

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes

August 12, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fifth meeting of the Information Technology Oversight Committee was held on August 12, 2026, at 10:00 AM ET/9:00 AM CT 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: Senator Gex Williams, Co-Chair; Representative Matt Lockett, Co-Chair; Senator Michael J. Nemes; and Representative John Hodgson.

Guests: Meghan Sandfoss, Executive Director, Office of Broadband Development; and John Hicks, State Budget Director, Secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet.

LRC Staff: Cynthia Brown, Kevin Miller, 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 July 8, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Update on Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) Funding

Meghan Sandfoss, Executive Director, Office of Broadband Development discussed the changes in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) restructuring policy and eligibility. There were over 87,000 locations eligible for BEAD. The average cost per location was \$4,212 of BEAD subsidy with a match contribution of \$2,733. The total awarded BEAD funds reached \$367,126,274, and of the total \$1.1 billion allocated, \$685 million remains available. NTIA is expected to issue guidance on how to use the remaining BEAD funds by the end of summer. Ms. Sandfoss continued the discussion by talking about awarded projects, contracts with service providers, supply chain disruptions, and workforce shortages.

In response to Representative Hodgson, Ms. Sandfoss discussed satellite provider service and stated per NTIA contract requirements, satellite providers have 4 years to establish

service and must maintain it for 10 years. BEAD funding pays for the service through quarterly payments throughout the 10-year period.

In response to Chair Williams, Ms. Sandfoss addressed pole funding, how the remaining BEAD funding could be spent, BEAD minimum service level requirements, and how locations are updated on the map used for BEAD funding. Only locations that are not already being served may be awarded the BEAD funding subsidy.

Kentucky Wired Infrastructure Company (KWIC)

John Hicks, State Budget Director, Secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet, gave an overview of KWIC's origination and purpose. He discussed Fitch's bond rating and Kentucky Wired Operations Company's (KWOC) responsibilities.

In response to Chair Williams, Secretary Hicks discussed the relationship between the Kentucky Communications Network Authority (KCNA) and KWIC. The timing of the network refresh is a responsibility of KWOC. As long as the bondholders are getting paid and the performance of the network is meeting its requirements, the bond rating is not impacted.

Next Meeting

October 14, at 10 AM ET/9:00 AM CT in the Capitol Annex Room 129, chaired by Co-Chair Lockett.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the committee adjourned.