

South Carolina Broadband Technology and Communications Study Committee

207 Gressette Building  
Columbia, South Carolina  
Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Minutes

Members Present: Senator Luke A. Rankin, Chairman; Moss Bresnahan; James Bryant, PhD.; Janet Claggett; Ted Creech; Nanette Edwards, Esq.; David Goble; Miriam Hair; Senator Brad Hutto; Kaye Koonce, Esq.; Representative Dwight Loftis; Neil Mellen; Representative Phil Owens; and Gary Pennington, Esq.

Staff Present: Heather Anderson, Nancy Coombs, Ben Homeyer, and Jennifer Parrish Robinson.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 9:20 a.m. He informed the committee that Mr. Barlowe could not be present but had submitted a proxy. The committee received a list of issues from which it would focus its discussions in formulating recommendations to submit to the General Assembly.

Senator Hutto made a motion to recommend to the General Assembly that Greenville Technical College and Trident Technical College be authorized to release an RFP, in cooperation with the CIO, and that the revenues received from a lease of the excess capacity be retained by the respective colleges to be used in accordance with the mission and service area of each college, as defined by South Carolina statutes. There was no further discussion on the matter. There was a unanimous vote in favor of Senator Hutto's motion; there were no abstentions.

The committee then discussed the creation of a public-private partnership. After a discussion of potential structure and limitations on such an entity, Neil Mellen made a motion to recommend to the General Assembly the creation of a public-private partnership and to consult with an entity with expertise in this area such as Connected Nation in how best to create such an entity. The committee unanimously voted in favor of this motion, with no abstentions.

A discussion ensued regarding ETV's transition. Questions were raised as to costs, FCC deadlines, and how best to formulate a RFP (including best business practice models). Senator Hutto moved that the committee recommend to the General Assembly that in regards to ETV's spectrum:

- (1) the General Assembly adopt a Joint Resolution to enable the hiring of an expert to review ETV's spectrum;
- (2) the expert would determine the value of the spectrum and how best to formulate a RFP to lease the excess capacity;
- (3) the expert would report its findings to the General Assembly within 90 days of employment; and
- (4) all actions necessary be taken so that ETV retained its licenses and complied with FCC rules and regulations.

The committee unanimously voted in favor of Senator Hutto's motion, with no abstentions.

The Chairman directed staff to draft a report based on the recommendations voted upon in the meeting. Staff would then submit the draft to the committee's members. If all members agreed upon the draft report's contents, another meeting would not be necessary.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.