

GOVERNMENT CONTRACT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 10, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Government Contract Review Committee met on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 3:00 PM, in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Mark Hart, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Donald Douglas, Co-Chair; Representative Mark Hart, Co-Chair; Senators Stephen Meredith, Craig Richardson, and Reginald L. Thomas; and Representatives Jared Bauman, Bobby McCool, and Rachel Roarx.

Guests: Scott Baker, Executive Director, Office of Facility Development and Efficiency, Finance and Administration Cabinet; Dr. Michael Dailey, Provost and President of Academic Student Affairs, Kentucky State University (KSU); Dr. Heather Bigard, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance and Administration, KSU; Nicole Sergeant, General Counsel, KSU; Karen Wirth, Director of Budgets and Financial Management, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Lauren Moore, Director, Division of School and Community Nutrition, KDE; Eric Pelfrey, Director for Professional Services, Department of Highways, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); Kenny Carrico, Transportation Engineer Specialist, Division of Highway Design, Department of Highways, KYTC; Steven Gregory, Assistant General Counsel, Kentucky Lottery Corporation (KLC); Ryan Mudd, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, KLC; T.H. Morris, Executive Vice President, Chief Information and Technology Officer, KLC; Carrie Whitmore, Project Manager, Office of Planning, Design, and Construction, University of Louisville (UofL); Meg Campbell, Assistant Vice President, Office of Planning, Design, and Construction, UofL; Lyndsey Neese, Director for Maternal Child Health, Department for Public Health (DPH), Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); Anna Chamberlin, Program Coordinator, DPH, CHFS; Mike Tuggle, Assistant Director, Division of Administration and Financial Management, DPH, CHFS; Andrew Bledsoe,

Deputy Executive Director, Office of Health Data and Analytics, DPH, CHFS; John Langefeld, Commissioner, DPH, CHFS; Danny Peake, Director, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Project Development, KYTC; and Andrew Logsdon, Ecology and Permitting Branch Manager, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Project Development, KYTC.

LRC Staff: Jarrod Schmidt, Kim Smith, and Elizabeth Raymond.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Douglas to approve minutes of the February 2026, meeting of the committee. Senator Richardson seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Representative Bauman to consider as reviewed the Personal Service Contract List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Co-Chair Douglas seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Representative Bauman to consider as reviewed the Personal Service Contract Amendment List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Co-Chair Douglas seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Representative Bauman to consider as reviewed the Memoranda of Agreement List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Co-Chair Douglas seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Representative Bauman to consider as reviewed the Memoranda of Agreement Amendment List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Co-Chair Douglas seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WERE REVIEWED
WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Kentucky Youth Advocates, Inc., 2600001585.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Oldfather Law Firm, PLLC, 2600001456.

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

VPS Solutions, LLC, 2600001472.

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Taylor & Mulder, Inc., 2600001286.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Hands On Therapy PSC, 2600001126; Hands On Therapy PSC, 2600001257.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing, Inc., 2600001278; Garver, LLC, 2600001279; Bluegrass Valuation Group, LLC, 2600001338; Baumgardner and Associates PSC, 2600001340; Matthew L. Chapman, 2600001341; Thoroughbred Real Estate Services, LLC, 2600001342; The Raleigh Company, 2600001343; Egis BLN USA, Inc., 2600001344; Bold Pursuits, LLC, 2600001345; J. Michael Jones, 2600001346; W and W Properties of Bowling Green, Inc., 2600001347; Tammy L. Barnes, 2600001348; John Daniel Lyons, 2600001349; Mary McClinton Clay, 2600001350; Appco Appraisal Service, Inc., 2600001351; G. Herbert Pritchett & Associates, Inc., 2600001352; Darin Sizemore, 2600001353; Prime AE Group, Inc., 2600001569; Aecom Technical Services, Inc., 2600001581; Applied Pavement Technology, Inc., 2600001588; HMB Engineers, Inc., 2600001660; Michael Baker International, Inc., 2600001680; Burgess and Niple, Inc., 2600001698; Palmer Engineering Company, 2600001743.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Multi, 2600000055; Paragon Outpatient Rehabilitation Services, LLC, 2600001374; Hargis & Associates, LLC, 2600001381.

