



**KAC Governing Board Meeting - Virtual  
Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 9:00AM  
Kansas Association of Counties  
715 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Topeka, KS 66612**

**Attendees:**

**Kenny Baccus**, *President*, Ottawa County Noxious Weed Director;  
**Dee McKee**, *Vice-President*, Pottawatomie County Commissioner (9:40am);  
**Frank Williams**, *Treasurer / FC Chair*, Operations Manager County EMS Director;  
**Max Dibble**, *Secretary*, Phillips County Commissioner;

---

**Keith Becker**, FC, McPherson County Commissioner; **Wayne Blackburn**, FC, Engineer Coffey County;  
**Craig Chamberlin**, Dickinson County Commissioner; **Terry David**, Rice County Commissioner;  
**Heather Elsworth**, Neosho County Clerk; **Aaron Mays**, Shawnee County Commissioner;  
**Sean Robertson**, Saline County Appraiser; **Brian Stone**, Emergency Management Director, Cowley County;  
**Justin Waggoner**, Asst. Counselor Sedgwick County; **Wendy Weiss**, Lyon County Register of Deeds;

---

**Staff present:** **Bruce Chladny**, Executive Director;  
**Jay Hall**, Deputy Director & General Counsel, (at Capitol until 9:20AM);  
**Betty Oliva**, Office & Finance Manager; **Dornella Leal**, Operations & Finance Director;  
**Kimberly Qualls**, Education and Communications Director;

---

**Absent:** **Aften Gardner**, Wallace County Health Dept; **Shari Kaminska**, FC, Elk County Commissioner;  
**C.J. Wettstein**, Seward County Commissioner.

---

**Guest:** **Mike Brouwer**, Criminal Justice Coordinator, Johnson County

---

President Baccus called the meeting to order at 9:04AM.  
Betty Oliva recorded attendance showing a quorum.

**Approval of the Agenda:** President Baccus asked if there were any amendments to the agenda, being none, asked for a motion to approve. Max Dibble made a motion to approve the agenda, Terry David seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

President Baccus asked if there was any discussion or changes to the minutes. With no additional discussion, Frank Williams made a motion to approve the KAC Governing Board minutes of February 17, 2022, as presented, Wendy Weiss seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Executive Director Report, Bruce Chladny:**

Bruce began by thanking the board and staff for meeting virtually, for taking time out of their busy day.

Bruce reported that the Legislative session is in full swing and there has been a flurry of activity these past months during the session. Each week Jay and Bruce host legislative liaisons for our members and anyone who represents or is working with our members, having between twenty-five to thirty participants weekly. The calls provide updates on what is happening at the Capitol and on current legislation that KAC is working on that may impact local county governments.

Bruce attended the Weed Directors meeting in Topeka at the Ramada Inn. It was a nice gathering, and it is always beneficial and fun to get together with these folks.

Bruce spoke about the NACo Cyber security webinar. It started as a request for NACo to do a program for Kansas County officials and morphed into a national NACo call. The intent of the presentation was to walk through the possible cyber-

attacks that Russia may engage in as part of its military siege towards Ukraine. There were forty-five to fifty participants and many of those were from Kansas.

Next, Bruce talked about the request from the Sunflower Foundation to have speakers from local government to present at the Sunflower Foundation Board on the work that they are doing with the ARPA funds to address system wide health issues. Several of our members have volunteered to do so and the request has turned into an offer from the Foundation to pay us to host a couple of educational opportunities for our members instead. KAC is reviewing the offer and will respond in the days to come.

Bruce, Jay, and Keith Browning attended a zoom meeting with Secretary Lorenz from KDOT about the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) Hub that Kansas is creating to manage the Billions of dollars coming to Kansas over the next several years. Kansas Counties will be part of this process as well as major recipients of those funds.

Bruce and Keith Browning recently attended the District 1 Highway officials meeting in Holton, KS and will be attending the District 2 meeting in Ellsworth; District 5 in St. John; and District 3 in Colby Kansas in the weeks ahead. It is nice to get out and meet, greet, and represent KAC at these meetings.

