KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of May 20, 2011 Meeting
Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas

Attendance

Board Members Present: Sheila Biggs, Dickinson County Commissioner; Jim Emerson, Crawford County Counselor; Mark Low, Finney County Appraiser; J R McMahon II, Miami County Director of Public Works; Richard Malm, Jefferson County Commissioner; John Miller, Norton County Commissioner; Tim Norton, Sedgwick County Commissioner; Dan Partridge, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Administrator; Dale Phillips, Barton County Noxious Weed Director; and Dick Works, Allen County Commissioner.

Others Present: Randall Allen, KAC Executive Director; Melissa Wangemann, KAC General Counsel; Dennis Kriesel, KAC Senior Policy Analyst.

Board Members Absent: Ben Bennett, Geary County Commissioner; Jack Frick, Scott County Commissioner; Bill Guy, Reno County Emergency Management Director; Duane Patrick, McPherson County Commissioner (NACo representative); and Marvin Van Blaricon, Clay County EMS Director.

Proceedings

President J .R. McMahon called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. He skipped the first item on the agenda that related to introduction of the newest board member as Marvin Van Blaricon was not in attendance and has submitted his resignation as the KEMSA representative.

Dick Works moved and Tim Norton seconded a motion to approve the minutes with an amendment suggested by Sheila Biggs. The motion passed.

President McMahon recognized a visitor, Steve Garten, a former member of the KAC Board.

Dick Works gave the report of bills and payrolls for May 20, 2011. Dick Works moved and Richard Malm seconded a motion to approve the report. The motion passed.

Dennis Kriesel explained the monthly financial report for March 2011, explaining that KCGI (Education) is lagging on income, and he explained why Legislative/Research has a negative income balance. J .R. McMahon asked questions about KCGI and Dennis Kriesel answered those questions. John Miller moved and Sheila Biggs seconded a motion to approve the financial report. The motion passed.
President McMahon moved to item #9, the Executive Director's report while the Board waited for Alan Conroy to arrive for the 10:30 appearance on the agenda. Randall discussed the Kansas County Commissioners Association's annual conference and the topics discussed during the meetings. Randall Allen said that John Miller presented the topic of raising the dues to hire additional legislative staff and noted that there were good questions and positive feedback. He asked Melissa Wangemann to explain the agenda of the CCAK mid-year meeting and CLE.

President J.R. McMahon recognized Alan Conroy, Director of Legislative Research, for an overview of 2011 session. Alan Conroy noted that there was bad news for counties; there would be no demand transfers for local governments in FY 2012 and 2013. He then discussed budget items raised during the 2011 session and provided a summary on the 2012 budget.

President J.R. McMahon returned to the Executive Director's report and Randall Allen discussed the NACO representative election for 2011.

Randall Allen also announced that David Rabiner would return as the keynote speaker at this year's annual conference. Sheila Biggs moved and Tim Norton seconded a motion to authorize Randall to engage David Rabiner as a speaker at the conference. The motion passed.

Randall Allen also noted that the next in-person meeting would be in in Kiowa County in August.

Randall Allen also discussed the decision of Governor Brownback to expand the Flint Hills protected lands, which eliminates the ability of counties to contract for wind farms. John Miller suggested a delicate letter to the Governor asking him to involve counties going forward and explaining the economic disadvantages created for these counties. Jim Emerson suggested we research the issue further before sending a letter. J.R. McMahon directed that staff check with the counties to see if they want KAC to send a letter on their behalf and do their “due diligence” on gathering the facts before sending the letter.

The Board recessed for lunch.

The Board reconvened and J.R. McMahon called on Melissa Wangemann for the legislative report. Melissa Wangemann explained the status of the legislative priorities in the 2011 session.

Melissa Wangemann explained that, under the new 911 bill, KAC recommends a person for appointment to the 911 Coordinating Council. Tim Norton asked about commissioners having a voting seat on the Council; the new statute calls for the KAC representative to be a nonvoting member. Melissa explained that the Governor's Office is looking to APCO to suggest names for the voting PSAP representatives, and in fact, APCO had already submitted its nominations.
Tim Norton moved and Sheila Biggs seconded a motion to send a letter to the Governor nominating three individuals for the 911 Coordinating Council: Bob Boaldin, Will Johnson, and Rob Roberts.

Randall Allen discussed the implementation of the new 911 law. Melissa Wangemann provided a calendar given in the law and a proposed calendar to meet the statutory deadlines. Dennis Kriesel gave a report on the IT needs to implement 911. The Board discussed KAC’s future role as LCPA. The president will appoint a committee to explore the issue of continuing as LCPA.

President J.R. McMahon gave the President’s report. J.R. McMahon talked about the task force’s work on the President’s initiative. The task force recommends hiring an additional legislative staff person, or if the funding isn’t available, to hire a contract lobbyist to assist. Randall suggested that he would write a County Comment story on the possible dues increase to fund a new position in the June edition and also a letter to counties. There was much discussion on whether to increase the dues and hire the additional position.

J.R. McMahon noted that the KAC group will meet again with KCOA following the board meeting. The County Clerks and County Elected Officials Association voted in May to discontinue their membership in KCOA.

Board members and the associate and affiliate members shared their comments. Dan Partridge shared that Edie Snethen has announced her retirement from KALHD. Dick Works asked for clarification about the NACo representative election.

Tim Norton moved and Dick Works seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Melissa Wangemann

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Jim Emerson, Secretary

Minutes approved by the Board on July 8, 2011