

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Minutes of the

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 27, 2010
Roughrider 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, Randel Christmann, Joe Miller, Tom Seymour, Rich Wardner; Representatives Craig Headland, Corey Mock, Bob Skarphol, Gary R. Sukut, Robin Weisz, Lonny Winrich; Chief Information Officer Lisa Feldner

Others present: Jim W. Smith, Jason J. Steckler; Legislative Council, Bismarck

See attached [appendix](#) for additional persons present.

It was moved by Representative Skarphol, seconded by Senator Seymour, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the October 20, 2009, meeting be approved as distributed.

WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

Mr. K. Dane Snowden, Vice President, External and State Affairs, CTIA The Wireless Association, Washington, D.C., provided information regarding wireless technology. Mr. Snowden said CTIA The Wireless Association represents all aspects of wireless technology, including telecommunications carriers, manufacturers, application developers, and government. Currently, he said, there are more than 276 million broadband subscribers, including more than 59 million wireless broadband subscribers. In the United States, he said, new broadband subscribers are overwhelmingly choosing wireless compared to other broadband options. He said a majority of wireless broadband subscribers are male but the percentage of female subscribers is increasing.

In response to a question from Representative Winrich, Mr. Snowden said minorities represent a large percentage of wireless broadband subscribers.

Mr. Snowden said wireless technology is expanding into campaigning, government services, emergency services, health care, and education.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Mr. Snowden said teachers are using wireless technology in the classroom to conduct experiments, find reference material and information, distribute and collect assignments, and administer quizzes and examinations.

In response to a question from Senator Robinson, Mr. Snowden said network neutrality and early termination fees are popular topics at the federal level.

In response to a question from Representative Headland, Mr. Snowden said there are no wireless capacity issues at this time. He said the federal government may complete a spectrum review in the future to review capacity levels.

Chairman Robinson asked Mr. Snowden to provide a copy of his presentation to the committee.

REPORT FROM THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER Update on Federal Grants

Ms. Lisa Feldner, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Department, provided information regarding federal grants anticipated to be received by the state for information technology projects. A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office. Ms. Feldner said the department has applied for a \$10.8 million federal grant for implementing a statewide longitudinal data system. She said a statewide longitudinal data system is required of states in order to receive elementary and secondary education federal stimulus funds.

Ms. Feldner said there is approximately \$4.7 billion of funding available through the federal broadband technology opportunities program. She said the federal government received 2,200 applications totaling over \$28 billion for the first round of funding from the program. She said 53 of the applications affected North Dakota. She said the following are recipients of funding in the first round for North Dakota:

- BEK Communications Cooperative received a \$1.9 million grant and \$2 million loan for providing fiber connections in Burleigh County.
- Traill County and Halstad Telephone Company received a \$2 million loan for providing fiber connections in Traill County.

Ms. Feldner said the department has applied for a \$1.55 million grant from the United States Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration for identifying and documenting all the broadband connectivity available in the state. She said the United States Department of Commerce will award one grant to each state to create a national broadband map. She said the department is in the process of entering a contract with Tetra Tech to assist with the project.

Ms. Feldner said there is approximately \$4.35 billion of funding available through the federal Race to the Top program. She said 11 states have not applied for funding through the program, including North Dakota.

In response to a question from Representative Winrich, Ms. Feldner said North Dakota did not apply for Race to the Top program funding because the state has a law prohibiting charter schools. She said Race to the Top program rules do not allow states to receive funding if states have a law prohibiting charter schools.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Ms. Feldner said approximately 40 of the 53 applications affecting North Dakota for the broadband technology opportunities program related to nationwide proposals.

Representative Skarphol asked the Information Technology Department for information regarding the North Dakota-specific applications for the federal broadband technology opportunities program.

Annual Customer Survey

Mr. Gary Vetter, Director, Enterprise Services Division, Information Technology Department, provided a summary of customer complaints received through the department's annual customer survey. A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Vetter said the department's 2009 overall approval rating was 93.3 percent, an increase from the 2008 overall approval rating of 90.6 percent. He said dissatisfaction is mainly in the areas of cost, complexity, and communication. He said concerns expressed by agencies include:

- Costs continue to rise with no input from agencies.
- Problems are not always solved as quickly as they should be.
- Project managers do not always understand the project they are managing.
- The Information Technology Department rarely informs agencies of new software and new ways of doing things.
- When Information Technology Department employees serve on enterprise architecture teams, open discussion of issues is limited.

