



## District 1 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, Oct. 17, 2022 | 5:30 p.m.  
Bel Aire City Hall  
7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS 67226

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**Board Members in Attendance:** Daniel Bateman, Judah Craig, Joseph Dozier, Jacqueline Kelly, Dr. Stephanie Kuhlmann, Jim Reid

**County Representatives:** Commissioner Pete Meitzner, Director of Public Works Jim Weber

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### 1. Call to Order

- a. Chair Judah Craig called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. A motion was made by Daniel Bateman to approve the minutes with noted corrections for the Sept. 19, 2022, District 1 Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting. Judah Craig seconded this motion. **The CAB approved the motion with a vote of 7-0.**

### 3. Public Agenda

- a. No Public Comments

### 4. New Business

- a. Public Works – Jim Weber, Director of Public Works
  - i. Commissioner Meitzner explains the differences between the City of Wichita Public Works and Sedgwick County Public Works
  - ii. Jim Weber discusses the Mission and Services of Sedgwick County Public Works
    1. Agricultural industry is still big in Sedgwick County. There are four main departments in Public Works - Highways, Noxious Weeds, Storm Drainage and Environmental Resources. There are 128 positions in Public Works. About 80% filled, engineers and equipment operators are hard to hire
  - iii. Highway Department
    1. This department has about 15 major projects per year. It includes road and bridge repair, culvert and bridge replacement, ice/snow operations, mowing, traffic control, etc. The federal definition of a bridge is over 20 feet long. The county maintains 39 miles of gravel roads. There are over 1,500 miles of gravel roads maintained by townships. District 1 has 44 road miles and 50 bridges.
      - a. Commissioner Meitzner shared that he had no idea the County had 600 bridges that are annually inspected
        - i. Jim Weber shared that they try to replace 12 bridges per year and will last approximately 50 years.
    - iv. Storm Drainage
      1. This department is comprised of three groups – Stream Maintenance, Flood Control and Storm Water Management.
        - a. Stream Maintenance clears channel and bridge obstructions and supports other operations. They are responsible for 43 miles of the channel with bank lines and four rivers: Arkansas, Little Arkansas, part of Cowskin Creek, part of Jester Creek. Also work in other channels as needed.
        - b. Flood Control is a joint-funded group by the City and County. City crews maintain 97 miles of levees and 5,613 acres of right of way
        - c. Storm Water Management is the single point of contact for the area.
    - v. Environmental Resources

1. This department manages Storm Water Quality, Hazard Communication, Environmental Assessments and Advisory Services.
  2. Jacqueline Kelly asked for examples of the Conservation District.
    - a. Jim Weber replied and an example would be working with soil conservation, it would be working along with a farmer to put in terraces to help manage water quality.
  3. Jaqueline Kelly asked if Public Works searches for projects or do they come in?
    - a. Jim Weber answered that it is a constant conversation.
- vi. Solid Waste Management
1. This department removes hazardous materials from the waste cycle. They have a Swap-N-Shop of chemicals that is free to residents. There are five annual Household Hazardous Waste collection events held in each district. Other special events held include tire round-up, e-waste, etc.
- vii. Capital Improvement Plan Investment options include \$20 million per year. \$10 million a year on preventative maintenance and \$10 million to improve existing, expand and add new infrastructure
- viii. Infrastructure Challenges include long service life, large investments, difficulty to improve or change once in service and requires long-term planning
- ix. Partnerships are vital for Public Works success. There are 20 cities and 26 townships in Sedgwick County. KDOT is also a funding partner with Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) having a say in that spending. The operations revolve around boundaries and citizens do not always know who is in charge of what areas. Accurate maps are essential.
1. Tex Dozier asked if the county has an app similar to the City of Wichita's Access Wichita app for issues and complaints, if the City forwards complaints to the county and if there is a plan in the works for a similar product.
    - a. Jim Weber shared that Sedgwick County does not have that tool nor are they working on one. Most people contact the County first even if the problem is with the City. City and County staff work well together to make sure the correct parties are aware of issues.
    - b. Commissioner Meitzner stated there is a difference in volume for pothole calls are not near the volume of calls for the County.
  2. Tex Dozier asked how many folks live in unincorporated Sedgwick County.
    - a. Jim Weber replied approximately 30,000-35,000.
- x. Questions
1. Judah Craig asked Jim what his background was.
    - a. Jim Weber shared he is from Wichita and has been with the county for 40 years.
  2. Jacqueline Kelly asked if there is a struggle with budget and projects for those that are just in the County and how they make sure they still get quality deals.
    - a. Jim Weber says that because the county supports approximately 35,000 people, there are no issues. The benefits come through the road and bridge system.
  3. Judah Craig asked how Public Works is involved with a recent zoning case that came to the CAB that included a flood plan.
    - a. Jim Weber shared that Public Works reviews plats and drainage plans. Stormwater engineers have great experience. The City of Wichita and Sedgwick County Public Works departments work well together. If a zoning case is in the county, Public Works engineers review the plat and make developers aware of any issues.
  4. Jim Reid asked if the any of the Sedgwick County bridges in District 1 are at life expectancy or need replaced.
    - a. Jim Weber says no. Bridges rated under 50 (there are currently 30 of 600) qualify for Federal Funds for replacement.

5. Judah Craig asked if Sedgwick County is ahead in the process because of in-house inspecting.
    - a. Jim Weber shared that it does not put us ahead in terms of scores but saves in consultant costs.
  6. Judah Craig asked how the state audit rating compares to Sedgwick County reviews.
    - a. Jim Weber shared they have never had any complaints.
  - b. Discussion of future dates & agenda items
    - i. Judah Craig said the next meeting is Nov. 21 at Public Safety for an Emergency Communications tour. The December meeting is canceled. He also went over the dates for 2023. Potential agenda items include WAMPO, RFSC Tour and department updates. An all-CAB meeting regarding Mental Health was discussed.
- 5. Board Agenda**
- a. Tex Dozier discussed the City of Wichita redistricting process and there was still time for public input.
  - b. Commissioner Meitzner commented about upcoming CAB scheduling and that they could discuss a different meeting cadence if interested.
- 6. Adjournment**
- a. The District 1 Citizen's Advisory Board adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be **Monday, November 21, 2022, 5:30 p.m.** at Sedgwick County Public Safety Center, 714 N. Main St, Wichita, KS 67203.*