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

A. Davis Consulting, 3807-2026.

KENTUCKY HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT LOAN CORPORATION

Einstein Higher Edu Solutions, LLC, 26-001.

KENTUCKY HORSE PARK

Park Equine Hospital, PLLC, 2400003650-1.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

Harmon Barlow, 26-18; Kentucky AgriTech, LLC, 26-20; Cornerstone Government Affairs, Inc., 26-30; The Book Works, 26-31.

KY COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

JRA, 26-009; Champlin/EOP, 26-010.

KY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Synapse Energy Economics, Inc., 2600000759.

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

MRJ Advisors, LLC, 031-26; Global Partnerships Simplified, LLC, 032-26.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Beacon Hill Solutions Group, LLC, 2025-165.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Kirkjune, Inc., 2600001010.

TRANSPORTATION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Tim Long M.D., 2600001297; St. Elizabeth Medical Center, 2600001298; Baptist Health Deaconess Medical Group, Inc., 2600001299; Athanasia Angelopoulos DC, PLLC, 2600001300; Lewis County Primary Care Center, Inc., 2600001301; Egner Chiropractic and Rehabilitation Center, PLLC, 2600001303; Baptist Health Medical Group, Inc., 2600001306; RN Expertise, Inc., 2600001309.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

R1 RCM Holdco, Inc., 349063; Embry Merritt Womack Nance, PLLC, K26-130.

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE AMENDMENTS WERE REVIEWED
WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
Dentons Bingham Greenebaum, LLP, 2400005071.

BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
Multi, 2400000143.

BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC EXAMINERS
KWH Law, PLLC, 2600000899.

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
Gail Denise Anderson, 2400001472.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Kim Hunt Price, 2500001757.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
Burgess & Niple, Inc., 1300002497; QK4, 1500001028; QK4, Inc., 1800000899;
Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., 1900005015-1; Palmer Engineering Company,
2100000812; Bureau Veritas North America, Inc., 2200004773; Burgess and Niple, Inc.,
2300001676; WSP USA, Inc., 2300001716; Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering &
Testing, Inc., 2300002202; QK4, Inc., 2400001019; HMB Engineers, Inc., 2400001745;
American Structurepoint, Inc., 2400002670; HDR Engineering, Inc., 2500002333; QK4,
Inc., 2500002821; HMB Engineers, Inc., 2500003073; WSP USA, Inc., C-01299441;
American Engineers, Inc., C-03060711.

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE
National Eye Care, Inc., 2400003643.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Symphony Diagnostics Services No1, LLC d/b/a TridentCare, 2400002773.

ECON DEV - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Anderson Economic Group, LLC, 2400003338.

FACILITIES & SUPPORT SERVICES
EOP Architects PSC, 2000003040; KPFF, Inc., 2200003200; Vertical Structures,
Inc., 2200003355; Omni Architects, 2300000392; CMTA Inc., 2300000770; GRW

Engineers, Inc., 2300001529; 713 Architects, PLLC, 2300001760; Kesler Simpson Architects, LLC, 2300001917; K. Norman Berry Associates, 2300002523; CMTA, Inc., 2300003834; Omni Architects, 2400001225; Tower Pinkster Titus Associates, Inc., 2500001039; Terracon Consultants, Inc., 2500002299; Contour Collaborative, PLLC, 2500003173.

KENTUCKY FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Respec Consulting and Services, LLC, 22FW000462.

KY COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

AON Consulting, Inc., 938; Evaluation and Grant Support Collaborative, LLC, 963; Praxis Sim Holdings, LLC, 970.

KY HOUSING CORPORATION

Capital Edge Consulting, Inc., 2025-47; Corporation for Supportive Housing, Inc., 2026-39.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Gilman Partners, 2025-142.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Ageucate, LLC, 2500001433.