Mr. Vetter said the department is working on addressing the concerns expressed by participating in recurring discussions with stakeholders, meeting quarterly with information technology coordinators, and establishing service level agreements.

Health Information Technology

Mr. Sheldon Wolf, Health Information Technology Director, Information Technology Department, provided information regarding the status of health information technology activities pursuant to 2009 Senate Bill No. 2332. A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office.

Mr. Wolf said the department has been notified that the state will be receiving a \$5,343,733 grant from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology for implementing a statewide health information technology and exchange network. He said the official grant award announcement is anticipated in early 2010.

Mr. Wolf said the Health Information Technology Office and the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee is to complete a strategic plan and an operational plan for the statewide health information technology and exchange network. He said both plans must be approved by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology before implementation of the statewide network. He said the Health Information Technology Office has selected a consultant--Hielix MEDNET--for assistance in the development of the plans. He said work on the plans will begin as soon as the state receives the official grant award and the grant funds are available.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Mr. Wolf said hospitals and physicians may receive Medicare incentives if they implement electronic health care records.

Ms. Feldner said many health care facilities do not have adequate network bandwidth. She said the current health alert network reaches 41 facilities and provides only video services. She said the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee will be reviewing network upgrade models. In addition, she said, the advisory committee may request statutory changes relating to the exchange of information with the Medicaid management information system.

Representative Skarphol suggested the Information Technology Department provide the Information Technology Committee with information regarding any potential statutory changes needed relating to health information technology. Chairman Robinson asked the department to provide this information to the committee at its next meeting.

STATEWIDE WIDE AREA NETWORK

Mr. Evan Hass, General Manager, Dakota Carrier Network, Fargo, provided historical information regarding statewide wide area network utilization rates. Mr. Hass provided the following comparison of Dakota Carrier Network revenue percentages by customer type for 2001 and 2009:

	2001	2009
Government	41%	25%
National carriers	16%	36%
Regional carriers	11%	4%
Member companies	14%	16%
Commercial	18%	19%

Mr. Hass said North Dakota state government utilization of the Dakota Carrier Network backbone infrastructure has decreased from approximately 10 percent to 12 percent in 2001 to approximately 5 percent to 6 percent in 2009.

The committee recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon and reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

Mr. Dan Pullen, Director, Educational Technology Council, Fargo, provided information regarding the core curriculum courses being offered through video,

including the types of courses and the schools offering the courses, and information on dual-credit courses offered through video. A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Pullen provided the following summary of interactive video courses and enrollments for fall 2009 by kindergarten through grade 12 education video consortium:

Consortium	Courses	Schools	Enrollments			
			Core	Dual-Credit	Elective	Total
Central Dakota	15	8	0	10	145	155
Great Northwest	9	16	0	11	120	131
Great Western	63	39	80	180	659	919
Greater Southeast	25	11	0	122	224	346
Heart of the Valley	20	23	4	69	176	249
New Horizons	5	9	0	0	40	40
North Central	17	19	9	21	146	176
Center for Distance Education	6	3	32	0	17	49
Northeast Education	9	20	0	20	102	122
Northern Red River Valley	19	8	16	21	245	282
Total	188	156	141	454	1,874	2,469

In response to a question from Senator Robinson, Mr. Pullen said national research indicates that there is no significant difference in the quality of instruction between classroom instruction, interactive video instruction, and online instruction.

In response to a question from Senator Miller, Mr. Pullen said the Educational Technology Council provides grants to schools to assist with the upgrading of video equipment.

Representative Skarphol suggested the Educational Technology Council be asked to provide the committee with information regarding the estimated cost of updating video classrooms, including the cost of providing recording equipment. Chairman Robinson asked the council to provide this information to the committee at its next meeting.

