

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Apple at 1:30 p.m. on January 24, 2011, in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Jay Emler, excused

Committee staff present:
Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department
Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
J. D. Lester, City Manager, Chanute, Kansas
Gary Shorman, Eagle Communications

Others attending: See attached list.

Chanute Broadband Initiative

J. D. Lester, City Manager, Chanute, Kansas, reviewed the City of Chanute's utility development and where they are now with their municipal fiber network. He gave an overview of how the network is utilized, the types of users and the value they receive. He stressed the parallel to the rural electrification years ago and its critical importance for rural communities to have access to this type of infrastructure for economic development as well as other services. (Attachment 1)

Eagle Communications Broadband Expansion

Gary Shorman, President & CEO, Eagle Communications, Inc., stated their goal is to improve the quality of life for everyone in their communities by delivering faster more reliable internet, clearer more feature-laden phone service and tons of high-definition TV channels. He recommended three areas of focus by this committee and the state of Kansas. First, use available resources to reach un-served Kansans vs. providing competitive service to existing private providers. Second, focus on adoption strategies which will promote and encourage the use of broadband by our minimal and non-users. Third, ask for transparency of governmental funding before providing additional funding opportunities. (Attachment 2)

Kansas Corporation Commission

Tom Day provided the information requested by Senator Lee during discussion of the KUSF at the January 19 committee meeting, regarding competitive eligible telecommunications carriers and their designated service areas. (Attachment 3)

A memo entitled "Answers to Senate Utilities Questions" from the Department of Commerce, was distributed. It responds to broadband questions raised by committee members on January 12. (Attachment 4)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris
Committee Assistant

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