

Kansas Association of Counties  
Governing Board Minutes  
January 25, 2018  
Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas

Attendance

Board Members Present: Nick **Baldetti**, Director of the Reno County Health Department; John **Bartolac**, Johnson County Director of Records and Tax Administration; Craig **Cox**, Riley County Assistant Counselor; Max **Dibble**, Phillips County Commissioner, President; Susan **Hubbell**, Kingman County Register of Deeds; Patti **Israel**, Ford County Appraiser; Dave **Johnston**, Sedgwick County EMS Operations Manager; Lynn **Peterson**, Dickinson County Commissioner; Lon **Pishny**, Finney County Commissioner; **Rob Roberts**, Miami County Commissioner; Clair **Schrock**, Thomas County Noxious Weed Director; Barbara **Wasinger**, Rural County Representative; and Chip **Westfall**, Harvey County Commissioner.

Absent

Ed **Eilert**, Urban County Representative; Gary **Scoby**, Nemaha County Commissioner; and Hannah **Stambaugh**, Saline County Emergency Management Director.

Others Present

Randall Allen, KAC Executive Director; Dennis Kriesel, Operations and Finance Director; Dorrie Sullivan, Education and Communications Director; and Melissa Wangemann, General Counsel.

Proceedings

President Max Dibble called the meeting of the KAC Governing Board to order at 9:00 a.m. He called for any changes to the agenda, and asked that the agenda be amended to move Burt Burrows' presentation up to item #4. Lynn Peterson moved and John Bartolac seconded a motion to amend the agenda. The motion passed.

President Dibble called on the board to review the minutes. Barbara Wasinger moved to approve the minutes, and Patti Israel seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Dibble called on Burt Burrows, Kansas Program Director for Nationwide. Burt Burrows reviewed the Nationwide deferred compensation plans in Kansas. He also reviewed several handouts explaining the retirement benefits of Nationwide.

Randall Allen reviewed the board notebooks with the members of the board, outlining all the tabbed materials. Melissa Wangemann reviewed the board governance guidelines, covering fiduciary duties and other responsibilities.

Melissa Wangemann presented the CCAK Secretariat Agreement, an agreement between KAC and CCAK for KAC to provide services to the organization. Barbara Wasinger moved and Chip Westfall seconded the motion to approve the agreement and direct Randall Allen to sign the agreement.

The board recessed at 11:10 a.m. for a short break, and returned at 11:30 a.m.

Melissa Wangemann provided the legislative report. She reviewed the draft of the 911 Act that is being introduced by the 911 Coordinating Council, and the board raised concerns about the level of state oversight and governance over local entities. The board expressed support for opposing the legislation. Melissa Wangemann also discussed legislation that will allow county commissioners to permit or deny chicken processing plants. She noted that The Innocence Project has asked KAC to weigh in on a bill that provides compensation for persons who are wrongfully convicted. Lastly, she mentioned a new issue arising in Stafford County relating to insulating counties from failing county hospitals.

Randall Allen presented the Executive Director's report. He reviewed a document he handed out, which included travel authorization for him and Richard Malm to attend the NACo legislative conference. Lon Pishny moved and Craig Cox seconded the motion and the motion passed. Randall Allen noted that the annual conference will be five weeks earlier this year and the theme is "Making A Difference." He said they have engaged a keynote speaker, Bill Stainton, who will do a presentation on the "Five Best Decisions of the Beatles." He also noted that KAC will need to make an appointment to the PRIDE board, which encourages and facilitates small communities taking on beautification projects. He requested any KAC board member who might be interested in the appointment to contact him. Randall Allen then gave an update on the KCHA (Kansas County Highway Association) secretariat agreement. Randall Allen asked Dennis Kriesel to provide a summary. Dennis Kriesel explained the current state of dues collection and the selection of software for a registration system to handle KCHA's annual conference. Allen followed up with discussing a bit about the KCCA meeting that happened the prior evening, and the overall burden on staff that these tasks take to offer alternative revenue streams.

Max Dibble gave his President's Report. Max Dibble noted Ed Eilert received the Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award, recognizing Eilert's career in public service. Dibble then noted Senator Bob Dole's receipt of the Congressional Gold Medal and described how the ceremony went and the bipartisan level of support Dole, a native Kansan, received.

Max Dibble then discussed Local Government Day. He felt the attendance was very strong, perhaps the best ever, but noted that Senator Laura Kelly's presentation appeared to be more of a stump speech rather than focusing on the Kansas legislative session. Max Dibble raised concerns about the inability of members to ask questions, and that it was seen as a "we don't

trust you” view of the audience. President Max Dibble also asked for additional feedback on ways to improve Local Government Day. He noted some complained about the lack of programming on the county side (just an hour and then the reception). Randall Allen explained there are benefits but also challenges in doing the event with LKM. Chip Westfall asked about pushing the event back 2-3 weeks and if it would be helpful because the session would be further along. Randall Allen responded to the question about programming, noting that there have been some years where KAC has done a workshop before the legislators’ presentation. Lon Pishny noted that there needs to be a limit on questions if allowed, and he wished there was less emphasis by LKM on drinking. He also expressed an interest for four speakers in the hour block. Pishny understood the concern of baiting questions coming from the audience. Chip Westfall expressed interest in a slight expansion of the legislators’ speaking time (such as 15 minutes) in order to better allow for questions. Jeff Blosser noted there was frustration from some on how late some legislators were to show up to the reception portion. Chip Westfall suggested pushing the legislative calendar out before Local Government Day to try and attract people to the event based off relevant hearings happening that day.

Richard Malm then gave his NACo report. Malm focused on NACo’s legislative priorities, highlighting several that have a direct impact on Kansas. He noted the phrasing is general in nature, much like KAC’s legislative language, in order to offer flexibility in responding to bills and issues. Malm indicated NACo has 13 lobbyists, and there are issues outside of the priorities; the priorities receive an “all hands on deck” status where the entire lobbying team will work the issues if and when it comes up. Malm also reviewed NACo’s *County News* email publication and highlighted the infrastructure money discussed recently. Malm told those who want to be on a NACo committee just need to contact Melissa Wangemann and express their interest. He noted small (under 10,000 population) counties may receive a dues reduction from \$450 to \$250 under a currently discussed proposal, but he is unsure if it will advance.

Clair Schrock then discussed the bills and payrolls report. Clair Schrock noted the finance committee met and the total disbursements were \$263,616.90. He noted a large portion was related to the KAC Annual Conference. Everything appeared to be in order and asked for a motion to place on file. John Bartolac moved and Lynn Peterson seconded a motion to approve bills and payroll. It was unanimously approved.

Dennis Kriesel then went over the November 2017 financials. Rob Roberts moved and Chip Westfall seconded a motion to place on file the November 2017 financial statements. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.