

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Minutes of the

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 28, 2002
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Larry J. Robinson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Senators Larry J. Robinson, Randy A. Schobinger, Ken Solberg; Representatives Robert Huether, Keith Kempenich, Bob Skarphol, Robin Weisz; Chief Information Officer Curtis L. Wolfe

Others present: See attached appendix

It was moved by Senator Solberg, seconded by Representative Skarphol, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the January 29, 2002, meeting be approved as distributed.

REPORT FROM THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Mr. Curtis L. Wolfe, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Department, provided information on the department's activities, including information on the PowerSchool application initiative, the status of the statewide information technology network, and issues related to the study of the technological capacity and needs of the state. A copy of the information is on file in the Legislative Council office.

Mr. Wolfe said in regard to the PowerSchool application initiative, the department anticipates receiving a new release of the application by April 15, 2002, and after implementation of the new release the department anticipates making a formal acceptance of the system. He said 59 school districts have committed to implementing the application, and the Beulah, Belcourt, Stanley, and Roosevelt-Carson School Districts are scheduled to implement the application before the start of the 2002-03 school year. He said the department is working with the PowerSchool application vendor to develop a statewide information reporting application for school districts to use for reporting information to the Department of Public Instruction and the State Board for Vocational and Technical Education. He said the statewide reporting application is anticipated to be completed by August 1, 2002.

Mr. Wolfe said in regard to the status of the statewide information technology network, the department anticipates connecting approximately 25 libraries to the statewide information technology network during July and August 2002. He said a portion of the federal homeland security bioterrorism funding received by the State Department of Health may be

used by the state to expand the statewide information technology network to local law enforcement and public health entities.

Mr. Wolfe said in regard to the status of e-rate reimbursement funding, the department was notified on January 17, 2002, that its appeal for fiscal year 2002 e-rate reimbursement funding is under formal review and that a final decision should be communicated to the department in April 2002.

Mr. Wolfe said the department has been notified that EchoStar Communications Corporation and Hughes Electronics have merged and are launching a new satellite communications service to provide high-definition television and high-speed Internet access to households in the state. He distributed a booklet detailing the merger of the two entities and the new satellite communications service. A copy of the booklet is on file in the Legislative Council office.

In response to a question from Representative Huether regarding the new satellite communications service, Mr. Wolfe said the fee for the service would be \$69.99 per month.

STUDY OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY AND NEEDS OF THE STATE

Representatives of the following information technology service providers presented information regarding the technological capacity and needs of the state and the changes in the role of communications, media, networks, and public utilities.

Dakota Carrier Network

Mr. Evan Hass, General Manager, Dakota Carrier Network, Fargo, North Dakota, said Dakota Carrier Network operates a fiber optic communications network to provide broadband services to all regions of North Dakota. Mr. Hass said Dakota Carrier Network is a broadband carrier, not an Internet service provider. Dakota Carrier Network uses reliability, cost-effectiveness, quality of service, and security as criteria to assess new technology. He said in regard to commercial use of the statewide information technology network, the private sector should be responsible for providing commercial broadband services instead of allowing different entities to be connected to the statewide information

technology network. A copy of the information provided is on file in the Legislative Council office.

Mr. Wolfe said commercial use of the statewide information technology network has been asked for by private entities due to the state's postalized rate being lower than the rate available to the private entities.

In response, Mr. Hass said there will be different pricing structures for urban and rural areas due to the nature of the areas.

Qwest

Mr. Mel Kambeitz, Qwest, said Qwest provides digital subscriber line (DSL) services to individuals in the Bismarck, Grand Forks, Fargo, and West Fargo areas. Mr. Kambeitz said expansion of broadband services is difficult because individuals are not willing to pay for broadband services and Qwest is required to share its information technology network infrastructure with other service providers. He said the establishment of tax credits may help with the expansion of broadband services.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Mr. Kambeitz said Qwest is waiting for a ruling from the Federal Communications Commission regarding the repeal of the requirement for entities such as Qwest to share their information technology network infrastructure.

