

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

**May 28, 2019
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee (STTC) was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on May 28, 2019 at 10:03 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Sen. Michael Padilla, Vice Chair
Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Daymon Ely
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Sen. William P. Soules
Rep. Melanie A. Stansbury

Absent

Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Jason C. Harper
Sen. Mark Moores
Rep. Linda M. Trujillo

Advisory Members

Rep. Abbas Akhil
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. Jacob R. Candelaria
Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Sen. Bill Tallman
Sen. Peter Wirth

Sen. Ron Griggs
Sen. Mary Kay Papen
Sen. William H. Payne
Rep. Joseph L. Sanchez

Staff

Mark Edwards, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Ralph Vincent, LCS
Nancy Martinez, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file.

Tuesday, May 28

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Sariñana welcomed the committee to the first meeting of the STTC for the 2019 interim. Members of the committee and staff were invited to introduce themselves.

Review of 2019 Committee-Endorsed Legislation

Mr. Edwards discussed legislation that had been discussed by the STTC during the 2018 interim. A request was made to the committee to support funding for the supercomputing challenge held each year at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Representative Fajardo introduced House Bill (HB) 114 and Senator Mimi Stewart introduced Senate Bill (SB) 310 to provide this funding, but neither bill passed during the 2019 legislative session.

During the 2018 interim, Representative Harper gave a presentation to the committee on a new suncreening material that can be used on automobile windows to help control inside temperatures. Since applying this material to windshields would violate statutory restrictions, Representative Harper introduced HB 200 to amend the restrictions to allow the use of the new material. HB 200 passed during the 2019 session but was not signed by the governor.

Also during the 2018 interim, the committee made a request to the Legislative Finance Committee regarding funding for the biosciences partnership housed at the University of New Mexico (UNM), but the funding was not ultimately included in the General Appropriation Act of 2019.

Mr. Edwards discussed the May 13, 2019 information memorandum from Raúl E. Burciaga, director, LCS, to legislators outlining rules for interim committee procedures.

2019 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule Discussion

Mr. Edwards presented the proposed work plan for the 2019 interim. In the ensuing discussion, the following items were discussed as specific topics to review under the general categories of the work plan:

- the potential to recruit wind turbine manufacturing at the wind turbine equipment facility at the closed Walker Air Force Base in Roswell;
- whether UNM has a plan for the future of the microgrid project at Mesa del Sol that was built from technology funded by the United States Department of Energy. The Mesa del Sol commercial microgrid project is a collaboration that demonstrates improved localized control of generation, transmission and distribution; improved information use for load smoothing and a more resilient grid; and a nationally replicable technology integration. The Mesa del Sol Aperture Center building has integrated energy controls that demonstrate a commercial scale microgrid with photovoltaics, fuel cells, combined heat and power, advanced load controls and advanced energy-storage components. The discussion of microgrid projects was expanded to a full discussion of "smart cities";

- learning about cybersecurity challenges for the legislative information system;
- receiving a presentation on the New Mexico Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, also known as EPSCoR program. This program receives federal funding for faculty who are conducting research that aligns with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Mission Directorates and NASA Field Centers;
- whether there are new developments and updated information since the presentation to the committee in 2018 on the partnership between Central New Mexico Community College and OptiPulse to develop a pilot project providing 10-gigabit-per-second broadband to the college;
- continuing examination of how the state can help promote public-private partnerships, business accelerators, technology transfers and venture capital investments to further the expansion of the science and technology business sector in New Mexico;
- receiving a presentation on crime prevention through the use of "big data";
- the development of the "Internet of Things" and fifth generation, known as 5G, telecommunications technology;
- developments at Spaceport America;
- the relative effectiveness of venture capital investment; and
- how to leverage the potential of the Physical Science Laboratory at New Mexico State University as a national resource.

Committee members noted specific anticipated agency reports to the legislature that the STTC has an interest in, including:

- the annual report by the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration required by the Enhanced 911 Act regarding the status of the Enhanced 911 Fund and whether the current level of the E911 emergency surcharge is sufficient to meet the needs for the next year; and
- a report by the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) of its tri-annual review of the impacts of the New Mexico Telecommunications Act, a reporting requirement enacted by SB 53, 2017.

The committee also discussed program updates on:

- a new E911 project by the City of Albuquerque in which the city provided \$16 million to start the project and received an additional \$16 million in capital funding from the state; and
- the centers for excellence created by HB 7 in the 2019 legislative session. These centers received \$1 million in funding for fiscal year 2020, which begins July 1, 2019.

Following this discussion, the proposed work plan was approved with these additional categories as items for review:

- the interconnections between Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, venture capital and various state initiatives that collectively promote the science and technology economic sector;
- status reports on the centers of excellence and similar state-funded STEM initiatives; and
- how the growing market for electric vehicles will affect New Mexico's energy sector.

After a discussion of the potential number of presentations from entities in the Albuquerque area, the committee agreed to request an additional day for a meeting in Albuquerque.

Department of Information Technology (DoIT): Overview of Program Initiatives

Vincent Martinez, secretary, DoIT, presented an overview of the information technology (IT) directions for the new administration. He said that the key categories of focus are: broadband access, public safety radio infrastructure and an enterprise cybersecurity program. He also said that the DoIT is currently engaged in strategic planning to define the department's role and directions. The DoIT currently oversees IT projects totaling \$300 million and is responsible for ensuring project progress. (See the handout in the committee file for more information.)

In the ensuing discussion, committee members requested that the DOIT's project status "dashboard" be published on the DoIT website and that the department provide regular progress reports regarding the state's top 10 IT projects. Committee members asked questions about the DoIT fees to agencies and the delinquency of some agency payments. Secretary Martinez indicated that if an invoice has been delinquent for five years, the amount of the invoice is written off as bad debt. The committee asked the secretary to provide the aged account list to show which agencies are delinquent.

The committee discussed an assessment of the geospatial data for rural broadband investments and suggested building data sets to evaluate opportunities for infrastructure funding from the Federal Communications Commission's Universal Service Program, commonly known as E-Rate. It was suggested that a representative from the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service be invited join Secretary Martinez at a later STTC meeting to discuss funds set aside in the 2018 federal Farm Bill for rural broadband development. Because matching funds are usually a problem, solutions need to be explored.

As a final matter, the committee requested that Secretary Martinez provide a list of boards that assist or advise the state's chief information officer with recommendations for improving these boards.

Public Comment

Leo Baca, government liaison, CenturyLink, discussed SB 53 from the 2017 legislative session and its impact on the telecommunications landscape. He said that CenturyLink has added broadband to 16,000 homes in rural areas through its Connect America Fund program. He also said that the PRC administers a \$5 million fund for telecommunications projects, of which \$500,000 went to CenturyLink for these projects.

Mr. Baca further explained that SB 53, 2017 amended the New Mexico Telecommunications Act to provide for jurisdiction over incumbent local exchange carriers and their investment in telecommunications and broadband infrastructure. The PRC is in the process of promulgating rules for implementation of the statute, and in February, 2019, representatives from CenturyLink were able to see the proposed rules. The rules are more strict than expected, and the PRC is holding a hearing for public comments on the proposed rules on June 19, 2019.

Motion

Upon a motion by Senator Padilla and without objection, the committee requested that the PRC to give a presentation to the committee regarding the proposed rules.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, Representative Sariñana thanked everyone who attended the meeting, and the first meeting of the STTC for the 2019 interim was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.