

**Kansas Association of Counties
Governing Board**

Minutes of the February 28, 2014 Meeting
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; Gene **Bryan**, Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City Appraiser; Lon **Buller**, Harvey County Emergency Management Director; Jim **Emerson**, Crawford County Counselor; Kerry **McCue**, Ellis County EMS Director; Stan **McEvoy**, Decatur County Commissioner; Richard **Malm**, Jefferson County Commissioner; Norbert **Marek**, Wabaunsee County Attorney; Kimberly **Skillman-Robrahn**, Coffey County Commissioner, President; Glen **Tyson**, Osage County Road Director; and Dan **Woydziak**, Butler County Commissioner.

Board Member Absent: Ben **Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; Bob **Boaldin**, Morton County Commissioner; and Duane **Patrick**, McPherson County Commissioner (NACo Representative).

Proceedings

President Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. She asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda, and there were none.

Glen Tyson provided a report on the bills and payrolls for February 28, 2014. He noted one discrepancy, with an overpayment to AT&T. Kerry McCue moved and Stan McEvoy seconded the motion to approve the financial report and place it on file. The motion passed.

Dennis Kriesel provided the monthly financial report, and explained the KAC statement of financial position as of December 31, 2013. The Kansas Health Institute requested a refund of the grant money that was not used, in the amount of \$44,619. He discussed the audit note relating to unused vacation leave, and said that issue had been resolved by following the cap given in the personnel policy. Allison Allejos moved and Lon Buller seconded the motion to approve the financial report and place it on file. The motion passed.

Melissa Wangemann and Randall Allen provided the legislative report. Melissa Wangemann updated the Board on the latest fixtures legislation, along with the bill effecting changes to the COTA. She also discussed SB 10 pertaining to open records and the latest bill on guns and knives. Randall Allen discussed Senator Jeff King's bill that would create a centralized appraisal

system through the State. Randall Allen moved to discussion on the mortgage registration fee. He said that KAC had met with the Tax Committee chairman and the Senate Majority Leader about possible solutions, and KAC provided three options to compromise on the mortgage registration fee legislation. Melissa Wangemann discussed a conversation with Senator Vicki Schmidt where she learned that the bankers and other senators were saying that KAC did not “come to the table” to discuss compromise. Randall Allen said he would deliver the letter offering three options to all senators with a cover letter to show that KAC worked on compromise.

The Board discussed the mortgage registration fee in detail. Norbert Marek noted a legislative update from the Kansas Bankers Association saying that the counties did not come to the table with an offer on phasing out the fees or increased recording fees. John Bartolac reported that the Register of Deeds Association would meet on Monday to discuss the idea of recording fees. Norbert Marek suggested that the cover letter explain that we as a group have discussed a solution that is not legislative -- that would be higher property taxes. Also a pay-go provision just like the state uses might be a valid consideration. Melissa Wangemann said perhaps the cover letter should offer a compromise on recording fees. The Board decided to host a Legislative Policy Committee meeting on Thursday, March 6.

Randall Allen discussed SB 411, which eliminates taxing authority for extension districts. Marvin Beesley talked about the benefits of extension and why the bill would eliminate the specific knowledge within the extension board.

Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn moved onto the update on the regional suppers. She noted that Tracey Streeter and Susan Metzger from the Water Office are presenting at the regional suppers, and Secretary McClaskey has also attended some of the meetings. Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn said she thought the suppers were well attended and the questions asked by the attendees were good.

President Skillman-Robrahn gave her President’s Report and outlined the time she has been spending in Topeka engaging in the legislative process. She said the regional suppers were helping expand the KAC presence among counties. She said the committee tasked with reviewing the educational program would get started after the session.

Randall Allen discussed the secretariat agreement with the Kansas County Commissioners Association and asked for authorization to sign the agreement. Richard Malm moved and Glen Tyson seconded the motion to approve the agreement.

Randall Allen reviewed the statehouse county map project with the Board members and shared a handout showing the outstanding amount of \$1,748, which included the counties who have given commitments to pay. Randall Allen said he will seek corporate sponsors to pay the

remainder, noting that KAC has sponsors at the annual conference. Gene Bryan asked if KAC will send an acknowledgement letter to the counties and others who have donated to the project. Randall Allen said yes, and there would also be recognition in the County Comment and at the annual conference.

Randall Allen noted that he attended the first-ever public health meeting by the Riley County Board of County Commissioners. He said that he and Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn will be attending the NACo legislative conference in Washington, D.C. in the next week.

President Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn asked that the Board members share their thoughts. John Bartolac noted his association will continue to work on the mortgage registration fee. Gene Bryan expressed frustration with the legislative session, and Norbert Marek also commented on the legislative session. Allison Allejos mentioned the Riley County Health Department meeting and said the Shawnee County Board of Health will be meeting March 27. Stan McEvoy discussed a hospital crisis in his community where the hospital fired a popular doctor, which has generated an outcry from the public. Kerry McCue said his county is working on some building projects and he mentioned the EMS legislation and the upcoming KEMSA conference. Marvin Beesley said that the weed directors are continuing discussions with the Kansas Department of Agriculture on the noxious weed legislation. Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn discussed the opening ceremony for the Visitors Center and the Governor's comments about the county map.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.