Midcontinent Communications

Mr. Tom Simmons, Vice President, Midcontinent Communications, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, said Midcontinent Communications provides cable television services and information technology services to individuals in North Dakota and South Dakota. The information technology services include cable modem high-speed Internet services and private data network services. Mr. Simmons said the rate for cable modem high-speed Internet services is \$29.95 per month for residential service and \$95 to \$395 per month for business service. He said barriers to deployment of information technology in North Dakota include the lack of market density, the limited number of major business customers in small communities in need of broadband services, and regulatory control and jurisdiction. He said government could play a significant role in the development and deployment of information technology services by working with all providers of services and by restraining any desire to tax the industry before development is complete. A copy of the information provided is on file in the Legislative Council office.

In response to a question from Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Simmons said the Midcontinent Communications cable modem high-speed Internet services are currently available in Bismarck, Mandan, Lincoln, Minot, Grand Forks, Emerado, Portland, and Hillsboro and will soon be available in Grandin.

Western Wireless Corporation

Ms. RaeAnn G. Kelsch, Regional Manager of External Affairs, Western Wireless Corporation, said Western Wireless Corporation is a cellular carrier specializing in providing high-quality, affordable, and reliable wireless services to individuals in rural areas. Western Wireless Corporation has made a significant investment in North Dakota through the development of wireless infrastructure, the introduction of new digital technologies, and the expansion of coverage in rural areas. Ms. Kelsch said in July 2001 Western Wireless Corporation became the first carrier to introduce IXRTT high-speed data wireless service in the United States. She said the new technology is being used to provide broadband wireless data to Terry, Montana. A copy of the information provided is on file in the Legislative Council office.

Extend America

Mr. Edward T. Schafer, representing Extend America, said Extend America is a Bismarck-based company that is dedicated to eliminating the digital divide. Extend America plans to invest in digital wireless high-speed technology infrastructure in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Mr. Schafer said the infrastructure will be implemented in two phases with the first phase being the implementation of the Bismarck area at an estimated cost of \$7 million and the second phase being the implementation of the remainder of North Dakota and the other states at an estimated cost of \$200 million. He said it is important to build the information technology infrastructure of the state to provide access to education and medical care. He said the Legislative Assembly's responsibility is to develop policies to promote growth in the information technology industry.

Monet Mobile Networks

Mr. Jesse Henderson, Monet Mobile Networks, Seattle, Washington, said Monet Mobile Networks is a wireless carrier that provides high-speed, data-only mobile Internet service. Mr. Henderson said Monet Mobile Networks launched the wireless technology in Fargo, North Dakota, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in January 2002, and plans to launch the technology in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Bismarck, North Dakota, by September 2002. He said the wireless technology covers areas within the cities but not the rural areas between the cities. He said Monet Mobile Networks offers a flat-rate billing plan of \$49.95 per month for unlimited Internet data access. A copy of the information provided is on file in the Legislative Council office.

In response to a question from Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Henderson said Monet Mobile Networks has not determined if the wireless technology will be made available in other North Dakota cities.

AT&T

Ms. Julie Roswick, AT&T, said in 2000 AT&T completed a \$50 million network upgrade in North Dakota by constructing a fiber backbone infrastructure across the state from east to west. AT&T offers Internet access through a variety of technologies, including DSL, direct private line access, Ethernet, or AT&T's ATM or frame relay services. Ms. Roswick said the major technology service trends that impact businesses are managing complexity, business continuity, and costs. She said the government's role in encouraging the deployment of broadband services is to know what to regulate and when. A copy of the information provided is on file in the Legislative Council office.

In response to a question from Senator Robinson regarding AT&T's fiber backbone infrastructure, Ms. Roswick said AT&T uses local area carriers to route traffic onto the fiber backbone infrastructure.

Northwest Communications Cooperative

Mr. Kenneth Lund, Jr., Manager, Northwest Communications Cooperative, Ray, North Dakota, said the Northwest Communications Cooperative provides services to 5,293 telephone subscribers, 1,630 cable television subscribers, 975 wireless cable television subscribers, and 4,200 Internet subscribers. Of the 4,200 Internet subscribers, 4,025 are served through dial-up access, 92 through DSL access, and 83 through wireless DSL access. Mr. Lund said the rate for dial-up access is \$19.50 per month and the rates for DSL and wireless DSL access vary from \$35.50 to \$140.50 per month. He said DSL access is available for 60 to 70 percent of the individuals in the cooperative and wireless DSL access will be available for 90 to 95 percent of the individuals within 30 days. He said even with the declining rural population, Northwest Communications Cooperative is committed to bringing broadband services to schools, government agencies, and the people of northwest North Dakota. A copy of the information provided is on file in the Legislative Council office.

