



Sedgwick County...
working for you

District 2 CAB

Sedgwick County Public Works

November 1, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Nikki Helms, Dr. William Hammers (on Zoom), Jessica Atherton (on Zoom) Dr. Susan Norton, Ashlie Brockleman, Tony Martinez, Jeff Hersh, Gage Hunt

1. Call to Order:

- a. Nikki Helms called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Roll Call Vote:

- a. Board members in person and on Zoom identified themselves by saying, "Here."

3. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Ashlie Brockleman made a motion to approve the October 3 meeting minutes. Tony Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Agenda:

- a. No public comment here.

5. New Business:

a. Presentation by Jim Weber, Public Works Director/County Engineer

- i. Public Works has four departments: Highway, Noxious Weeds, Storm Drainage and Environmental Resources with 100 positions filled out of 128 full-time jobs.
- ii. The Highway Department provides engineering and surveying for about 15 major projects per year, performs road and bridge maintenance, and handles mowing, snow and ice operations, and traffic control.
 - 1- Sedgwick County has 607 bridges with 100 of them in District 2, 39 miles of gravel roads, 564 miles of paved roads, 14, 572 signs and 68 traffic signals.
- iii. The Storm Drainage staff handles stream maintenance, flood control and stormwater management..
 - 1- Crews clear obstructions in the streams and maintain 97 miles of levees and 5,613 acres of right-of-way.
 - 2- Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita split the costs of flood control on the Arkansas River.
- iv. Environmental Resources manages storm water quality, environmental assessments, hazard communication, the Conservation District and solid waste management.
 - 1- The Hazardous Household Waste facility recycles and disposes of waste for Sedgwick County residents and qualifying businesses. In 2021, 16, 318 citizens and 283 businesses were served.
 - 2- The Swap-N-Shop allows residents to drop off partially used paints and chemicals and take others for free. In 2021, 9,593

customers reclaimed 136,918 pounds of household hazardous waste.

- 3- Five remote collection events allow Sedgwick County residents to drop off e-waste, tires and other waste for free.
- v. The Noxious Weed staff works to eliminate 10 – 11 invasive weeds that will otherwise take over an area, including thistle and bindweed.
- vi. The total budget for Public Works is \$37,464,088.
- vii. Challenges for Public Works include large infrastructure investments with a long service life that take long-term planning and are difficult to improve once in place.
- viii. Public Works handles projects in partnership with 20 cities in Sedgwick County, 26 townships, 5 adjacent counties, KDOT, WAMPO, improvement districts, drainage districts, watershed districts, public utilities, industry, institutions, contractors and developers.
- ix. Public Works is currently handling the North Junction Projects , which has multiple phases, and the Far East Kellogg Project. Staff also builds infrastructure to support economic development.
- x. Public Works also provides emergency response after a disaster, including the Haysville/McConnell/Andover tornado in 1991, the DeBruce grain elevator explosion in 1998, the Haysville tornado in 1999, the ice storm of 2005, the Oaklawn tornado in 2012, and the Gypsum Township/Andover tornado in 2022.
- xi. Sarah Lopez asked about signs in front of the Haysville school. Jim Weber said they widened 55th street, but now have parking problems. Public Works has put up 50 signs around the school marking where public utilities are. Once those are checked out, work can begin, perhaps by the week of November 7th.
- xii. Tony Martinez asked what have been Jim's toughest challenges over his career and what he sees as issues in the future? Jim says hiring enough skilled workers is always difficult, and projects slated for the next 5 – 7 years will require more engineers and resources than Sedgwick County or the state currently has.
- xiii. Sarah Lopez asked Jim to talk about a water study Sedgwick County is conducting. Jim says the County has looked at groundwater intrusion into Haysville houses since the late 80's. Money from the Kansas Water Office is funding a consultant who is now studying the region and trying to figure out how to keep water out of homes without running wells dry. The study is expected to last into 2023.
- xiv. Jeff Hersh asked Jim about his plans during his upcoming retirement. Jim said he has three kids and nine grandchildren so he and his wife will stay in Wichita and spend time with them. They also have a plan to Hawaii planned!
- xv. Tony Martinez praised Jim for always being professional and easy to work with during Jim's 40 year career with Sedgwick County. Sarah Lopez added that Jim is straight-forward, and she appreciates that.
- xvi. Bill Hammers asked if the noxious weed program is still fighting bindweed and Russian thistle. Jim said yes. Bill says Sedgwick County is handling it better than Sumner County where the weeds are spreading fast.

b. Presentation by Stephen Banks, Senior Planner with the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department

- i. The MAPC wants to adopt the 2022 Update to the Community Investments Plan 2015-2045 as an addendum to the Comprehensive Plan for Wichita-Sedgwick County.
- ii. Stephen Banks played a video presentation:
 - 1- The Community Investments Plan includes population forecasts for Wichita (448,000 more people) and Sedgwick County (610,000 more people) by the year 2035. This is considered an aggressive scenario of growth. The Planning Department now estimates that growth will happen by 2045, not 2035.
 - 2- Planners also recommend modifying the Wichita Future Growth Concept Map to reflect changes in how the Residential and Employment Growth Areas are depicted.
 - 3- By extending the population forecast forward 10 years, the gap in Wichita's planned future infrastructure and facility expenditures and its projected revenues is lowered from \$9-10 billion to a gap of \$8-9 billion.
- iii. The MAPC is presenting this information to all Citizens Advisory Boards in Sedgwick County and District Advisory Boards in Wichita. A public hearing will be held November 17. The proposed update would then go to the Wichita City Council and Board of County Commissioners for adoption.
- iv. Jeff Hersh asked how planners came up with the population growth rate, and Stephen Banks explained the process.
- v. Gage Hunt asked if planners follow state and national trends in residential and employment growth. Stephen Banks said they only follow local trends.
- vi. Susan Norton asked if the information is posted online somewhere so she could look at it more closely. Stephen Banks said it will be posted soon on www.wichita.gov/planning. Click on the Research tab and find the Community Investment Plan.

c. Discussion of Future Agenda Items by Stephanie Birmingham, Strategic Communications

- i. Our December CAB meeting will be on Tuesday the 13th at the Haysville Community Library at 6 p.m. Steve Stonehouse from Corrections has agreed to give a presentation.
- ii. The Sedgwick County Zoo will give us a behind-the-scenes tour on Tuesday, January 10 at 6 p.m. for each CAB member plus one guest, for a group total of 24 people. Stephanie Birmingham asked everyone to RSVP so if someone cannot come, another CAB member could bring an extra guest. Susan Norton already said she will come for the tour but not bring a guest.
- iii. Stephanie Birmingham asked if CAB meetings will be held after Sarah Lopez delivers her twins. The Commissioner said yes, because she plans to attend by Zoom if possible.

6. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.