

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Minutes of the Third Meeting of the 2024 Interim

August 22, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Local Government was held on August 22, 2024, (in conjunction with the State Fair) at 11:00 AM in South Wing C Rooms 101 and 104 of the Kentucky State Fair and Expo Center. Representative Randy Bridges, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Robby Mills Co-Chair; Representative Randy Bridges Co-Chair; Senators Cassie Chambers Armstrong, Greg Elkins, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Michael J. Nemes, Brandon J. Storm, and Gex Williams; Representatives Adam Bowling, George Brown Jr., Jonathan Dixon, Steven Doan, Ken Fleming, Deanna Frazier Gordon, Chris Freeland, Mark Hart, Mary Beth Imes, Matt Lockett, Michael Meredith, Sarah Stalker, Pamela Stevenson, and Walker Thomas.

Guests: Matt Sawyers and Billie Renee Johnson, Department for Local Government; Travis Horn and Jenni Scutchfield, Secretary of State's Office; and Kimberly Anness, Commonwealth Office of Technology.

LRC Staff: Mark Mitchell and Logan Schaaf.

Approval of Minutes

Without objection, the minutes from the July 29, 2024 meeting were approved.

Discussion of Distribution Progress of various HB 1 Moneys

Commissioner Matt Sawyers, Department for Local Government, presented a report of the moneys that it was responsible to distribute pursuant to 2024 House Bill 1 and 2024 Senate Bill 91. The report contained an outline of the disbursement process and appurtenant paperwork requirements. There were 115 line-item distributions for which the Department was responsible. The Department has received 105 letters of intent and has paperwork to distribute \$143 million out of a total of \$368 million. \$91 million has already been transferred to local governments.

In response to a question from Senator Mills, Billie Renee Johnson, Executive Director of Federal and State Grants, said that the Department reaches out to recipients and legislators to ensure that the money is being spent for intended purposes when there is any doubt as to its intended purpose or the distribution process stalls.

Senator Mills asked that any press releases made by the Department for these moneys that they reach out to the appropriate legislator for a quote regarding it since the allocations are made by the General Assembly.

Discussion of Secretary of State's Land Office Functions and Digital Mapping Update

Travis Horn and Jenni Scutchfield, Office of the Secretary of State, discussed the history and filings process of the Kentucky Land Office which includes certificate of legal title filings, revenue bonds, state deeds, land patents, and various land filings. Mr. Horn expanded on the filings required for cities which includes city boundary changes, the functions that the office provides, and elements for filing successfully with the office. Boundary changes are sent to the mapping office within the Commonwealth Office of Technology.

Kimberly Anness, Commonwealth Office of Technology, updated the committee on the progress of the imagery project, KY from Above. Statewide acquisition was completed in 2024, oblique imagery is available for 101 counties, and orthographic imagery is available for 10 counties. Processing of the data is an on-going process. Imagery is available via website with built-in self-help guidance. State agencies, city and county geographic service departments, and the private sector will be able to use this data freely.

Ms. Anness provided a history and process of Kentucky boundary mapping, to include discussion relating to county boundaries. During the United States Geologic Services mapping project from 1946 to 1992, county boundaries were signed off by local officials and integrated into the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's maps in 1993. City boundaries are maintained by the filings received by the Land Office in the Secretary of State's Office. Present digital map filing requirements improve accuracy of the maps and the speed of recording the changes. Local, state, and federal governments use the mapping data.

In response to a question from Senator Williams, Ms. Anness said that the Legislative Research Commission and the U.S. Census Bureau uses her agency's data to set precinct boundaries.

Representative Meredith urged members to encourage their local governments to be vigilant in their boundary mapping to prevent errors that can result in significant problems.

Representative Fleming noted the importance of mapping for use in emergency response and homeland security functions.

In response to a question from Representative Bridges, Ms. Anness said that county boundaries are not certified. There are possible approaches to certify county boundaries.

In response to a question from Senator Mills, Ms. Anness said some counties could never afford to have mapping flyovers, and some local officials buy licensed products just for their counties and continue to do so because of potential uncertainty of the continuation of the state sponsored mapping project. To keep the maps updated, it would be good to map a third of the state each year at a cost of \$3.6 million every fiscal year for the three year period.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.