Bruce thanked Kim for her work to have the State of Kansas officially recognize the Month of April as *Kansas County Government Month*. The Governor signed the proclamation and several KAC staff and Board members were present at the signing.

Bruce and Board Chair Kenny Baccus briefed the Board on a conversation with representatives from Colorado concerning expanding the scope and mission of the County Weed Directors Association of Kansas. More on this issue will be coming in the months to come.

Bruce announced the voting information to allow the Kansas County Human Resource Association to become an Affiliate member to the KAC will be mailed to KAC member County Clerks on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The ballots are due back Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Board Chair Baccus inquired if the Sheriff's Association has been contacted about their becoming Affiliate members. President Baccus asked Bruce if the Kansas Sheriff's Association has been approached to become an Affiliate member. Bruce will follow up with Sandy Horton.

#### **Deputy Director and General Counsel, Jay Hall:**

Jay was at the Statehouse this morning prior to this morning's Board meeting, attending the Tax Conference Committee meeting. He reported they have three packages they are putting together now; property tax package; income tax package; and sales tax package. He reviewed detail on each tax package and the impacts it would have on the counties.

Jay has talked with the Governor's staff about several bills that have come out so far and let them know KAC will be in touch with them if we need to formally request a VETO on any of these particular items. The state restriction that prevents localities from banning plastic bags passed and was sent to the Governor. KAC has not decided if we will request a veto on this bill; this is an invasion of local control. Several bills are on our radar including the Sports Wagering bill and Reimbursement of Property Taxes. We are waiting to see what bills pass this week.

#### **Education and Communications Director, Kim Qualls:**

Kim Shared the signed Proclamation, declaring Kansas County Government Month as April 2022, recognizing and in appreciation for County Government. There will be a news release, additional emails and it will be in the County Comment. Kim then reported on:

- Webinar reports – uploaded the report with states for the Board to see. Is currently on the KAC Website.
- KCCA Conference, April 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina, KS. The agenda is forth coming. There are currently 51 Commissioners registered and we have 5 Gold Sponsors at \$2,500 each.
- Bruce updated everyone on Mike Taylor and his work, helping promote KCCA. The Gold Sponsorship was added to help fund the expenses with hiring Mike Taylor.
- KAC Conference will be held in October 2022 and the room block should open up in late April or early May.

### **Finance Director, Dornella Leal:**

Dornella provided a review of the February 2022 financial statements and reported on KAC's cash position.

- Income \$102,379
  - Affiliate and Associate dues.
  - Reported 91% of membership dues has been received.
- Expense \$79,686
  - Back-to-back Board meeting expenses / travel expenses.
  - County Government Day expenses.
  - Health insurance expenses – HRA, Health Reimbursement Allowance / deductible paid.
- Net Income \$22,692.

Dornella updated the Board on the Counties that have not paid the 2022 KAC membership dues: Chautauqua, Cherokee and Harper. Bruce reported we knew Harper would not be renewing and learned Cherokee County had voted not to renew. They were disappointed with the Wind and Energy bills and the Medicaid expansion bill. Bruce and Jay have talked about it and will reach out to Cherokee County and meet with their County Commissioners. For the 2022 Local Road Engineer Program dues, Nemaha County has not paid, and Keith has reached out to them. For the Affiliate and Associate dues, the Kansas Sheriffs Association and the Kansas County Administrators Association are outstanding.

**Finance Committee, Kenny Baccus:** Frank Williams reported the Finance Committee has reviewed the February 2022 Bills & Payrolls report and has found everything to be in order. Keith Becker made a motion to approve both the February 2022 financials and the February 2022 Bills & Payrolls report as presented. Aaron Mays seconded the motion, motion carried.

### **Keith Becker, NACo Representative:**

Keith Becker attended the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, February 12 -16, 2022. Many topics of discussion included: addictions across the nation; ARPA Funds and the implementation; Broadband infrastructure; mental illness and how COVID has impacted this problem; Nationwide NACo memberships declining.

