

Attachment 9

Following is a portion of an email from David Saxowsky [dmsaxows@ndsuxext.nodak.edu] of NDSU:

Some of NDSU ag administrators meet each Monday morning via conference call. One topic during this morning's conversation addressed establishing video conferencing capability in additional courthouses. I usually envision the technology to be used for educational purposes. One administrator mentioned that some county leaders (e.g., county commissioners) also hope to use the technology to assure access to the judiciary system. I indicated that I had attended a meeting of the judiciary technology committee recently.

I think the question is whether in some counties (i.e., smaller counties) we can envision one set of video conferencing equipment to meet several needs, such as educational, judicial, agency communications to Bismarck, etc. I generally have thought the needs for education and judicial system, for example, to be so distinct, and possibly conflicting, that we should not envision a single system, but instead several sites per courthouse. But on the other hand, it would be less expensive to have a system that can be shared.

Bottom line—would you be willing to participate in some discussions about the video conferencing needs of smaller counties and to explore whether multiple needs can be addressed in a collaborative manner? Perhaps you and I should begin this with a phone conversation to figure out what might be the next steps.