PERSONNEL BOARD

Ronal P. Merkel, PSC, 2400005463.

TRANSPORTATION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, 2400003067; Kentucky American Road, LLC, 2400003076.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

QK4, Inc., 25-012; Multi, 25-035; Multi, 25-037; Multi, 25-039; Multi, 25-041; Multi, 25-046.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENTS WERE REVIEWED
WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES

Multi, 2600000044; Multi, 2600000047; Education Development Center, Inc.,
2600000811; National Association of Retrospective Fatality Analysts, 2600001211.

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Vela Institute, 2600001462.

DEPARTMENT FOR FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS & VOLUNTEER
SERVICES

Multi, 2400000038-1.

DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Lebanon Junction, 2500000187; City of Columbus, 2600000073; City of
Newport, 2600000825; Harlan County Fiscal Court, 2600001047; City of Campbellsville,
2600001123; Kenton County Fiscal Court, 2600001216; Pike County Fiscal Court,
2600001254; Magoffin County, 2600001277; Johnson County, 2600001488; Perry
County Fiscal Court, 2600001501.

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Bike Walk Kentucky, Inc., 2600001179; Great Kids, Inc., 2600001212.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Custom Food Solutions, LLC, 2600001191; Anderson County Farmers Market,
2600001192; Hart County Fair Association, Inc., 2600001263.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Jefferson County Board of Education, 2600000390; University of Kentucky
Research Foundation, 2600001373.

DEPARTMENT OF WORKPLACE STANDARDS

Department for Public Health, 2600001560.

JUSTICE - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

University of Louisville Hospital, 2600001334.

KENTUCKY FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
WNE, LLC, 2600001050.

OFFICE OF ENERGY POLICY
Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves, 2600000700; Bluegrass Greensource, Inc.,
2600001161.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT AMENDMENTS WERE
REVIEWED WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES

Multi, 2400000091; Appalachian Restoration Project, Inc., 2500001643; Green
River Regional MHMR Board, Inc., 2500002779; Lifeskills, Inc., 2500002780; Seven
Counties Services, Inc., 2500002783.

CHFS - DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING
Multi, 2500000067; Multi, 2600000026.

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES
Brighton Center, Inc., 2400001871.

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2500001290; University of
Kentucky Research Foundation, 2500001954; University of Kentucky Research
Foundation, 2500002270.

DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAID SERVICES
University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2400004842.

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2400000988; University of
Louisville Research Foundation, 2400001316; University of Louisville Research
Foundation, 2400001536; University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2400001543;
University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2400001585; University of Louisville
Research Foundation, 2400001586; University of Kentucky Research Foundation,
2400001628; University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2400001913; University of

Louisville Research Foundation, 2400001922; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2400001948.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Letcher County Board of Education, 2500002984; Marion County Board of Education, 2500002995; Marion County Board of Education, 2500003001; Franklin County Board of Education, 2500003250.

OSH REVIEW COMMISSION

Office of the Attorney General, 2400002063.

PUB PROTECTION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Appalachia Service Project, Inc., 2500000244.

TRANSPORTATION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Eastern Kentucky University, 2400001583; Gateway Community & Technical College, 2400002412.

THE FOLLOWING KENTUCKY ENTERTAINMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM AGREEMENTS WERE REVIEWED WITHOUT OBJECTION:

ECON DEV - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Holly Jolly Movie, 2600001757; Skinnerwork, LLC, 2600001760; CW Productions, LLC, 2600001761; The Christmas Letter, 2600001763; Once Upon A Time Film Kentucky, LLC, 2600001764; Topez Productions, LLC, 2600001765.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WERE SELECTED FOR FURTHER REVIEW:

FACILITIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

Paladin, Inc., 2600001467. Scott Baker, Executive Director, Office of Facility Development and Efficiency, Finance and Administration Cabinet, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Co-Chair Douglas, Mr. Baker stated commissioning involves comprehensive testing and verification of all building systems to ensure they operate as designed. This includes pressure and water testing of the building envelope, window sealing checks, airflow testing under positive and negative pressure, and full testing of

building automation systems, boilers, chillers, and other mechanical equipment. For the central lab, the process is more extensive, requiring specialized commissioning, intricate lab systems testing, and certification of lab spaces to confirm all equipment and systems function properly and meet design standards.

