

**Kansas Association of Counties
Governing Board**

Minutes of the May 23, 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; Ben **Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; 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; Kerry **McCue**, Ellis County EMS Director; Stan **McEvoy**, Decatur County Commissioner; Richard **Malm**, Jefferson County Commissioner; Norbert **Marek**, Wabaunsee County Attorney; Duane **Patrick**, McPherson County Commissioner (NACo Representative); Kimberly **Skillman-Robrahn**, Coffey County Commissioner, President; and Glen **Tyson**, Osage County Road Director.

Board Member Absent: Dan Woydziak, Butler County Commissioner.

Proceedings

President Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She called for the Board to review the agenda. Duane Patrick moved to approve the agenda and Lon Buller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Randall Allen introduced Chris Courtright, the principal economist for the Kansas legislature. Chris reviewed the overall state financial status. He first reviewed the three-legged stool concept relating to property tax, income tax and sales tax. In the past, the three-legged stool concept had bipartisan support, but the current legislature does not support the concept. Chris Courtright noted a loss of \$5m over seven years. The Kansas governor and the legislature are relying on economic growth to offset these losses. Chris noted the expected higher energy prices will affect sales tax. He explained the April fiscal reports that show a \$90m loss. There may be a \$200m loss beyond the estimates by the end of the year. If the losses continue to exceed the estimates, the negative fiscal impact hits sooner.

Chris Courtright also discussed bills affecting counties, including the Truth in Taxation bill, the fixtures bill, the COTA/BOTA bill, and the repeal of the mortgage registration fee. He provided detail on the mortgage registration fee discussion during the 2014 session. He discussed the equity arguments put forth by the bankers and realtors and noted the new equity issues that arise under the bill i.e., seniors on fixed income paying higher property taxes. Melissa Wangemann asked about SB 450, which would raise agricultural land values and whether it would return in the 2015 session. Gene Bryan

asked about the list of tax exemptions and the list's impact on the tax base. Randall Allen asked how the rest of the year will work given the financial state, and Chris Courtright said he will produce a memo in June to summarize the current financial status.

President Robrahn-Skillman called on Randall Allen, Melissa Wangemann and Nathan Eberline to review other legislative issues with the Board. Randall Allen discussed possible issues in the 2015 session, including discussion on the agricultural use value of land and the taxation on wind turbines. Melissa Wangemann noted the guns/knives bill and the open records bill. Randall Allen suggested an article in the June County Comment relating to the budget impact on the appraiser's office arising from SB 231 and HB 2643.

President Robrahn-Skillman called on Marcus Henley, Account Executive with The Bukaty Agency. He reviewed his summary of insurance prepared for the KAC Board, which outlined the various types of coverage used by KAC.

President Robrahn-Skillman called for review and a motion to approve the March 28th and April 25th meeting minutes. Richard Malm moved approval of both sets of minutes and Kerry McCue seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Glen Tyson gave the report on bills and payrolls as of May 23, 2014. He noted that the financial committee reviewed the financials that morning and had only one question relating to the cost of a press release. Randall Allen and Kimberly Robrahn-Skillman explained that the press release related to a letter to the editor on the mortgage registration fee. John Bartolac moved and Marvin Beesley seconded a motion to approve the financial report and place it on file.

Dennis Kriesel reviewed the draft monthly financial report and the memo. Net income was minus \$20,500, which is typical for early in the year. Growth in income occurs after the education program begins, and County Government Day is an expense early in the year. Kerry McCue moved and Duane Patrick seconded a motion to accept the report and place it on file.

President Robrahn-Skillman recessed the meeting at 12:00 p.m. for lunch. She reconvened the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Randall Allen gave his Executive Director's Report. Randall Allen discussed the KCCA annual conference in Manhattan and noted the topics that were discussed at the conference. Randall Allen also discussed the contract with the 911 Coordinating Council to continue serving as the LCPA. He noted that he discussed the contract offer with the KAC officers before offering it to the Council. He gave the final status report on the statehouse county map project, noting an excess of \$152.69 from the fundraising efforts. Randall Allen gave an update on staffing at the KAC office. Randall Allen said the field work on the KAC audit has been completed.

Randall Allen requested that the Board authorize travel for KAC staff this summer and fall, including the NACo conference, the ASAE conference, and the IMLA conference. Jim Emerson moved approval of the travel request and Glen Tyson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Randall Allen discussed the new membership directory, and also detailed the new phone system implemented in the KAC office. Dennis Kriesel also provided a review of the new phone system.

Randall Allen also discussed moving the KAC bank accounts to a new financial institution that is not a member of the Kansas Bankers Association. Marvin Beesley moved approval of a motion to adopt Resolution 2014-1 with an amendment that limits the authority to one action in 2014, which was seconded by Stan McEvoy. The motion to adopt the resolution passed.

President Skillman-Robrahn moved to discussion of the Bylaws pertaining to the composition of the board. She noted the challenge of balancing the rural and urban interests on the KAC Board, and her thoughts on creating an urban representative to represent the big counties. Richard Malm noted that the amendment to the bylaws should be tied to population rather than naming counties. The Board discussed the bylaws requirement that no more than one board member can be from the same county, and whether that section needs to be revisited with regard to the new urban member, or to all the board members. John Bartolac discussed the issue that the Clerks and other elected officials left KAC because of the heavy commissioner representation on the board, and whether that would affect the other elected officials' decision to join KAC. Randall Allen noted that no member has requested another seat at the Board, but he thought the Board should discuss representation by the urban counties as an effort to retain those important members. He also said the KAC Board member districts reflect the KDOT highway districts, and those districts may not be the best tool for determining the KAC board districts. No decisions were made.

President Robrahn-Skillman moved on to item #11. The Board discussed at its retreat last summer a review of the educational programs. President Robrahn-Skillman has formed an ad hoc committee to review the educational programs and make recommendations.

President Skillman-Robrahn asked that the Board members share their thoughts and each board member shared information from their home counties and their affiliate organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.