



**Joint Commission on Technology and Science
Executive Committee**

November 10, 2009 10:00 a.m.

Speaker's Conference Room, 6th Floor, General Assembly Building

- **Call to order, roll call.**

Delegate May called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Nixon, Plum, May, Locke

- **Update on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects in the Commonwealth**

- Steve Walz, Director, Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy

Steve Walz, Director, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy provided an overview of ARRA funds for the Commonwealth. The State Energy Program received \$76.5 million, which was the most flexible portion of funds received by the state. DMME referred to the Virginia Energy Plan to help determine how to spend the funds. One of the projects DMME is working on is getting approval for three funds that will be used to support small clean energy businesses.

Delegate Plum asked Mr. Walz if there was sufficient notice to citizens on the availability of rebates for energy efficient appliances. Mr. Walz stated that with over half of the money already reserved, he felt the Governor has done a good job in generating press coverage for the program.

Delegate Nixon asked Mr. Walz for the total amount of ARRA funds and bonds dedicated to the Commonwealth. Mr. Walz estimated that the total for the Commonwealth exceeded \$500 million.

Delegate May discussed the Loudon County Energy Plan and its focus on greenhouse gas reduction rather than energy conservation. He noted that energy reduction always results in less greenhouse gas emissions whereas a sole focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions does not always result in a reduction in energy use.

Delegate Plum asked if there were any barriers in Virginia state government to increased renewable energy and energy efficiency. Mr. Walz stated the educating state employees



is an important first step. Another barrier in reducing energy use is the reduction in state workforce, which has left some energy issues lacking oversight or responsibility. Mr. Walz also stated it is important to construct new buildings as efficiently as economically possible given the life-span of HVAC and other systems in state buildings.

Mr. Walz concluded that he would welcome JCOTS and the General Assembly's input in the upcoming Virginia Energy Plan updates.

- **Briefing on JLARC Review of VITA & IT Governance in the Commonwealth**

- Ashley Colvin, JLARC, Project Leader

Ashley Colvin, Project Leader, JLARC Project Leader for the Review of Information Technology Services in Virginia. Mr. Colvin's presentation is available on the JCOTS website.

Delegate Nixon noted that prior to the formation of VITA, agencies were procuring IT infrastructure and services on an individualized basis. By forming VITA, the Commonwealth was better positioned to leverage its procurement of IT infrastructure and services. Delegate Nixon also noted that consolidating post-procurement activities would result in greater efficiency and cost savings. Delegate Nixon noted VITA does not have purview over all IT infrastructure and services in the Commonwealth. Mr. Colvin did not have data on out-of scope expenditures compared to in-scope expenditures.

Delegate Nixon asked if there was any authority in the Code for the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of Technology to engage in contract negotiations on the part of the CIO. Mr. Colvin stated that no statutory authority exists for that type of action.

In reference to funding changes in the existing VITA/NG contract, Delegate Nixon asked if the General Assembly had the 'final word' when it comes to appropriating money to fund the changes. Lisa Wallmeyer, JCOTS Executive Director, explained that the appropriation act contains language authorizing a 'sum sufficient' for IT services, which complicates any increase in cost for contract negotiations. Because of the sum sufficient language in the current budget, the CIO could obligate the Commonwealth to cost increases for increased services to agencies.

Delegate Nixon asked if JLARC has any further data on severity level 1 incidents. Mr. Colvin responded that NG is going to begin looking deeper into the level 1 incidents to determine if there are any trends.

Delegate May asked if data was available on the amount of time these incidents last. Mr. Colvin stated that the data is available but he would have to get back to the Commission at a later date.



Mr. Colvin noted that VITA is the only state supervisory board that does not meet on a regular basis and act as the full-time coordinating body of an agency with a director acting as their agency head.

- **Update on Sexting**

- G. Stewart Petoe, Virginia State Crime Commission, Director of Legal Affairs

G. Stewart Petoe, Director of Legal Affairs, Virginia State Crime Commission presented on the issue of 'sexting'. The full presentation is available on the JCOTS website. Delegate May asked about the number of convictions under the current pornography law. Mr. Petoe stated he would provide this information to staff.

Senator Locke asked if the Crime Commission looked at images being distributed against the will of one of the parties. Mr. Petoe stated the Commission did not look at that issue.

- **Staff Updates**

- Electronic Meetings
- Intellectual Property: Development of State Employee Policy
- Update on State eCycling Legislation

Delegate May requested the staff updates be postponed until the final JCOTS meeting.

- **Other Business.**

No other business discussed.

- **Public comment:** Members of the public are invited to express their views about the Commission and its work.

No public comment.

- **Adjournment.**

Meeting adjourned.