A motion was made by Representative Bauman to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Thomas seconded the motion, which passed.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

Magellan Learning Solutions, LLC, 26-23; Sway Holdings, LLC, 26-24. Dr. Michael Dailey, Provost and President of Academic Student Affairs, KSU; Dr. Heather Bigard, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance and Administration, KSU; and Nicole Sergeant, General Counsel, KSU, discussed the contracts with the committee.

In response to Co-Chair Douglas, Dr. Dailey stated the request supports the online academic program during its transition year. The university partnered with a provider under a four-month contract to build internal capacity without a revenue-sharing agreement. The provider is helping establish the program, and in the third and final year of implementation, the university will assume full responsibility. The marketing campaign supports the university's online platform, helping it compete in a highly competitive market. The campaign focuses on promoting high-demand, revenue-generating programs in Kentucky and neighboring states, targeting primarily adult learners with an average age of 35. Since launching less than a year and a half ago, enrollment has grown from 74 to 612 students. Continued marketing will strengthen the university's brand, expand its reach, and position the online program to operate independently without reliance on external marketing firms. The university selected high-demand, high-yield programs based on state, regional, and national workforce needs and Council on Postsecondary Education data.

In response to Representative Bauman, Dr. Bigard stated funding comes from the Education and General (E and G) budget and consists of tuition-generated revenue categorized as restricted funds. The tuition funds are being designated to support the program through the E and G budget.

In response to Representative Bauman, Dr. Dailey stated KSU's online enrollment has grown from 74 students less than a year and a half ago to 612 students, contributing to overall university enrollment of 2,872, which has increased from 2025 to 2026. The strategy focuses on continuing to market high-yield programs and analyzing student

personas to guide targeted outreach. For example, the MBA program, enhanced by a unique Executive Leadership track, targets adult learners and career changers ages 30 to 35, increasing enrollment from 20 to over 50 students in less than two months. The current online program operates on an eight-week term cycle, allowing multiple enrollment points throughout the year. The goal is to reach 1,000 online students, with 1,500 as an aspirational stretch target, driven primarily by fall enrollment growth.

A motion was made by Senator Thomas to consider the contracts as reviewed. Representative Bauman seconded the motion, which passed.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE AMENDMENTS WERE SELECTED FOR FURTHER REVIEW:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CN Resource, LLC, 2400004177. Karen Wirth, Director of Budgets and Financial Management, KDE; and Lauren Moore, Director, Division of School and Community Nutrition, KDE, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Senator Meredith, Ms. Moore stated the contract covers administrative reviews for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, primarily for public school districts and approximately 20 private school sponsors. Originally, federal rules required reviews every three years, but as of July 1, 2024, the USDA extended the requirement to once every five years. Due to this change, the agency has determined that internal staff can now conduct the reviews.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Richardson seconded the motion, which passed.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

American Engineers, Inc., 1300002023. Eric Pelfrey, Director for Professional Services, Department of Highways, KYTC; and Kenny Carrico, Transportation Engineer Specialist, Division of Highway Design, Department of Highways, KYTC, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Co-Chair Douglas, Mr. Pelfrey stated the increase is \$124,000, bringing the total project cost to just under \$3.8 million. The project covers nearly a six-mile section of Kentucky 54 in Owensboro, with design costs typically averaging about

10% of total construction expenses. Construction will likely cost \$30 to \$50 million dollars.

In response to Co-Chair Douglas, Mr. Carrico stated based on the enacted highway plan, an additional \$20 million is needed to complete construction across three sections of the project. One section is already under construction, while sections three and four are at final plans, with section three beginning right-of-way acquisition for roadway widening. The remaining funding is roughly allocated at \$4 million, \$4 million, and \$12 million for the respective sections to bring them to construction.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Co-Chair Douglas seconded the motion, which passed.

FACILITIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

Patrick D. Murphy Company, Inc., 2500003099. Mr. Baker discussed the contract with the committee.

A motion was made by Senator Richardson to consider the contract as reviewed. Co-Chair Douglas seconded the motion, which passed.

KENTUCKY LOTTERY CORPORATION

IGT Global Solutions Corporation, 26-15-001. Steven Gregory, Assistant General Counsel, KLC; Ryan Mudd, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, KLC; and T.H. Morris, Executive Vice President, Chief Information and Technology Officer, KLC, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Co-Chair Douglas, Mr. Morris stated since launching in 2016, the platform has grown in both user base and sales volume, especially after a recent upgrade improved scalability. Under the contract, vendors providing geolocation, cashless transactions, and identity verification earn fees based on net sales, calculated after wages and prize payouts. As sales volume increases, vendor-related expenses also rise, reflecting the platform's growth and operational costs.

A motion was made by Representative Bauman to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Meredith seconded the motion, which passed.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Multi, 25-022. Carrie Whitmore, Project Manager, Office of Planning, Design, and Construction, UofL; and Meg Campbell, Assistant Vice President, Office of Planning, Design, and Construction, UofL, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Co-Chair Douglas, Ms. Campbell stated a researcher who previously succeeded in securing grant funding with the vendor at another location plans to bring the same research and development work to the Health Sciences Campus (HSC). Although the vendor is not on the university's approved list, the researcher intends to apply for several grants in collaboration with the LuMED district, which is part of the HSC campus. Given the researcher's strong track record across all three campuses, successful grant applications with the vendor could significantly improve the return on investment for his work.

A motion was made by Senator Richardson to consider the contract as reviewed. Representative Bauman seconded the motion, which passed.

THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENTS WERE SELECTED FOR FURTHER REVIEW:

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2600000942. Lyndsey Neese, Director for Maternal Child Health, DPH, CHFS; and Anna Chamberlin, Program Coordinator, DPH, CHFS, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Co-Chair Douglas, Ms. Neese stated DPH is in the third year of a five-year federal HRSA grant and have been invited to partner with the Pediatric Mental Health Access Line, reflecting strong progress and recognition of the program's impact.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Richardson seconded the motion, which passed.

THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT AMENDMENTS WERE SELECTED FOR FURTHER REVIEW:

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Foundation for A Healthy Kentucky, 2400001672. Mike Tuggle, Assistant Director, Division of Administration and Financial Management, DPH, CHFS; Andrew Bledsoe, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Health Data and Analytics, DPH, CHFS; and John Langefeld, Commissioner, DPH, CHFS, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Co-Chair Douglas, Mr. Langefeld stated Kentucky received funding under the Rural Health Transformation Program through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rather than a traditional grant. The agreement, totaling just under \$213 million for the first of five funding cycles, includes strict restrictions, a compressed timeline, and requires funds to be spent within the cycle. To efficiently distribute funding to local communities, the state used existing contracts, and amended statements of work as needed. Funds were allocated through the Foundation for Healthy Kentucky, using the cooperative agreement's required language and flexibility.

In response to Co-Chair Douglas, Mr. Bledsoe stated the Foundation for Healthy Kentucky was funded to help healthcare organizations connect to the immunization registry by providing incentives to offset related expenses. As the original immunization grant phased out, the state used the foundation to extend support and address health equity goals, specifically improving access to COVID resources and immunizations. Funds were distributed to community-based organizations statewide, the same partners now engaged under the Rural Health Transformation program. Extending the contract through the end of June allowed the state to quickly obligate funds and meet its first-year federal reporting requirements to CMS. In the next biennium, a separate contract with the foundation will be handled individually, but this extension enabled timely funding allocations under the current cycle.