HIGHER EDUCATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

Mr. Randall Thursby, Chief Information Officer, North Dakota University System, Fargo, provided information regarding higher education information technology planning, services, and major projects. A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Thursby said the University System has established an information technology strategic plan with the following goals:

- Goal 1 - Improve University System information technology-enabled business processes and services while providing and managing resources to align with strategic goals.
- Goal 2 - Support University System infrastructure needs.
- Goal 3 - Improve and enhance University System collaborative efforts.
- Goal 4 - Improve and enhance student learning.

- Goal 5 - Increase University System customer focus.

Mr. Thursby said recent University System information technology accomplishments include:

- Establishment of a Microsoft campus agreement.
- Implementation of Wimba, a suite of interactive, web-based software collaboration and communication tools.
- Implementation of Moodle, an open source learning management system.
- Network and Internet upgrades.
- Implementation of TouchNet software, a software that allows campuses to accept online credit card payments.
- Expansion of desktop virus protection software to include spyware.

Mr. Thursby said the University System is in the planning phase of an integrated services initiative. He said the objectives of the initiative are to:

- Improve the integration of systemwide applications.
- Provide a more consistent end user experience for students, faculty, and staff.
- Improve coordination of resources, applications, and processes.
- Provide better support for collaborative students.

Mr. Thursby said less than two years ago each higher education institution had its own learning management system that it supported independently. Currently, he said, four institutions are using Moodle, three institutions are using the Pearson Learning Suite, and four institutions are using Blackboard.

Mr. Thursby said challenges in the area of information technology for the University System include:

- Continuing service integration for a better student experience.
- Integrating social media with current applications.
- Serving online students.
- Dealing with growth in the use of video and enriched media in courses.

In response to a question from Senator Wardner, Mr. Thursby said the Legislative Assembly should consider establishing a technology pool that the University System could access during the biennium for unanticipated information technology needs.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Mr. Thursby said the University System will need two to four new full-time equivalent positions relating to the implementation and utilization of a data warehouse.

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND PENETRATION TESTING

Mr. Mark Shaw, Technical Manager, Security Operations Branch, ManTech Security and Mission Assurance, Vienna, Virginia, provided information regarding vulnerability assessment and penetration testing of the Information Technology Department. A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Shaw said during September and October 2009, ManTech Security and Mission Assurance performed a vulnerability assessment and penetration test for the State Auditor's office. He said the assessment and penetration testing consisted of the following five major project tasks:

Project Task	Description
External vulnerability assessment	An external vulnerability assessment is intended to provide an organization with information on the overall security and risk of the network from an external point of view. External assessment procedures focus on performing Internet research, discovering systems connected to the Internet, and probing the system to discover misconfigurations and vulnerabilities.
Internal vulnerability assessment	An internal vulnerability assessment is intended to provide an organization with information on the overall security and risk of the systems and network from an internal point of view. Internal assessment procedures focus on examining systems for vulnerabilities, misconfigurations, and implementation flaws that may expose the system to additional risk.

Project Task	Description
Application security assessment	An application security assessment gives an organization an opportunity to thoroughly and realistically evaluate the security posture of an application and its associated components.
Wireless security assessment	A wireless security assessment seeks to identify unauthorized wireless devices and access points within an organization. It may also be used to verify proper setup and controls of approved wireless configurations.
Penetration testing	Penetration testing is intended to provide an organization with information on the overall security and risk picture of its network from an external or an internal point of view. Penetration testing focuses on gaining access to systems under an organization's control.

Mr. Shaw said vulnerabilities discovered were assigned a risk identifier that was relative to the network or system under test. He said the three risk levels used are defined as follows:

- High risk - A high likelihood of compromise of system-level access exists. If exploited, this vulnerability may allow total control of the system.
- Medium risk - A vulnerability exists that may provide access to critical data or user-level access to a system. This vulnerability may lead to further exploitation.
- Low risk - A vulnerability exists that may disclose information but does not directly lead to the exploitation of a system.

Mr. Shaw provided the following summary of the findings and recommendations:

Project Task	Findings	Recommendations
External vulnerability assessment	Overall, 109 systems at state agencies or organizations were found to have at least one vulnerability that would provide an external attacker with a possible attack vector that could lead to the compromise of the state's network from the Internet. There were 14 unique vulnerability findings, including 9 high-risk, 3 medium-risk, and 2 low-risk.	Filter inbound access to all state systems.

