KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
GOVERNING BOARD  
Minutes of November 22, 2013  
Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas

Attendance
Board Members Present: Allison Alejos, Director of the Shawnee County Health Agency; John Bartolac, Johnson County Director of Records and Tax Administration; Marvin Beesley, Gove County Noxious Weed Director; Ben Bennett, Geary 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; Richard Malm, Jefferson County Commissioner; Norbert Marek, Wabaunsee County Attorney; Tim Norton, Sedgwick County Commissioner; Dan Partridge, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Administrator; Duane Patrick, McPherson County Commissioner (NACo Representative); Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn, Coffey County Commissioner; Glen Tyson, Osage County Road Director; Dan Woydziak, Butler County Commissioner.

Board Member Absent: Bob Boaldin, Morton County Commissioner; Stan McEvoy, Decatur County Commissioner; and Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk.

KAC Staff Present: Randall Allen, Executive Director; Melissa Wangemann, General Counsel; Dennis Kriesel, Senior Policy Analyst; Sarah Meyer, Education and Conference Coordinator.

Proceedings
President Jim Emerson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and welcomed the new members. Tim Norton moved and Lon Buller seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn moved and Marv Beesley seconded the motion to approve the minutes; the motion passed.

Treasurer Dan Partridge reviewed the bills and payrolls for November 22, 2013. Dan Partridge moved for approval of the bills and payroll and Tim Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dennis Kriesel presented the monthly financial report for November 22, 2013. He noted that the conference revenues should be positive even after the expenditures are factored in. Duane Patrick moved to accept and file the financial report and Tim Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed.
President Emerson called on Randall Allen to explain the methodology for allocation county membership dues. Randall Allen explained that the 2014 budget was adopted at the annual conference, and it was based on projected dues for 2014. Randall Allen explained the methodology, noting the base amount and the remainder based on population and assessed valuation. He noted the cap on the dues, and the increased dues for affiliate and associate members. Randall Allen explained the process of mailing the dues statements. Any dues not paid by March 1 are considered delinquent, and KAC services cease on that date.

Randall Allen said the human resources director from Chautauqua attended the annual conference on a Human Resources Association scholarship, and since returning to Chautauqua County, she has asked KAC to come to Chautauqua and discuss membership.

Richard Malm asked about 5% assumed shrinkage, which anticipates that 5% of the dues will not be paid. Lon Buller said the affiliate dues increase was discussed at the last KEMA meeting, and KEMA did not raise any concerns. Other affiliates at the table expressed the same sentiment. Richard Malm moved and Glen Tyson seconded a motion to accept the dues methodology and to authorize KAC staff to prepare 2014 annual dues statements. The motion passed.

Randall Allen and Sarah Meyer provided a statistical review of the 38th KAC Annual Conference. Sarah Meyer began by discussing that the full conference attendance was higher this year. She explained the exhibition history. She noted a record number of 105 exhibitors this year. She explained that KAC does have the same level of space while it hosted the conference in Topeka. She explained her emphasis on returning customers and her designation of the Loyalty Club. Thirteen signed contracts already for next year. She said exhibitors get a discount if they send their registration early and preferred placement at next year’s exhibition. She noted the remainder conference categories on the last page: the preconference workshop, which was not held this year, the one-day registrations, and the affiliate/associate registrations. Gene Bryan asked about the cost differences for the various locations for exhibitors to set-up; Sarah provided a loose guideline that Topeka is cheapest, Wichita in the middle, and Overland Park the most costly. Dan Partridge noted LKM had fewer exhibitors than KAC this year, and asked about the costs against the booths; Sarah explained the tiers of fees based on how early the booths have been purchased, minus costs such as drayage. Randall estimated the gain of Wichita versus Topeka, with the added floor space, is approximately $8,000 more profit for KAC. Duane Patrick remarked that he visited every booth and thanked them for attending. Duane also noted that a lot of spouses don't show up now because of a lack of a spouse program, and something similar like a dinner and shopping could bring them back. Jim Emerson asked about the impact of dropping the preconference; Randall noted that it was profitable when the topic was popular, but he prefers the more relaxed tempo that came from not having a preconference workshop. Sarah noted dropping the
preconference workshop did create less work for staff, but could see value in doing them in the future if there is a hot topic. Dan Partridge was curious as to how we’d know there is a hot topic; Randall said we need to figure out a better way to ascertain topics of interest before the intensive conference planning begins. Gene Bryan asked how soon would the board need to know to help generate workshop ideas. Sarah said June or July is usually when the agenda is set. Gene Bryan asked how the flash workshops worked out. Sarah noted several people took advantage of the rooms but she didn’t get to see them in action. Dan Partridge asked about giving the spouses a flash room for them to socialize and meet Duane’s concerns. Randall and Sarah indicated this would be a possibility. Tim Norton said he felt focusing on the conference and getting great speakers is best, that less is better. Tim also praised the regional breakout sessions, and noted the importance of the legislative platform meeting. Tim suggested a subcommittee focused on conference workshops and basically works year-round might be helpful to Sarah. He also suggested education programs could also be in the preview of the subcommittee. Tim asked to hear from the Clerks and how they felt about the conference. John Bartolac noted the Clerks are glad to be back in KAC and that things are on the right track. John said they are interested in training and education and looking into that more for possible improvements. Marvin Beesley asked for a count of online surveys returned; Sarah noted they are still arriving but that there are a lot in already. Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn gave kudos to staff for all their hard work. Marvin Beesley noted two of his commissioners said the conference was a good experience.

