. This proposal represents a three-year grant at a cost of \$250,000 per year payable in monthly installments.

The NMBA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Communications are initiated by the Department of Public Safety and distributed to KKOB. KKOB is monitored by other stations and picks up the message. The system was originally designed to carry presidential emergency messages. Broadcasters are required either to transmit an emergency action message or sign off the air after directing listeners to the appropriate station.

New Mexico Commission for Public Broadcasting

—Michael Brasher, Chair

The longstanding dedication of public radio and television broadcasters, the understanding and support of the legislature and deep public interest require continued development of new and enhanced public communication services to all New Mexicans and a vital informational network of public television and radio service, instructional television fixed service, interconnection facilities and related technologies that, when fully and functionally developed, will provide expanded educational services to schools and other institutions and enhanced educational opportunity for all New Mexicans.

The policy issues of public broadcasting require close coordination of:

- such public officials and public agencies within New Mexico, which include the governor, the legislature, the Higher Education Department, the PED, the Public Education Commission, institutions of higher education, public school systems, other institutions and the general public;
- such regional organizations as the Rocky Mountain Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Western States Public Radio; and
- such national entities and agencies as the U.S. Congress, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Telecommunications and Information Agency and its Public Telecommunications Facilities Program, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Public Broadcasting Service, National Public Radio and Public Radio International.

Therefore, the governor modified the New Mexico Commission for Public Broadcasting as the agency of the state on public broadcasting matters as follows:

- the commission shall consist of all managers of Corporation for Public Broadcasting-qualified public radio and public television stations, four public members and one member of the governor's staff appointed by the governor, four members appointed by the legislature and three ex-officio members.
- the duties and responsibilities of the commission shall be to:
 - assist and enhance development of public broadcasting within the state and its use and support by the general public;

- develop and coordinate implementation of statewide plans for public television and radio service, instructional television fixed service, interconnection facilities and related technologies; and
 - address legislative, regulatory and policy issues in public broadcasting and make recommendations on these duties and on priorities for state and federal funding for public broadcasting.

The commission was created in the 1970s. It does not have control of programming. It is intended to assist and enhance the development of public broadcasting.

Senator Cravens noted that the commission does not have a link to the legislature and that the commission has critical needs that should be addressed. He also said that the television facility in the State Capitol needs renovations.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS); Organization Update

—Tim Manning, Secretary, DHS

Secretary Manning reported that, pursuant to HB 227, the new DHS came online effective July 1, 2007 because of extensive pre-planning during May and June.

He stated that federal funding is based on a "minimum plus risk" formula. New Mexico's funding this year is \$3.8 million, down from \$4.5 million last year. The federal funding requires a 25% match; however, a soft match is permissible.

In the past, federal funds have been used to provide additional local communications equipment rather than interoperability. New Mexico is now at a point where interoperability can be pursued.

Representative Varela expressed appreciation for Secretary Manning's assistance in creating the DHS. He asked about the DHS' role in border security.

Mr. Manning responded that the DHS has primary responsibility for border security and coordinates federal grants, the National Guard and the Statewide Interoperability Working Group.

Representative Arnold-Jones asked if legislation is needed to require counties and municipalities to cooperate with the DHS. Mr. Manning stated that he does not have an answer to that question yet. He feels that he has an excellent working relationship with counties and municipalities and that, if the state builds a network, he believes local governments will use it.

Representative Arnold-Jones asked about last winter's snow emergency and solving the problem of publishing emergency numbers on television and radio. Mr.

Manning noted that people should be encouraged to call 911 if they are stranded, out of fuel or freezing.

Representative McCoy asked about radio communication frequencies. Mr. Manning stated that most public safety organizations use analog VHF 150 megahertz radios. Albuquerque uses 800 megahertz radios. The solution was thought to be a digital 700 megahertz system; however, if the digital systems fail, they fail catastrophically. Analog radios may not always work well, but they do work. The use of a gateway solves the interoperability problem by permitting radios on any frequency to communicate seamlessly.

Representative McCoy asked if the DHS is working on evacuation plans. Mr. Manning responded that there is no requirement for municipalities to report evacuation plans to the department. He also noted that evacuation plans depend upon the nature of the emergency, e.g., hurricane, wildfires, etc.

Senator Lopez asked about the relationship between the PED and the DHS. Mr. Manning responded that the DHS is working with the PED and the Higher Education Department to standardize emergency responses. The DHS has undertaken a pilot project with the Las Cruces schools.

Senator Lopez inquired about efforts to work with tribal governments. Mr. Manning responded that the DHS is primarily working with the tribes on preparedness. Because of limited resources, the DHS is trying to work on regional solutions rather than duplicate equipment for every tribe. With respect to response and recovery, the DHS is authorized to act on behalf of a tribal government.

Representative Rodella asked Mr. Manning for a DHS organizational chart.

Public Education Department; STARS Computer System

—Robert Piro, CIO, PED

Mr. Piro conducted a live demonstration of the STARS system.

PED; Laptop Project

—Dr. James E. Holloway, Assistant Secretary, Rural Education Division, PED

In the 2006 legislative session, the PED's Educational Technology Bureau was allocated \$2 million for the New Mexico Laptop Learning Initiative (NMLLI). In addition to the allocation, the Educational Technology Bureau also underwent an extensive audit of the NMLLI. As a result of the LFC audit, the Educational Technology Bureau has been proactive in working with NMLLI sites to gather information on student and teacher successes in the program and, until now, those data were not available. Overall, the data provided by current laptop sites show a significant increase in both student performance and teacher integration of technology.

In fiscal year 2007, the cost breakdown was as follows:

| Item | Cost |
|--|------------|
| HP nx6110 Laptop + 5 Yr. parts | \$815.00 |
| Accidental Damage Warranty (3 years) | 130.00 |
| Microsoft Office Pro w/ Publisher | 48.81 |
| Inspiration | 18.62 |
| Symantec Corp Edition Anti-Virus (2 years) | 20.20 |
| IC3 - LearnKey | 39.00 |
| Imaging and Delivery | 29.50 |
| Classroom Connect Professional Development | 185.00 |
| Total | \$1,286.13 |

Representative McCoy asked if there are criteria that determine which student receives a laptop. Dr. Holloway responded that, if a school applies for the program, then all of the students receive a laptop. The schools supervise the use of the laptops, e.g., the installation of unauthorized software or deliberate abuse of the computer.

Representative Rodella asked about the process by which schools apply for laptops. There is an external process for selection of schools.

Representative Rodella noted that the progress report indicates that the laptop program is a success.

The committee adjourned at 4:00 p.m.