KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
GOVERNING BOARD
Minutes of September 26, 2013 Meeting
Conference Call Format

Attendance

Board Members Present: Marvin Beesley, Gove County Noxious Weed Director; Bob Boaldin, Morton County Commissioner; Gene Bryan, Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City Appraiser; Lon Buller, Harvey County Emergency Management Director; Jim Emerson, Crawford County Counselor, President; Kerry McCue, Ellis County EMS Director; Stan McEvoy, Decatur County Commissioner; Richard Malm, Jefferson County Commissioner; Dan Partridge, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Administrator; Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn, Coffey County Commissioner; Glen Tyson, Osage County Road Director; Ben Bennett, Geary County Commissioner; and Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk.

Board Members Absent: Tim Norton, Sedgwick County Commissioner; Duane Patrick, McPherson County Commissioner (NACo Representative).

KAC Staff Present: Randall Allen, Executive Director; Dennis Kriesel, Senior Policy Analyst; Sarah Meyer, Conference & Meeting Planner/Education Coordinator.

Proceedings

President Jim Emerson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call of members was taken by the Senior Policy Analyst.

Jim then named his nominating committee appointments, which are: Jim Emerson, Tim Norton, Stan McEvoy, and Dan Partridge.

Randall Allen then explained the proposal for how to conduct County Government Day in 2014. He walked through the memorandum provided to the board, discussed how the day would now include a lobbying workshop, which would then transition into the format along the lines of more recent years. Randall also noted concerns with Top of the Tower and that holding the event at the Capitol Plaza Hotel may help with attendance. The plan would be to hold County Government Day on Wednesday, February 5, 2014. Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn noted that she liked the suggested program, and sees value in the lobbying workshop. Stan indicated he is favor of the program as listed. Marvin Beesley noted he prefers having the event at Capitol Plaza, and also likes the idea of holding the event in February. Glen Tyson concurred.

Richard Malm moved to have County Government Day on February 5th and in the format presented. Kimberly seconded. Gene Bryan asked about using County Government Day to do some sort of event regarding the county map. Randall indicated he is inclined to do
something, but nothing has yet been assembled on how it will work. Motion passed.

Randall then explained the bylaws change proposal, which is designed to make the legislative policy committee more inclusive. Randall noted the legislative policy committee was unanimous in supporting this bylaws change. Richard explained he thought bringing more onto the committee would give the group more ideas without upsetting the balance of the committee itself. Kimberly noted her agreement with Richard, and that past issues would have benefited from having additional members with other areas of expertise.

Stan moved to present the bylaws changes to the KAC membership voting delegates at the annual meeting. Lon Buller seconded. Motion passed.

Randall noted 38 ballots came in to choose the NACo board representative from Kansas, and Duane Patrick was retained. His term will run until August 2015. Randall noted a few ballots arrived late of the deadline. Marvin asked why only 61 counties are allowed to vote, and Randall noted that it's because they have to be members of both KAC and NACo. Ben Bennett expressed concern about ballots being rejected for being a day or two late, versus when they were postmarked. Randall indicated that the requirement for the ballot to be in the office by the deadline was clearly listed.

Marvin moved to receive the canvassing report and place on file, congratulate Duane Patrick on his election, and thank Richard Malm for running for the position. Kimberly seconded. Motion passed.

Randall gave an overview of his recommended 2014 budget for the KAC. He stressed that the budget is balanced, and the significant assumption of 20% for increase in health insurance premiums. Randall walked through some of the key budget categories, and the assumptions made for the budget. He explained a new item, the compensation survey, being handled via a subscription fee service. Randall noted the past notion of incremental dues increases, and that this budget continues that trend with a 1% increase on county dues. He also noted the KCCA dues are moved up from $5,000 to $7,000 and the other Affiliates are moved up from $2,000 to $2,500, and that these last increased in 2003. Randall noted that there is a $5 increase in the annual conference registration fees. Randall discussed dropping the amicus brief line-item expense in the budget, which was for outsourcing such briefs, and that in 2014 KAC plans to only do amicus briefs using in-house counsel. Randall informed the board that KAC will have a new phone system, working with AOS and Cisco, which is Internet-based, before 2014 begins. Randall mentioned the overall budget size is down, primarily due to the Fish and Wildlife grant and Public Health grant ending in 2013.

Dan asked when the last time Associate dues were raised. Randall noted it was also 2003, when they moved from $750 to $800. Dan recommended that the Associate dues be raised to $900 since Affiliate groups are going up, and last went up at the same time. Marvin asked for clarification on the specific dues changes being proposed for Affiliate and
Associate members, which Randall provided.

Kerry McCue mentioned the cost of food at the conference, and wondered about reducing food costs at the conference, such as not providing as many meals, versus raising revenues. Randall noted that the awards banquet was eliminated a few years ago, moving to a luncheon, in order to save costs, but that reducing meals was not examined for the purposes of the 2014 budget. Sarah Meyer elaborated that our contracts mandate certain minimum food purchases, otherwise penalties kick in. Kerry stated he believes those contracts could be renegotiated, and that this approach would be preferable than implementing the recommended dues increases. Stan asked for clarification on the $2,000 increase, and Randall indicated that the $2,000 is total from KCCA, not per county. Kerry indicated he was under the impression that the cost was per county, and that his concern is alleviated given the $2,000 would be spread by KCCA to its member counties. Marvin noted it works out to roughly $20 per county.

Marvin asked how county dues are calculated. Randall explained there is a base fee, and then a 50/50 split based on population and assessed valuation applies, with a cap in place to limit the maximum amount any given county would pay. Dennis Kriesel supplied specific values in 2013 for some of those variables.

Jim asked for more comments regarding Dan’s idea to increase Associate dues. Marvin said he is comfortable with Dan’s proposal. Marvin asked why groups choose to be Associates rather than Affiliates. Randall noted the bylaws require Affiliates to meet a certain level of presence in counties, and many groups that can’t meet that requirement look at Associate status. Concerns were raised if some Associates would leave if the cost went up. Ben offered to talk with a couple Associate groups to see if they have any concerns. Randall said he’d contact the leadership of the groups see if they would be concerned.

Kimberly asked how the financials are coming along. Randall noted up through June 2013 is ready. Kimberly asked to see them before the next board meeting, and Randall indicated he would send information on. Randall also noted the draft audit would be ready for the October board meeting.

Randall noted additional annual conference information will be sent out in the next few days, but more encouragement for people to register is always good.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Dennis Kriesel.