Kansas Association of Counties
Governing Board Minutes
August 26, 2016
Hays, Ellis County, Kansas

Attendance

Board Members Present: Allison Alejos, Director of the Shawnee County Health Department; John Bartolac, Johnson County Director of Records and Tax Administration; Robert Boyd, Riley County Commissioner; Dianna Carter, McPherson County Appraiser; Max Dibble, Phillips County Commissioner; Jim Emerson, Crawford County Counselor/Past President; Kerry McCue, Ellis County EMS Director; Richard Malm, NACo Representative; Lynn Peterson, Dickinson County Commissioner; Rob Roberts, Miami County Commissioner; Hannah Stambaugh, Saline County Emergency Management Director; Shawn Tasset, Ford County Commissioner; Glen Tyson, Osage County Road Director and Dan Woydziak, Butler County Commissioner.

Board Members Absent: Fred Johnson, Labette County Counselor and Clair Schrock, Thomas County Noxious Weed Director.

Others Present: Randall Allen, KAC Executive Director; Dennis Kriesel, Operations and Finance Director; and Melissa Wangemann, General Counsel.

Proceedings

President Dan Woydziak called the meeting of the KAC Governing Board to order at 9:05 a.m. Kerry McCue welcomed the board to Ellis County, and the new Emergency Services Building. He noted the placement of restrooms, refreshments and the WiFi information. He introduced the Ellis County Administrator, Phillip Smith Haynes, who started working for the county on March 1. Kerry Mc also introduced Barbara Wasinger, Ellis County Commissioner, who gave remarks to the Board. She talked about the sales tax used to build the emergency services building and the administration building, and expressed gratitude to Randall Allen and KAC for assisting in recruiting their new county administrator.

President Woydziak called on the board to review and approve the agenda. Lynn Peterson moved and Kerry McCue seconded the motion to adopt the agenda. The motion passed.

President Woydziak called for a motion to approve the July minutes. Max Dibble moved to approve the minutes and John Bartolac seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

President Woydziak called on Treasurer Glenn Tyson to discuss the bills and payroll. Glenn Tyson said there were $202,623.20 in disbursements with no discrepancies as of the date. Glen
Tyson requested board approval of the report. Rob Robert moved to accept and file the report, and Shawn Tasset seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dennis Kriesel presented the monthly financial report. He said the report shows $19,525.63 as net income through June. Program income was typical except for the education program, which saw a loss of $10,000 through June. He noted that attendance targets are a problem, and said that Randall Allen would be addressing that issue during his report. He discussed the coupon code that was presented by the hotel to encourage attendance from western counties, which provided a discount for the conference registration. John Bartolac moved to approve the financial report, and Jim Emerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dan Woydziak skipped the agenda item for Appointment of the Nominating Committee, saying he would appoint the nominating committee at a later time.

Randall Allen presented the Executive Director’s report. He reviewed the election results for commissioners in the 2016 primary election, noting that 40 commissioners were defeated at the primary election. He also said that 34 were not running for re-election, so 74 new commissioners would take their seats in January.

Randall Allen discussed his work with the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Water Resource Management. He said the Brownback administration has focused on water issues, including concerns about the Oglala Aquifer and reservoirs. He discussed his work on the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Water Resource Management and noted the concentration has been on how to fund water projects, with a discussion on keeping the money safe from sweeps into the general fund. Discussion has also included what fee or taxes could be used to fund water projects. He said the committee has recently discussed a 1/10 sales tax to pay for the water fund. The other water fees would be eliminated. The water sales tax would be a constitutional amendment so that the money could not be swept by legislation. Board members asked questions about current water fees in comparison to the new tax proposed. Randall Allen said he would summarize the information he provided today and the questions asked at the board meeting and send the information to the board members.

Randall Allen also discussed his work with a Kansas Hospital Association study committee that is reviewing rural healthcare. The board discussed the challenges facing rural hospitals. Randall Allen discussed the options considered by the study committee for critical access care.