Project Task	Findings	Recommendations
Internal vulnerability assessment	Overall, 440 systems were found to have at least one vulnerability that would provide an attacker with a possible attack vector that could lead to the compromise of the state's network and sensitive information. There were 46 unique vulnerability findings, including 23 high-risk, 19 medium-risk, and 4 low-risk.	Segment public facing servers from internal network. Internal segregation of critical servers and development systems. Implement outbound access control. Require use of encrypted protocols for remote management.
Application security assessment	The applications assessed were: Game and Fish Department online services, Department of Transportation driver's license online services, criminal justice information sharing system, and the Job Service North Dakota unemployment insurance Internet claim entry. There were eight unique vulnerability findings, including four high-risk, two medium-risk, and two low-risk.	None
Wireless security assessment	The following locations were assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Capitol, 600 East Boulevard Avenue Department of Transportation, 608 East Boulevard Avenue State Water Commission, 900 East Boulevard Avenue Bank of North Dakota, 1200 Memorial Highway No high-, medium-, or low-risk vulnerabilities were identified during the assessment of these locations.	None

Project Task	Findings	Recommendations
Penetration testing	The test team was able to gain full administrative control of 14 systems. In addition, using social engineering techniques, the test team was very successful in its attempts to gain user account credentials and showed the susceptibility of users to execute malicious content downloaded from the Internet or access unknown media on their local systems.	None

Mr. Shaw said the findings are typical of organizations with an enterprise the size of the state of North Dakota. He said these results show an improvement over the assessment conducted in 2007.

LARGE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT REPORTING

Large Project Oversight

The Legislative Council staff presented a memorandum entitled [Oversight of Information Technology Projects](#) relating to the Information Technology Committee's and the Information Technology Department's responsibilities for oversight of information technology projects.

Ms. Feldner provided comments regarding the Information Technology Department's current large project oversight process and potential changes. She said the department currently provides large project oversight for information technology projects with a total cost of \$250,000 or more. She said the department is charging state agencies for large project oversight because the department did not receive a general fund appropriation for the costs associated with large project oversight. She said the department is in the process of reviewing the definition of information technology projects that require large project oversight.

Chairman Robinson asked the Information Technology Department to provide the committee with a glossary of information technology terms and acronyms.

Representative Skarphol suggested the Information Technology Department provide the committee information regarding the value of information technology to state government. Chairman Robinson asked the department to provide this information, to the extent available, to the committee at its next meeting.

Quarterly Summary Status Report

Mr. Mark Molesworth, Information Technology Business Analyst, Information Technology Department, provided information regarding changes to the department's quarterly summary status report on large information technology projects. A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Molesworth said the department has revised the format of the cover letter attached to the quarterly summary status reports on large information technology projects to include:

- A graphic depiction of North Dakota's project success as compared to the CHAOS 2009 report.
- A coordinating depiction of projects completed during the calendar quarter.
- A status summary of projects with a budget in excess of \$5 million.

In response to a question from Senator Robinson, Mr. Molesworth said 20 percent is considered to be an acceptable variance for budget and schedule for large information technology projects.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Mr. Molesworth said the average budget variance for information technology projects completed since July 2005 is approximately 8 percent under budget.

Mr. Molesworth distributed a draft quarterly summary status report on large information technology projects for the quarter ending December 31, 2009. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Council office. He said the following five projects were reported in the planning stage:

- Bank of North Dakota - Student loan lender system.
- Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation - Inmate trust and commissary.
- State Seed Department - Application software upgrade.
- Department of Emergency Services - Statewide seamless basemap.
- Department of Human Services - Minimum data set.

Mr. Molesworth said the following two projects were moved into the execution phase:

- Department of Public Instruction - North Dakota state longitudinal education data system planning project.
- Office of Management and Budget - Enterprise learning management.

