

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes

May 21, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Information Technology Oversight Committee was held on May 21, 2026, at 9:00 AM ET/8:00 AM CT in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Matt Lockett, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

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

Guests: David Couch, Chief Information Officer (CIO), Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), Kentucky Communications Network Authority (KCNA) Board Chair; Jim Barnhart, CIO, Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT), Finance and Administration Cabinet; Jason Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, KCNA; Adam Adkins, General Counsel, KCNA; Robert Morphonios, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kentucky Wired Operations Company (KWOC); and Tom Snyder, Chief Operating Officer (COO), KWOC.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Co-Chair Williams and seconded by Representative Hodgson to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Kentucky Communications Network Authority (KCNA)

David Couch, CIO, KDE, KCNA Board Chair, discussed his meeting with Brad Kilby, CEO of Acelecom, and recent meetings of the reorganized KCNA Board. He discussed the board's working relationship with COT, the challenges of working with the legal counsel for KCNA, and the 5 immediate goals the board is implementing in absence of an existing KCNA strategic plan:

- Goal 1: Resolve issues preventing 38 school districts from becoming part of the KCNA network as well as allowing any of the 136 existing KDE Internet Hubs in school districts and KDE network whenever there is a change in location of the KDE Internet Hub;
- Goal 2: Deescalate and repair relationships; minimize conflicts and costly lawsuits;
- Goal 3: Review and understand financial operations and operational efficiencies;
- Goal 4: Protect state's future bond rating potential and ability to make availability payments; and
- Goal 5: Explore consolidating electronics and services, private and public sector, to avoid duplication; become broker of services versus provider of services.

Jim Barnhart, CIO, COT, Finance and Administration Cabinet, commented on the processes of Finance and Administration's reporting structure and KCNA.

In response to Chair Lockett, Mr. Barnhart explained the initial Request for Proposal (RFP) and contract extension for KCNA's legal counsel. Mr. Couch commented on the contract extension.

In response to Co-Chair Williams, Adam Adkins, General Counsel, KCNA, stated budgetary decisions were made prior to the enactment of 2026 RS HB 314 and the bill did not change the authority of the board. Discussion was related to the meaning and intent of administrative attachment within the context of HB 314 and the authority of the board.

In response to Representative Hodgson, Mr. Adkins stated the board declined to meet to discuss matters with the KCNA legal counsel. Mr. Couch expressed concern regarding the lack of communication between the legal counsel, Ice Miller, and the board.

In response to Chair Lockett, Mr. Adkins stated the Finance and Administration Cabinet signs the contract agreement with the KCNA legal counsel and the board is not a party to that agreement.

In response to Co-Chair Williams, Mr. Adkins discussed executive branch authority and operations with KCNA, as well as the board's involvement and input on policy.

Mr. Barnhart discussed the RFP process and stated the Finance and Administration Cabinet Secretary approves the contracts.

In response to Representative Hodgson, Jason Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, KCNA, stated because the normal renewal process within the executive branch

budgeting process was followed, the board did not have to approve the \$1.5 million budget expenditure or contract processed within the Finance and Administration Cabinet.

In response to Co-Chair Williams, Mr. Johnson stated the previous KCNA board chair approved the KCNA's budget in his role as the Secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet and the state budget director. Mr. Johnson was not aware if budget approvals were discussed in any of the KCNA board meetings.

Kentucky Wired Operations Company (KWOC)

In response to Chair Lockett, Tom Snyder, COO, KWOC, provided a status and report on the progress in connecting the remaining schools to the KentuckyWired network. The only change orders currently in progress with KDE are for sites in Jefferson County, Daviess County, and Hopkins County.

In response to Co-Chair Williams, Mr. Snyder stated there are not any preliminary change instructions (PCIs) requested and in process through him, that have been rejected by KWOC. KWOC does not approve or deny change requests. He explained the PCI process.

In response to Chair Lockett, Mr. Snyder stated he was unaware of the 38 sites and school districts not connected to the KentuckyWired network.

In response to Co-Chair Williams, Robert Morphonios, CEO, KWOC, stated they have an active service provider under the original 30-year contract, but cannot disclose details of the contract or market test due to ongoing legal issues.

In response to Chair Lockett, Mr. Snyder explained the invoices for the refresh equipment and who had approved the expenditures.

In response to Co-Chair Williams, Mr. Snyder shared the process Ledcor used to make purchase orders for equipment. These items are received through the invoicing process once change orders are approved. He outlined the invoice and payment process between KCNA, Kentucky Wired Infrastructure Company (KWIC), KWOC, and Ledcor.

Next Meeting

June 10, 2026, at 10 AM ET/9:00 AM CT in the Capitol Annex Room 129, chaired by Co-Chair Williams.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the committee adjourned at 10:05 AM (ET) / 9:05 AM (CT).