

**MINUTES
of the
THIRD MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**August 8, 2022
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Socorro**

**August 9, 2022
Spaceport America
Upham**

The third meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Senator Michael Padilla, chair, on August 8, 2022 at 9:10 a.m. at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech) in Socorro.

Present

Sen. Michael Padilla, Chair
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Vice Chair
Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Joy Garratt
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (8/8)
Rep. Larry R. Scott
Sen. William P. Soules

Absent

Rep. Jason C. Harper
Sen. Mark Moores
Sen. Harold Pope

Advisory Members

Sen. Craig W. Brandt (8/8)
Rep. Christine Chandler (8/8)
Rep. Gail Chasey (8/8)
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez (8/8)

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo
Sen. Leo Jaramillo
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Linda Serrato

Guest Legislators

Sen. Linda M. Lopez (8/8)
Sen. Pat Woods (8/8)

(Attendance dates are noted for members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sabina Gaynor, Staff Attorney, LCS
Ralph Vincent, Systems Consultant, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Monday, August 8 — Socorro

Welcome and Introductions (9:10 a.m.)

Senator Padilla welcomed the committee, and members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: NM Tech Las Playas Peace Project (Legislators Only) (9:15 a.m.)

The committee recessed into executive session to hear a report on NM Tech's Playas Electronic Attack and Cyber Environment Project.

Welcome and NM Tech Status Update (10:44 a.m.)

Dr. Stephen G. Wells, president, NM Tech, welcomed the committee to the campus and provided a brief overview of the university and several of the university program activities.

Department of Information Technology (DoIT): Update on Broadband and Other Programs (11:33 a.m.)

Peter Mantos, secretary-designate and state chief information officer, DoIT, discussed three of the department's priorities: support for broadband, increased cybersecurity posture and making the DoIT a customer-centric organization. Mr. Mantos also discussed the department's current operating budget and the plan to rewrite the Department of Information Technology Act. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20080822%20Item%203%20DoIT%20Status%20and%20Plans%2008-Aug-22.pdf>.

Legislative Finance Committee Information Technology (IT) Spotlights: A New Reporting Tool for IT Project Oversight and the Spotlight for the Medicaid Management Information System Replacement (12:34 p.m.)

Jessica Hitzman, fiscal analyst, Legislative Finance Committee; Jon Courtney, deputy director, Legislative Finance Committee; and Sean Pearson, chief information officer, Information Technology Division, Human Services Department, presented their committee

report on the Medicaid Management Information System Replacement project. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20080822%20Item%204%20LFC%20MMISR%20Spotlight.pdf>.

Approval of Minutes (12:52 p.m.)

The committee approved the minutes of the July 7-8, 2022 meeting.

Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAAE) Status Update (2:17 p.m.)

Kelly Schlegel, director, OBAAE, DoIT, described the foundation of the OBAAE and expounded upon the goals and directions of the new office. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20080822%20Item%205%20Office%20of%20Broadband%20Access%20and%20Expansion.pdf>.

New Mexico Fiber Network, LLC (NMFN): Building a Statewide Middle-Mile Fiber Network Update (2:49 p.m.)

Joshua Beug, chief executive officer, NMFN, and general manager, Tularosa Communications; Jason Gonzales, director of operations and technology, Plateau Telecommunications; Jay Santillanes, government liaison, NMFN; and Matejka Santillanes, government liaison, NMFN, described the NMFN as an organization that has been formed from a collection of 11 New Mexico member companies to further the interconnection of their fiber-based networks. These broadband companies have come together to extend the state's middle-mile network by providing fiber-optic capabilities to telecom providers and direct business customers, such as hospitals and schools. These companies include: Baca Valley Telephone Company, Inc.; Dell Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; ENMR Telephone Cooperative; La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative; Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Peñasco Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Sacred Wind Communications, Inc.; Tularosa Communications, Inc.; Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; and Western New Mexico Telephone Company, Inc. The companies that comprise the NMFN serve 58% of the geographic area of New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20080822%20Item%206%20NM%20Fiber%20Network%20-%20Middle%20Mile.pdf>.

Recruiting Women into Engineering Careers (3:20 p.m.)

Dr. Sharon Sessions, associate chair, Department of Physics, and director, Office of Outreach, NM Tech, described how and why New Mexico should support the recruitment of women into engineering careers. Dr. Sessions provided examples of how providing opportunities to engage in engineering and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities inspires students to pursue further STEM knowledge and, hopefully, technical careers. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20080822%20Item%207%20Recruiting%20Women%20into%20%20Engineering%20Careers.pdf>.

Water Data Act Status Update (3:47 p.m.)

Dr. Mike Timmons, interim director, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (NMBGMR), NM Tech, described the missions and programs of the NMBGMR, a state agency and research division at NM Tech. Stacy Timmons, associate director, NMBGMR, NM Tech, brought the committee up to date on the 2022 plan regarding the assessment of water data and information needs for the New Mexico Water Data Initiative. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20080822%20Item%208%202022%20NM%20Water%20Data%20Initiative.pdf>.

Public Comment (4:44 p.m.)

Jan Williams, fellow, Society of Women Engineers, provided a statement supporting the work in STEM education and the proliferation of broadband in the state.

Valentin Anaya, Jr. introduced his son, Valentin "Gogo" Anaya III, who has autism spectrum disorder. They demonstrated his new tablet equipment that allows him to speak. Unfortunately, this equipment did not arrive until more than 3,000 days after they received approval for it.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:53 p.m.

Tuesday, August 9 — Upham

Tour of Spaceport America (Legislators Only) (9:20 a.m.)

Committee members met at Spaceport America and toured the facility as well as several of the tenant facilities.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.