Mr. Molesworth said the following project was reported complete:

Agency	Project	Budget Variance	Schedule Variance
Department of Public Instruction	Foundation aid system rewrite project	Within budget variance	Within schedule variance

Mr. Molesworth said the following four projects have reported budget or schedule variances and are being monitored:

Agency	Project	Budget or Schedule Variance
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	Inmate medical system	The project is behind schedule. The implementation of the application has been completed. The project is awaiting final user acceptance.
State Department of Health	Disease surveillance and management system	The project is behind schedule. The project is expected to be completed in February 2010.
Department of Human Services	Children and Family Services front end project	The project is behind schedule due to the complexity of building reports over three data systems and business intelligence resource constraints.
State Treasurer's office	Tax distribution rewrite	The project is behind schedule. Final user acceptance testing of the last two elements began on January 20, 2010. The project is expected to be completed by the end of March 2010.

Legislative Enterprise System North Dakota Update

Mr. Jason J. Steckler, Information Technology Director, Legislative Council, provided information regarding the status of the legislative enterprise system North Dakota (LEGEND) project. Mr. Steckler said the project is currently 8.8 percent under budget and 2.8 percent ahead of schedule. He said the project team has completed 4 of 10 payment milestone points, detailed integration points, conducted a LAWS demonstration, and developed a data conversion strategy document and schedule. He said staff will continue to provide updates to the Legislative Management and the interim Information Technology Committee.

Department of Human Services

Ms. Jennifer Witham, Director, Information Technology Services, Department of Human Services, provided information regarding the status of the department's Medicaid management information system replacement project. A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative

Council office. On October 9, 2009, Ms. Witham said, ACS--the project vendor--delivered to the department the detailed project workplan for the revised schedule. She said the department has completed a review of the schedule and the impact on third-party vendors and project costs. At this time, she said, the department does not anticipate additional costs to the state for the delay in the schedule. She said the department is finalizing contract amendments and has submitted a copy of the contract amendments and an updated Implementation Advanced Planning Document to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She provided the following project funding summary through December 2009:

Description	Budget	Spent Through December 2009	Remaining
General fund	\$3,643,133	\$2,647,695	\$995,438
Federal funds	55,218,418	31,211,441	24,006,977
Other funds	3,667,820	1,491,932	2,175,888
Total	\$62,529,371	\$35,351,068	\$27,178,303

Ms. Witham provided a project closeout report for the department's Office Vision mail replacement project. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Council office. She said the purpose of the project was to implement a replacement system for the Office Vision mail system that was used for creating and editing documents on the mainframe. She said the project was completed on schedule and under budget with actual expenditures of \$399,339 compared to a project budget of \$426,018.

Ms. Witham provided a project closeout report for the department's master client index project. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Council office. She said the purpose of the project was to implement a client identity matching system to assist the department in linking client demographic information between systems. She said the project was completed in June 2009, two months later than the scheduled completion date of April 2009, and the project was completed over budget with actual expenditures of \$836,245 compared to the project budget of \$815,393. She said the reason for the delay in the schedule and the increased cost was a project upgrade release during the project implementation.

Workforce Safety and Insurance - Information Technology Transformation Project

Mr. Bryan Klipfel, Executive Director and CEO, Workforce Safety and Insurance, provided information regarding the status of the agency's information technology transformation project. A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Klipfel said the agency continues to monitor the project. He said the project management team measures quality following every software delivery and the quality index has been improving. He said a change management process

has been defined and the change control team has met several times to review change control requests to determine which changes are necessary for initial implementation and which changes may be completed after initial startup. He said the quality and timeliness of delivery for the next project milestones will influence senior management's view of the potential success or failure of the project.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Mr. Klipfel said the agency's legal staff is reviewing the contract with the project vendor to determine if the vendor is operating in accordance with the contract.

Chairman Robinson asked Workforce Safety and Insurance to continue to update the committee on the status of the project.

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation - Inmate Medical System Project

Mr. Dave Krabbenhoft, Director of Administration, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, provided information regarding the status of the department's inmate medical system project. Mr. Krabbenhoft said the department has implemented an electronic medical record system that allows the department to administer, manage, and record all aspects of medical care provided to both adults and juvenile offenders. He said the department is working with the project vendor to correct a few minor issues. He said the department anticipates the project will be complete in March 2010.

Department of Public Instruction

Mr. Steve Snow, Director, Management Information Systems, Department of Public Instruction, provided a project startup report for the North Dakota state longitudinal education data system planning project. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Snow said the purpose of the project is to analyze and gather information to produce the project plan and schedule for the execution of the North Dakota state longitudinal education data system. He said the estimated cost of the project is \$387,900, and the project is scheduled to be complete in July 2010.

