

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 8, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The sixth meeting of the Information Technology Oversight Committee was held on October 8, 2025, at 10:00 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Gex Williams, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Matt Lockett, Co-Chair; Senator Gex Williams, Co-Chair; Senator Michael J. Nemes; and Representatives Chad Aull and John Hodgson.

Guests: Jimmy Byrd, Executive VP, Corporate Development, Ledcor Technical Services (LTS), Kentucky Managed Technical Services LLC; Michael Murray, SVP, US Infrastructure, LTS, Kentucky Managed Technical Services LLC; Rebecca Moss, Associate General Counsel, Ledcor Group of Companies; Kent Anness, Geographic Information System (GIS) Officer, Division of Geographic Information, Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT); Kari Welch, Executive Director, Office of Architecture and Governance, COT; David Duttlinger, Executive Director, Bluegrass Area Development District; and Joshua Farrow, Executive Director, Gateway Area Development District.

LRC Staff: Cynthia Brown, Sarah Watts, and Heather Hamilton.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Co-Chair Lockett and seconded by Representative Hodgson to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2025, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Discussion of the KentuckyWired Network

Michael Murray, SVP, US Infrastructure, LTS, Kentucky Managed Technical Services LLC, discussed Ledcor's role in the construction and ongoing maintenance of the KentuckyWired Network.

Responding to Representative Aull, Jimmy Byrd, Executive VP, Corporate Development, LTS, Kentucky Managed Technical Services LLC, stated Ledcor recommended using armored cable, but because of cost, the decision to use unarmored cable was made by the Kentucky group. A forecast was not performed on the cost of replacing damaged cable. Representative Aull requested a comparison of Kentucky to other states to see where Kentucky ranks in terms of the amount of maintenance and cost.

Responding to Representative Hodgson, Mr. Byrd was unable to elaborate on who specifically decided not to go with armored cable. Mr. Murray explained the methods used to minimize degradation to the network when replacing damaged cable. Damaged cable is replaced with armored cable.

Responding to Co-Chair Lockett, Mr. Murray commented on Ledcor's relationship with Accelecom. Mr. Byrd stated they have a separate commercial contract with Accelecom. Kentucky Communications Network Authority (KCNA) fibers take priority on all service level requests. Mr. Murray added they have a service level agreement (SLA) with KentuckyWired to maintain their wires, but it does not include dark fibers or non-KentuckyWired fibers. Ledcor's relationship with KCNA is challenged, because differences in the interpretation of the contract take a lot of time and effort to navigate. Rebecca Moss, Associate General Counsel, Ledcor Group of Companies, said Ledcor's proposal to continue to provide services for the next 10 years was rejected.

Responding to Chair Williams, Mr. Murray said he is not familiar with pole replacements; is not aware of any service providers being denied access to the huts; could not comment on who uses the most data on KCNA's equipment; and is not sure where the internet connection occurs. He stated a limited amount of refresh has been performed, which is not consistent with the original intent of the contract, and that they have not been asked to defer any maintenance on disconnected fibers. Ledcor's contract is with Kentucky Wired Operation Company (KWOC), but meetings usually involve the three parties; KWOC, KCNA, and Ledcor.

Chair Williams commented on the committee's responsibility to provide a report on technology and projects recommended for the next biennium. He discussed recommending in the report that no funds be allocated for network refresh until after the audit of the KentuckyWired network is complete.

Responding to Chair Williams, Mr. Murray stated he would have to ask the network engineers regarding the ability of Accelecom to handle the extra data from KCNA. He did clarify that Ledcor is involved in the equipment refresh and they have installed some of it.

Ms. Moss stated Ledcor's proposal is publicly available to be viewed, and she would send information on accessing the document.

Discussion of the Water Resource Information System (WRIS)

David Duttlinger, Executive Director, Bluegrass Area Development District, discussed the purpose and history of the WRIS, a water and wastewater database. The system collects information for customer demographics, financial information, utility components, and geospatial data to be used for planning water and wastewater infrastructure in the Commonwealth. He shared information on the Area Development District's role in water management planning, how data is gathered for WRIS, the benefits of WRIS supporting local utilities, and the role of the Water Management Councils. The discussion continued with the future vision and planning of WRIS. Mr. Duttlinger emphasized the need to recapitalize on investments through asset maintenance and management. He concluded with recommendations for WRIS.

Discussion of Geographic Information Systems

Kent Anness, GIS Officer, Division of Geographic Information, COT, discussed GIS enterprise databases in Kentucky and the GIS Advisory Council. He shared some of Kentucky's geospatial assessment scores from the National States Geographic Information Council.

Responding to Co-Chair Lockett, Mr. Anness stated the Geographic Information Advisory Council has newly formed the Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI) subcommittee which will look into how artificial intelligence (AI) will affect GIS. Mr. Duttlinger added that the more data input available to AI, the better the system operates.

Responding to Representative Hodgson, Mr. Anness addressed security access to critical infrastructure information and GIS data layers.

Responding to Chair Williams, Joshua Farrow, Executive Director, Gateway Area Development District, stated not all data collected is available to the public.

Responding to Representative Aull, Mr. Duttlinger discussed ways to improve operational processes and efficiency of rural areas.

Responding to Chair Williams, Mr. Farrow recommended working with the water management councils to bring all utilities and resources to the table to create the most efficient and effective infrastructure.

Responding to Chair Williams, Mr. Duttlinger and Mr. Anness suggested inviting the Division of Water, Department of Local Government, Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky Association of Counties, American Water Works Association, and Rural Development to future committee meetings.

Discussion of Committee Report to LRC

Chair Williams discussed the committee report and funding recommendations for the next biennium. The report will be voted on in the next meeting.

Senator Nemes discussed the need for regional wastewater planning in some districts.

Representative Hodgson requested the report be changed to include totals at the top of each column.

Next Meeting

November 12, 2025, at 10 AM in the Capitol Annex Room 129, chaired by Co-Chair Lockett.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the committee adjourned at 11:20 AM.