Keith expanded on the impact NACo has on our leaders in Washington, DC. In attendance were President Biden, Senator from Texas, EPA Administrator Michael Regan, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Keith was very encouraged to see things in action and thanked the Board for allowing him to attend. He encourages all counties to become a NACo member.

Bruce reviewed the Kansas Counties that have not renewed their NACo dues for 2022 and encouraged the Board to reach out to them.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Amicus Brief Update, Jay Hall:**

The deadline to submit the brief was March 21<sup>st</sup>. KAC worked with David Cooper and his team, and with several County Counselors. The brief was turned in on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The League of municipalities also submitted their brief by March 21<sup>st</sup>. Jay explained all possibilities for the outcome and reviewed the additional due dates for additional briefs. May 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> is court week for the Kansas Supreme Court and will likely be scheduled on the May docket. Briefs are due in by 30 days prior to oral arguments. You may contact Jay Hall if you have any questions or would like to see the briefs.

Bruce extended a thank you to Justin Waggoner for all his help working on the KAC Amicus Brief.

#### **Kansas Fights Addiction Act Grant Review Board Nominee, Bruce Chladny:**

Bruce introduced Mike Brouwer and thanked him for representing KAC on the Kansas Fights Addiction Act Grant Review Board. Mike introduced himself to the Board and provided his working background working in community mental health for 15 years in Miami and Johnson Counties, nine years in Douglas County and DECCA. He has returned to Johnson County in September 2021 as their Criminal Justice Coordinator. His focus has been how issues of addiction and illness impacts the criminal justice system and how people are mis-served with these issues. He has received confirmation from the AG's office and is waiting on the first meeting date.

Bruce and President Baccus thanked Mike for his representation on the review board.

**New Business, President Kenny Baccus:**

No New Business

**Comments and Announcements:**

**From the Board President:**

- Thanked the Board for their attendance today on Zoom;
- Reminded everyone on the upcoming KCCA Conference, April 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina, KS;
- The NACO Conference will be held July 21–24, 2022 in Adams County Colorado and encourages attendance;
- Reminded the Board to keep the Amicus Brief dates on their calendars;
- Currently working for the Kansas Sheriff's Association, an Associate member, to become an Affiliate member.

**Board Members – No additional comments**

**Additional Comments and Announcements:**

- Kansas County Commissioners Association
- County Counselors Association of Kansas – Justin Waggoner: CLE is June 17, 2022, 9:00am – 4:00PM by ZOOM.
- Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
- Kansas County Clerks & Election Officials Association: The Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Conference will be in Salina, KS, on May 3 - 6, 2022.
- Kansas County Highway Association: Wayne Blackburn announced two upcoming conferences:
  - NACE Conference in Buffalo, NY, April 25 – 27, 2022
  - KCHA Spring Conference in Dodge City, KS, May 16 - 18, 2022
- Kansas County Appraisers Association: Sean commented they are watching the Legislation.
- Kansas Emergency Management Association, Brian Stone:
  - KEMA Conference in September 2022 in Mulvane, KS;
  - Hosting a training and exercise for health care agencies in July 2022;
  - Wild wind fires;
  - Local College has applied for an emergency preparedness class, applied thru FEMA.
- Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association: Frank Williams talked about the struggle for emergency medical services across Kansas; the necessity for retention and recruitment, addressing the funding issues in this regard. Jay added there is a budget item that would increase the reimbursements that is included in the House and Senate; The Budget Committee is working this, which would help fund the EMS services.
- Kansas Register of Deeds Association: Wendy commented the recordings have currently trended down.

**Public:** No attendees.

**Adjournment:** The next KAC Governing Board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 10:00AM in Salina, KS at the Hilton Garden Inn, prior to the KCCA Conference. Lunch will be provided.

The meeting was then adjourned at 10:36AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Max Dibble, Secretary

Betty Oliva, Finance & Office Manager