Jim Emerson thanked the departing KAC board members for their service to the organization. Jim gave parting gifts to Tim Norton and Dan Partridge. Tim Norton stated he really enjoyed his time on the KAC board, comparing it to the Fortress of Solitude; that is, when the KAC board meets it is all about citizens and county government. Tim thanked the board for allowing him to participate, and noted how the KAC board focuses on the important issues to county government, versus how his Sedgwick County Commission meetings go. Dan Partridge stated he agrees with what Tim said, that his four years have gone by very fast, and his service has reinforced the importance of sticking together, and with the upcoming challenges he is glad that Allison Alejos is taking over but that he always appreciates how the board looks at things as a whole, on what is best for counties, and not just for commissioners and department heads.


Jim Emerson presented Randall Allen’s memo of the report of the nominating committee, which lists a proposed slate of officers. Jim read the slate. Kerry McCue moved to approve the slate of officers as listed by the nominating committee, and close off
nominations. Dan Woydziak seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Emerson passed the gavel, figuratively, to Kimberly Skillman-Robrahm. He thanked the board and stated he was pleased with what was accomplished in the last year.

Kimberly thanked the board for their confidence in her and their willingness to serve. She echoed the comments already mentioned regarding how the KAC is a strong organization and that she will work to make it even stronger. Kimberly noted a desire to continue to concentrate on the Kansas legislature, but also to continue a goal regarding branding and have the KAC reach out and get to the membership more, such as via regional meetings. She also noted a desire to reevaluate and work on the KCGI to improve it.

Kimberly asked if everyone had a chance to review the proposed 2014 board meeting dates. She noted she has a conflict on the January 24th date, and she plans to attend via phone but will ask Vice President Gene Bryan to chair in her absence. Duane Patrick moved to approve the 2014 board meeting dates. Glen Tyson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kimberly then named her appointments to the finance committee. Richard Malm and Ben Bennett have agreed to continue on the finance committee, and the newly elected treasurer Glen Tyson will chair. Lon Buller will be the fourth member.

President Skillman-Robrahm turned to Randall Allen to provide his Executive Director's Report. Randall noted a contact sheet is going around the table for board members to check and change. Randall also stated notebooks will be distributed to the governing board.

Randall requested travel authorization for three different purposes: Duane Patrick for the NACo reorganization meeting; Kimberly, Randall, and Randall’s wife for the State Presidents/Executives Meeting; and Duane Patrick and Randall Allen for the NACo Legislative Conference. Marvin Beesley moved to approve the requested travel. Glen Tyson seconded. Kerry McCue asked if these were traditional travel plans; Randall Allen said yes and that they were in the budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Randall discussed the Local Road Engineer Program and the upcoming funding changes that KDOT has announced. The current proposal is KDOT gives the full $25,000 in 2014, drops to $10,000 to 2015, and then no more KDOT support thereafter.

Randall summarized the conclusion of the public health project, noting that we completed all the deliverables. Randall stated that the final report to the Kansas Health Foundation is still due and information is being gathered for it.

Randall moved on to the statehouse map project. Using the Sedgwick County produced map as a prop, Randall showed those that had paid as of the conference, and markings indicated those that have paid since or have been contacted by Randall and committed to
the project. He noted we will have to pay the State before December 31st. The total map project is expected to be just under $90,000. Kimberly said that the map was helpful at the conference, as those that were not listed as having contributed started asking questions and discussions developed as a result.

Randall discussed the mortgage registration fee, and how it will likely join fixtures as being a major tax-related legislative issue in 2014. He described the meeting with the Kansas Bankers Association that he and Melissa Wangemann attended on November 19th. John Bartolac elaborated on the matter, as he’s been involved in the topic for quite a while. John noted the KBA is arguing more of a consumer issue, that there are two fees, a recording fee and the mortgage registration fee. John noted the mortgage fee secures the mortgage for the buyer; it perfects the mortgage. John also noted that the mortgage registration fee is not to pay the Register of Deeds office, it is to benefit the county general fund to support general county operations. Norbert Marek noted that some of the fee goes to the heritage trust fund, and that could be valuable to focus on. Tim Norton thinks that the mortgage registration fee elimination may be a done deal, per communications he’s hearing from those legislators in the Sedgwick County area. Marvin Beesely asked about Sedgwick’s financial impact; Tim Norton estimated $8 million, $30 million if including fixtures. John Bartolac noted Johnson County gets about $16 million from the mortgage registration fee. Richard Malm indicated that it sounds like a 1.5 to 2.0 mill hit for counties if the mortgage registration fee is eliminated.

Randall gave a status update on the oil and gas valuation depletion trust fund. Fifty-two counties joined in a petition. It is not being actively pursued. The Governor and Attorney General are reviewing.

Randall summarized a meeting he attended on November 11th, on budget and tax policy strategy. He also noted that the KAC staff will have a retreat on December 11th to move forward the KAC President’s goals, the priorities from the board that came out at their retreat back in the summer, and other organizational issues.

Richard Malm noted the Circle S Ranch is in Jefferson County, versus Randall’s report which stated it was in Lawrence.

Kimberly stated she wanted to form a program committee to help KAC staff with improvement on KAC programs, and for those interested to contact her, with a target size of 3-4 people.

Randall noted that a 1:00 pm will be a tour of the Statehouse Visitors Center. He described the ramp the board would use to get there, and that it will be a good chance to take photos.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Melissa Wangemann and Dennis Kriesel