Polar Communications

Mr. Dave Dunning, General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, Polar Communications, Park River, North Dakota, said the Polar Communications current coverage area includes approximately 11,000 telephone customers, 3,000 cable television customers, and 5,500 Internet customers. Mr. Dunning said approximately 98 percent of individuals in the Polar Communications coverage area have access to either DSL or wireless DSL service. He said recently Polar Communications expanded into the Mayville and Portland areas by investing \$3.5 million in infrastructure to provide telephone, cable television, and cable high-speed Internet services. He identified as information technology service issues the support for universal service and the structuring of the sale of Qwest

exchanges in such a manner that allows small independents to compete for the purchase of the exchanges. A copy of the information provided is on file in the Legislative Council office.

Consolidated Telcom

Mr. L. Dan Wilhelmson, Chief Executive Officer, Consolidated Telcom, Dickinson, North Dakota, said Consolidated Telcom's current coverage area includes 15,028 telephone customers, 4,833 cable television customers, and 5,511 Internet customers. Mr. Wilhelmson said DSL service is available in Dickinson, New England, Rhame, Killdeer, Halliday, Scranton, Dodge, South Heart, Watford City, Bowman, Regent, Mott, Hettinger, and Richardton, and wireless DSL service will be available in Ladd, Amidon, Reeder, Manning, Dunn Center, and Grassy Butte by June 2002. He said Consolidated Telcom is working with Dickinson State University, Dickinson High School, Hettinger Public School District, Scranton Public School District, Mott Public School District, and Bowman Public School District in the southwest pipeline of information for communities and education (SPICE) initiative. The primary purpose of the initiative is to utilize technology to provide distance learning and staff development opportunities to member districts and other entities. A copy of the information provided is on file in the Legislative Council office.

The committee recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SYSTEM INITIATIVE

Mr. Wolfe presented information regarding the status of the enterprise resource planning (ERP) system initiative. A copy of the information is on file in the Legislative Council office. He said the Information Technology Department has begun negotiations with PeopleSoft and Maximus for the purchase and implementation of an ERP system. He said the PeopleSoft ERP system includes financial management, supply chain management, human resources and payroll, student information, and portal software. He said the ERP system also includes enterprise performance management services and customer relations management software that at the present time are not anticipated to be implemented by the state. He said the department's contract with PeopleSoft includes provisions relating to the establishment of two data centers, a one-time data base exchange option, an annual 5 percent increase limit on maintenance costs, a 50 percent discount on PeopleSoft government and education software purchases for the next five years, and a two-year purchase option for additional training units.

Mr. Wolfe said the proposed ERP system implementation schedule includes the pilot of two selected higher education institutions implementing all three of

the ERP system components--financial, human resources, and student administration--and the pilot of one select state agency, the Office of Management and Budget, implementing the financial and human resources components of the ERP system. He said the pilot phases are anticipated to be completed in April 2003.

Mr. Wolfe said to date the department has expended approximately \$255,331 of the \$7,500,000 general fund appropriation provided by the 2001 Legislative Assembly for the ERP system initiative. He said the estimated ERP system initiative costs for the remainder of the 2001-03 biennium are as follows:

PeopleSoft		
Software license	\$3,692,758	
Maintenance	997,045	
Training units	206,250	
Subtotal		\$4,896,053
Maximus		\$7,462,400
Total		\$12,358,453

Mr. Wolfe said PeopleSoft has offered to enter into a finance agreement with the state for its estimated 2001-03 biennium ERP-related expenses of \$4,896,053. Under the proposed agreement, the department would pay PeopleSoft \$150,000 on August 1, 2002, and the remainder of \$4,746,053 debt plus related interest of \$117,967 on August 1, 2003. He said the agreement would allow the department to use the remaining ERP system initiative 2001-03 biennium appropriation of \$7,244,669 for implementation services performed by Maximus.

Mr. Wolfe said other areas related to the ERP system implementation, such as costs associated with state agency and higher education personnel and training, site preparation, and data housing, must also be addressed. He said at the present time these costs are estimated at approximately \$3,965,941 and \$3,929,580 for the 2001-03 and 2003-05 bienniums, respectively. He said the costs associated with higher education personnel and training costs may be higher than estimated.

Mr. Wolfe said the department will be seeking approval from the Budget Section on April 17, 2002, to transfer unspent funding from the department's salaries and wages and wide area network line items to the enterprise resource planning system line item pursuant to Section 2 of Senate Bill No. 2022, to increase special funds spending authority by \$5 million, and to enter into the financing agreement proposed by PeopleSoft.

Mr. Wolfe said the estimated amount of funding needed to complete the implementation of the proposed ERP system during the 2003-05 biennium is approximately \$20.8 million. He said due to the anticipated limited growth in general fund revenue for the 2003-05 biennium, the department and the Governor are considering ways to finance the system, including the issuing of revenue bonds in the amount of

\$20 million. He said the estimated debt service requirement would be \$5.4 million per biennium, of which 60 percent would be the responsibility of higher education institutions and 40 percent would be the responsibility of state agencies. He said the State Board of Higher Education is committed to paying its portion of the debt service and state agencies would be assessed a fee for their portion of the debt service.

In response to a question from Senator Solberg, Mr. Wolfe said both PeopleSoft and Maximus are committed to the proposed implementation schedules.

In response to a question from Representative Kempenich regarding costs associated with the proposed ERP system initiative, Mr. Wolfe said the information regarding ERP system costs to be assessed to individual state agencies is not available at the present time, but the department would provide some information regarding the allocation of such costs to the Budget Section at its April 17, 2002, meeting.

In response to a question from Representative Weisz, Mr. Wolfe said the total estimated cost for the ERP system implementation, including vendor fees, maintenance, personnel costs, training costs, and other related costs, is approximately \$31.1 million.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol regarding the vendor fees and maintenance costs, Mr. Wolfe said the vendor fees and maintenance costs associated with the proposed ERP system are fixed contract costs.

Mr. Larry Isaak, Chancellor, North Dakota University System, provided comments regarding the ERP system initiative. Mr. Isaak said the presidents of the higher education institutions agree that the proposed ERP system is necessary and the State Board of Higher Education is supportive and committed to the initiative.

Ms. Sheila Peterson, Director, Fiscal Management Division, Office of Management and Budget, presented information regarding the proposed ERP system budget preparation module and the statewide integrated budget and reporting (SIBR) system. A copy of the information is on file in the Legislative Council office. Ms. Peterson said in 1995 the Office of Management and Budget partnered with Affinity Global Solutions and the Information Technology Department to develop a new computerized budget system for the state. She said the Office of Management and Budget entered into a marketing contract with Affinity Global Solutions which provides Affinity Global Solutions exclusive marketing rights to SIBR in exchange for the state receiving royalty payments when any sale of the system occurs. The contract also allows the state to receive free of charge any updates or enhancements that Affinity Global Solutions makes to SIBR. She said to date SIBR has been sold to nine other states resulting in \$149,500 of royalty income for the state.

Ms. Peterson said Affinity Global Solutions has developed interfaces with PeopleSoft's financial and human resource ERP components, and therefore, due to the marketing contract, retaining SIBR and integrating it with the PeopleSoft components would be at a minimal to no cost to the state. She said the estimated cost of the proposed PeopleSoft ERP system includes the budget preparation module and not purchasing the budget module would not save the state any money. She said therefore she recommends the state proceed with the current system and when the time comes to interface the budget preparation system with the proposed ERP system, the state should reevaluate both products.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Ms. Peterson said the implementation of the proposed ERP system will provide advantages to the state, including one accounting system for state government and higher education and assisting with process reengineering.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol regarding additional object codes for tracking expenditures, Ms. Peterson said object codes are added whenever they are determined to be necessary.

Mr. Jim W. Smith, Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor, presented a memorandum entitled *Issues Regarding the State's Budget Preparation and Analysis Computer System*. Mr. Smith said the state needs a budget preparation and reporting system that meets or exceeds the functionality of the SIBR system and allows the Legislative Assembly to develop the state budget in the limited time available during a legislative session. He said the Legislative Council fiscal staff uses the SIBR system for budget analysis and employee salary alternative calculations. He said the proposed ERP system budget preparation module does have some attractive features, but at this time it appears to have limited capabilities for statewide budget development and for providing the budget information needed by the Legislative Assembly. When the two pilot phases of the ERP system initiative are completed, the state will be in a better position to analyze newer versions of the Peoplesoft and SIBR products and determine which product or products best serve the state's needs.

STUDY OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY AND NEEDS OF THE STATE

Mr. Tom D. Freier, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation, provided testimony regarding the feasibility and potential for private/state radio tower sharing. A copy of the information is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Freier said there are 40 state-owned radio towers in the state used for mobile public safety communications and for State Radio law enforcement communications. He said requests to use state-owned radio tower sites are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. He said the department allows

the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to use four radio tower sites near national wildlife refuges and the department recently signed an agreement with Adams County and the Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Investment Board for the placement of wind-monitoring devices on the state-owned radio tower facility in Mott.

In response to a question from Representative Kempenich, Mr. Freier said the department does not have a formal policy regarding state-owned radio tower sharing.

Mr. Cory Finneman, Vice President of Research, Department of Commerce, and Ms. Sandy Opp, Project Manager, Department of Commerce, provided information regarding the technological capacity and needs of the state. Mr. Finneman said information technology services are an important issue during a company's site selection process. Ms. Opp said since the September 11, 2001, terrorist disaster, the department has seen an increase in the number of entities interested in doing business in North Dakota. She said many businesses need high-speed Internet access, video conferencing, and redundancy capabilities.

Ms. Jennifer Feist, Director of Development, Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation, Valley City, North Dakota, provided testimony regarding information technology issues. A copy of the information is on file in the Legislative Council office. Ms. Feist said the Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation established a Regional Technology Center to serve as a business incubator to help startup companies or existing companies expand into new markets, products, and services with the information technology industry. She said challenges faced by the community and the clients of the Regional Technology Center include the availability of high-speed Internet service, interactive video services, and redundancy capabilities.

In response to a question from Senator Schobinger regarding interactive video services, Ms. Feist said in communities where interactive video services are not available, private companies should be able to utilize the state Interactive Video Network at the state "postal rate."

Mr. Tony Clark, Commissioner, Public Service Commission, provided information regarding information technology service regulations, issues, and trends. A copy of the information is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Clark said in regard to information technology service regulation in North Dakota, services basically fall into two categories--essential and nonessential. The essential services are largely regulated services that include basic telephone rates and interstate switched access. The services beyond these are considered nonessential, and in North Dakota that means the services are unregulated. He said in regard to information technology trends, there are four proceedings before the

Federal Communications Commission that will have a great impact on the regulatory framework for broadband services. The proceedings involve the treatment of cable modem service, the treatment of incumbent local exchange carriers, the review of the unbundled network elements, and the review of Internet access providers using the traditional telephone network as a platform.

Mr. Wolfe provided information regarding the contract with the University of North Dakota Social Science Research Institute for a citizen and business information technology survey. A copy of the information, including draft citizen and business survey documents, is on file in the Legislative Council office. He said the Information Technology Department signed a contract with the University of North Dakota Social Science Research Institute on March 5, 2002, for a citizen and business information technology survey. The estimated cost for the survey is \$40,000, of which the Information Technology Department will pay \$20,000 on April 1 and the Legislative Council will pay \$20,000 upon completion of the survey. For the business component of the survey, all businesses with over 100 employees and a random sample of those with under 100 employees will be surveyed, for a total of 1,000 businesses. For the citizen component of the survey, a random sample of 400 households in urban areas and 400 households in rural areas will be surveyed, for a total of 800 households. He said the survey questions will be finalized during the week of March 25. The survey is projected to be completed by the end of April, and the final report should be available by the middle of June 2002.

Mr. David Crothers, Executive Vice President, North Dakota Association of Telephone Cooperatives, Mandan, North Dakota, distributed a copy of the North Dakota Association of Telephone Cooperatives broadband survey. A copy is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Crothers said there is not a digital divide in North Dakota. He said 192 of North Dakota's rural communities have access to some of the most modern and affordable telecommunications technology.

Mr. Jeff Hoffmann, Director, Champion REAP Alliance, Dickinson, North Dakota, said the information technology strategic plan will soon be released for the United States Department of Agriculture REAP zone and the Champion communities in the southwest corner of North Dakota.

STATEWIDE PLAN FOR PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lyle V. Gallagher, Director, State Radio Communications, provided information regarding the development of a statewide plan for public safety communications. A copy of the information is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Gallagher said the following phased approach may be considered for

implementing a statewide public safety communications system:

- Phase 1 - Upgrade 39 state-owned radio tower sites to new P-25 digital capable stations, upgrade the existing consoles and central electronics, and add channel banks to support T-1 connectivity (estimated cost of \$4.8 million to \$5.2 million).
- Phase 2 - Upgrade the central system to dual mode P-25 digital and analog, add digital interface units and related units at the console, and upgrade state-owned radio tower sites channel banks (estimated cost of \$950,000 to \$1,020,000).
- Phase 3 - Add additional digital stations at each state-owned radio tower site, add 10 additional radio tower sites, and trunk the entire system (estimated cost of \$29 million to \$30 million).

Mr. Gallagher said in addition P-25 digital mobile radio units must be purchased at an estimated cost of \$28.8 million, of which \$13.8 million would be for State Radio system mobile and portables and \$15 million would be for local government radios. He said other recurring costs for the phased radio system upgrade approach are \$1,198,711 for the 2003-05 biennium, \$1,132,647 for the 2005-07 biennium, and \$1,189,280 for the 2007-09 biennium.

Mr. Gallagher said the state may decide on a nonphased approach for implementing a statewide public safety communications system. The nonphased approach would replace the entire State Radio network to an APCO 25 compliant trunked VHF radio system. He said the system would be a 49-site, 4-channel system with upgraded dispatch consoles and supporting T-1 connectivity. The estimated cost for the nonphased approach is \$61.3 million to \$63.8 million. This estimate includes \$28.8 million for the purchase of P-25 digital mobile radio units.

Mr. Gallagher said in regard to other states' progress toward implementing a public safety mobile communications system, Minnesota has implemented 800 MHz P-25 in the Minneapolis, Minnesota, area and plans on expanding statewide with 800 MHz. South Dakota has ordered a P-25 VHF digital trunked radio system for 36 radio tower sites. The system installation is in progress, but the mobile units that have been installed are not functioning. Nebraska has made a commitment to operate in the VHF digital mode and has developed a plan to upgrade its statewide system, but presently has been unable to achieve funding to upgrade.

In response to a question from Senator Robinson, Mr. Gallagher said the implementation of Phase 1 of the proposed statewide plan for public safety communications is critical due to the difficulty of purchasing replacement parts for the existing public safety communications system and the possibility of system failure.

In response to questions from Representative Weisz and Representative Skarphol regarding the costs associated with the phased and the nonphased approaches, Mr. Gallagher said the cost estimate for the nonphased approach includes approximately \$28.8 million for digital mobile units and the cost estimates for the phased approach do not include these costs.

In response to a question from Representative Weisz, Mr. Gallagher said the estimated cost of adding 10 additional radio tower sites is approximately \$5 million.

Mr. Fred Debowey, Administrative Lieutenant, Minot Police Department, and Ward County 911 Coordinator, Minot, North Dakota, provided information regarding the current system's operability and effectiveness during the recent anhydrous ammonia disaster in Minot. Mr. Debowey said the communications capabilities were excellent during the recent anhydrous ammonia disaster in Minot. He said law enforcement officials were able to talk to each other and with members of other organizations.

OTHER INFORMATION

Mr. Rick Hessinger, Business Manager, State Radio Communications, provided information regarding recommended changes in the 911 telephone system standards and guidelines pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 57-40.6-11. Mr. Hessinger said at the present time there are no recommended changes in the 911 telephone system

standards and guidelines. He said there may be a change recommended at the next meeting of the State Radio Communications Wireless 911 Committee.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol regarding the state's contract with Dakota Carrier Network for the statewide information technology network, Mr. Wolfe said the state's contract with Dakota Carrier Network runs through July 1, 2004, and is renewable.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol regarding the proposed ERP system, Ms. Pat Brown, Maximus, said the PeopleSoft ERP system should be able to track FTE position information, including vacancy savings, and monitor construction contract change orders.

The meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the chair at 5:00 p.m.

Roxanne Woeste
Fiscal Analyst

Jim W. Smith
Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor

ATTACH:1