Randall Allen reviewed the annual conference information, noting the number of registrations and exhibitors. KAC budgeted $35,000 for sponsorships and Dana Wethington has secured $68,000 in sponsorships already. He also noted the form distributed by Dennis Kriesel, which outlines the dinner and hotel arrangements for board members.
Randall Allen moved onto discussion of the KAC Institute of Excellence. He said participation in the education programs is not meeting targets, and participation is dwindling over the years. KAC recorded 541 participants in 2007 and in 2016 KAC has seen 282 participants with decreasing numbers every year in between. Randall Allen said KAC sent a survey to county members including commissioners, HR departments, administrators and clerks and received a 7% response. Primary reasons giving for not attending educational programs was budget and time away from the office. John Bartolac mentioned that the ROD Association and Clerks Association have their own meetings and perhaps KAC should partner with the affiliate organizations during their annual meetings. Hannah Stambaugh noted that her association gets free training from the State, so that creates a disincentive to pay for it. Lynn Peterson discussed the LKM training that allows professional training to apply as credits to the LKM programs. Kerry McCue discussed the KEMSA training and whether additional training could be done the day before the KAC annual conference. There was discussion about webinars as a method to avoid losing time away from the office, which would address one of the concerns raised in the survey.

Randall Allen reviewed the 911 contract under which the KAC serves as the Local Collection Point Administrator. He asked for board authorization to respond to the RFP and enter a bid to continue to provide the 911 services with a requested price of $200,000. He hopes to have an idea on whether KAC will receive the contract at the time of adopting the KAC budget during the November meeting. Richard Malm moved to authorize KAC staff to prepare a Response to the RFP, and Robert Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Randall Allen requested authorization to travel for a meeting in Alaska in October to join his peer executive directors. Robert Boyd moved to approve the travel and Glen Tyson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Woydziak turned to John Bartolac to provide a report from the Bylaws Committee. The proposed amendment would increase the size of KAC board to add two at-large members, who would be commissioners, nonvoting members, one rural and one urban. The new board positions would be exemptions to the rule of only one board member from each county. Their proposal would eliminate the past president position. Allison Allejos asked for the reasoning eliminate the past president and Dan Woydziak pointed to cost and the Jim Emerson situation of continuing representation due to elections and resignations. Richard Malm asked about the sheriffs and Randall Allenn reported they will remain an associate member for the time. Dennis Kriesel asked why they were nonvoting and it was explained that they were nonvoting so as not to create too much commissioner influence. Richard Malm asked how the new members will be selected and Dan Woydziak said it would occur at the annual conference. John Bartolac said he could take the proposal to his association and seek feedback. Melissa Wangemann asked
why commissioner was chosen if that position creates the imbalance on the board. Shawn T asset said the position of commissioner was selected because the bylaws committee thought a commissioner was more well-rounded on issues affecting urban and rural interests. Shawn Tasset and Max Dibble suggested just a urban representative because rural interests are already represented by the Northwest and Southwest commissioners. Randall Allen suggested two at-large members who are not necessarily commissioners, selected by the board to represent the under-represented areas of the state. Two at-large reps would be exempt from limitation on representation from counties on the board. One would be from a large county over 70,000 in population, and the other under 70,000. The terms would be two years with staggering, so the first person would serve a shorter term. The positions would have a two term limit. Melissa Wangemann indicated she would draft the new language.

Richard Malm presented the National Association of Counties Report. He reviewed the NACo annual conference in California. He noted the new vice president was Brian Cox. He said Kansas is lacking on committee assignments and encouraged board members to apply for a committee assignment. He noted that he would be vice president of the membership committee in the next year.

President Woydziak gave his President’s Report and recognized Richard Malm for his NACo award for Recruiter of the Year. President Woydziak also recognized that Robert Boyd would be testifying before the Small Business Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. He gave his appreciation to Kerry McCue for his and Ellis County’s hospitality.

The next board meeting was announced as a conference call September 22. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.