Mr. Snow provided a project closeout report for the foundation aid system rewrite project. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Council office. He said the purpose of the project was to rewrite the system used for calculating state school aid payments to school districts to a modern architecture. He said the new system allows for better integration with the existing online reporting system used by school districts and more cost-effective maintenance. He said the project was completed in November 2009, three months later than the scheduled completion date of August 2009. He said the project was completed over budget with actual expenditures of

\$359,159 compared to the project budget of \$326,167.

Tax Department - Oil and Gas Integration and Taxpayer Application Program Project

Mr. Jay Snustad, Manager, Information Technology, Tax Department, provided a project startup report for the oil and gas integration and taxpayer application program project. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Snustad said the project includes the migration of the oil and gas tax system into the GenTax integrated system and the implementation of the taxpayer application program. He said the taxpayer application program will provide secure taxpayer self-service functions via the Internet. He said the estimated cost of the project is \$1.5 million, and the project is scheduled to be complete in October 2010.

Office of Management and Budget - Enterprise Learning Management Project

Mr. Darin Schorsch, Human Resource Information System Business Analyst, Human Resource Management Services, Office of Management and Budget, provided a project startup report for the enterprise learning management project. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Schorsch said the main objective of the project is to implement the PeopleSoft enterprise learning management module. He said the module will provide an online, self-service, and administrative employee training module for state agencies. He said the estimated cost of the project is \$425,580, and the project is scheduled to be complete in June 2010.

Job Service North Dakota

Ms. Heather Raschke, Job Service North Dakota, provided a project closeout report for the agency's appeals and UI Easy program enhancements project. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Council office. Ms. Raschke said the purpose of the project was to make enhancements to the UI Easy and UI ICE applications to provide electronic appeals hearing reminders and additional self-service capabilities. She said the project was completed in July 2009, nine months later than the scheduled completion date of October 2008. She said the project was completed under budget with actual expenditures of \$243,144 compared to the project budget of \$258,790.

Ms. Raschke provided a project closeout report for the agency's unemployment insurance modernization directional study project. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Council office. She said the purpose of the project was to obtain from an outside vendor a recommended plan for the modernization of the unemployment insurance system. She said the project vendor recommended the use of a code migration vendor to migrate the code from the existing unemployment insurance system to a new technology

using a tool to extract the requirements from the current code. She said the project was completed on schedule in July 2009. She said the project was completed under budget with actual expenditures of \$773,503 compared to the project budget of \$815,280.

Since the study was completed, Ms. Raschke said, Job Service North Dakota has been presented additional options regarding the modernization of the unemployment insurance system. She said the federal government has decided to fund a consortium to develop and administer a study to determine the feasibility of designing, developing, and implementing a core unemployment insurance tax and a core unemployment insurance benefit system that could be used by multiple state agencies. She said Job Service North Dakota is participating in the AWIN Consortium comprised of Arizona, Wyoming, Idaho, and North Dakota. She said another option is the ability to stay on the mainframe environment with the release of a new development tool by Unisys. She said the new development tool will allow the agency to continue operations without losing current functionality.

Department of Transportation - Facial Recognition Project

Mr. Russ Buchholz, Director of Information Technology, Department of Transportation, provided a project startup report for the department's facial recognition project. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Buchholz said the facial recognition project is a federally granted program designed to eliminate multiple issued driver's licenses held by the same person within the state. He said the department has selected L-1 Identity Solutions as the project vendor. He said the estimated cost of the project is \$481,121, and the project is scheduled to be complete in April 2010.

State Seed Department - Application Software Upgrade Project

The Legislative Council staff distributed the project startup report for the State Seed Department's application software upgrade project. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Council office. The purpose of the project is to upgrade the department's software application that supports all departmental business processes from obsolete development tools to current tools meeting state technology standards. The project is estimated to cost \$367,000 and is scheduled to be complete in December 2012.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Robinson said the next Information Technology Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2010, in Bismarck.

The committee adjourned subject to the call of the chairman at 3:35 p.m.

Roxanne Woeste
Assistant Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor

Allen H. Knudson
Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor

ATTACH:1