In response to Representative Bauman, Mr. Bledsoe stated the general focus is to prevent, promote, and protect public health. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this included helping prevent infection, raising awareness of risks, educating the public on prevention measures, and promoting health guidance, encompassing multiple components of public health outreach and response.

A motion was made by Representative Bauman to disapprove the contract. The motion failed due to the lack of a second. A motion was made by Representative Roarx to

consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Thomas seconded the motion, which passed, with Representative Bauman and Co-Chair Douglas voting no.

TRANSPORTATION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust, 2400002336. Danny Peake, Director, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Project Development, KYTC; and Andrew Logsdon, Ecology and Permitting Branch Manager, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Project Development, KYTC, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Chair Hart, Mr. Peak stated the increase in payment is for the Mountain Parkway project, a major undertaking that involves clearing approximately 1,000 acres of previously undisturbed land.

In response to Co-Chair Douglas, Mr. Peak stated funds are contributed to the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund (IBCF), managed by the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to support bat habitat restoration, tree planting, research, and other conservation efforts. Contributions are calculated based on the amount of habitat disturbed or trees cut for each project. The recent contract increase, driven by the large Mountain Parkway project, resulted in an unexpected \$5 million payment within the two-year cycle, which was larger and sooner than initially anticipated.

In response to Representative Bauman, Mr. Peak stated bats are considered a keystone species, playing a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem balance, similar to ants or vultures. They help control insect populations, such as mosquitoes, and support overall environmental health. While their full ecological purpose may not be fully understood, protecting bats is important, and efforts to do so are primarily about compliance with legal requirements rather than advocacy.

In response to Senator Thomas, Mr. Peak stated reports from the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service show funds are used to expand and restore habitats, with the long-term goal of removing species from the endangered list, which reduces future costs. While some species have been successfully recovered, bats remain a focus. Funds support habitat improvements at places like Clark's River National Wildlife Refuge and John James Audubon State Park, including land acquisition, tree planting, and research to understand and address the threats bats face.

A motion was made by Representative Roarx to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Thomas seconded the motion, which passed, with Representative Bauman voting no.

EXEMPTION REQUESTS:

CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) requested an exemption from Committee Policy Statement #99-4, which prohibits contracts and agreements from extending beyond the biennium for CHFS Memoranda of Agreements (MOA) and modifications between CHFS departments (Intra-Agency Agreements). A motion was made by Senator Meredith to grant the request to June 30, 2028. Co-Chair Douglas seconded the motion, which passed.

CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

CHFS, Division of Procurement and Grant Oversight, on behalf of the Kentucky Inspector General, requested an exemption from Committee Policy Statement #99-4, which prohibits contracts and agreements from extending beyond the biennium to allow the Cabinet to establish a Memoranda of Agreement for Kentucky Civil Monetary Penalty projects. A motion was made by Senator Meredith to grant the request to June 30, 2028. Co-Chair Douglas seconded the motion, which passed.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET

The Division of Waste Management, requested an exemption from Committee Policy Statement #99-4, which prohibits contracts and agreements from extending beyond the biennium for Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLFINF) Cooperative Agreement, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funds. A motion was made by Senator Meredith to grant the request to September 30, 2028. Co-Chair Douglas seconded the motion, which passed.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET

The Division of Forestry requested an exemption from Committee Policy Statement #99-4, which prohibits contracts and agreements from extending beyond the biennium for the Forestry Workforce Promotion and Training Program Grant. A motion was made by Senator Meredith to grant the request to June 30, 2027. Co-Chair Douglas seconded the motion, which passed.

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Auditor of Public Accounts requested an exemption from Committee Policy Statement #99-4, which prohibits contracts and agreements from extending beyond the biennium for an independent, certified public accountant to perform an audit of the Kentucky Lottery: (1) the initial term of the eventual contract existing from March 19, 2026, through June 30, 2027; and (2) the renewal of the contract for four (4) additional yearly financial audit cycles. A motion was made by Senator Meredith to grant the request to June 30, 2031. Co-Chair Douglas seconded the motion, which passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM.