

Kansas Energy Council Minutes, August 30, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m., Monday, August 30, 2004, in the First Floor Hearing Room of the Kansas Corporation Commission, 1500 SW Arrowhead, Topeka, Kansas, by KEC Chair Lee Allison.

KEC Members Present:

Lee Allison, KEC Chair
Brian Moline, KEC Vice Chair
Sarah Dean
Spencer Depew
David Dayvault
Steve Dillard
Colin Hansen
Mike Hayden
Greg Krissek
Galen Menard

Gene Merry
Richard Nelson
David Phelps
Adrian Polansky
Bruce Snead
David Springe
Tracy Streeter
Michael Volker
Curt Wright

Opening Comments

Allison asked everyone to introduce themselves and noted that Lt. Governor John Moore would be at the meeting in the afternoon.

Allison explained his new role with the Governor's office: KU has agreed to loan him to the Governor's office for one year, to provide staff support to the Energy Council and to develop energy policy for the Governor's office. He is one of four policy advisors. This sends a message about this energy council and its importance. Liz Brosius still serves as chief of staff to the energy council; Scott White is providing research assistance; Debbie Douglass is taking notes.

Allison noted that the minutes from the July 22 meeting had been sent out and asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. Are you ready to bring them forward?

Depew moved that the minutes be approved as mailed; Dillard seconded; motion passed.

Allison noted that minutes were posted on the web site; Brosius said corrections can be sent anytime.

Allison: We will try to do most of everything electronically.

Report on energy programs and activities in state government

Allison introduced Jim Ploger to give a brief report on energy programs in the state. Ploger distributed a packet of information, primarily relating to the KCC's Energy Programs office. Ploger mentioned the brochure on the history of the energy office, which dates back to 1975 during the 70's oil crisis.

Ploger noted that state energy offices are located in various state agencies across the country. The Kansas office is funded by DOE (1/2 million a year) and by PVE (petroleum violation escrow) funds, which came out of federal court settlements. Kansas has received about \$65 million over the years, but the funds have about dried up. Ploger cited the annual report and described some projects the energy office is involved in. He highlighted a new program, the Facility Conservation Improvement Program, which involves energy savings performance contracts (they serve as a moderator between the state and companies that are doing contracting). Ploger noted that at one time the energy office employed 20 staff; now there are 3.5.

Ploger said lots of other state agencies deal with some aspect of energy; Allison said he'd be very interested to see what other agencies are involved in energy-related activities.

KEC objectives, initiatives, structure

Allison said he wanted to take some time to talk about developing strategies, concepts of how this council is going to work. Many of you submitted comments and suggestions on how the council is structured, what it should be doing.

Brosius said that the compiled suggestions were sent out late on Friday; copies were distributed. Allison asked Brosius to lead this discussion.

Brosius noted that at the last meeting, Bruce Snead suggested that everyone look at the executive order and make suggestions on short-term and long-term ideas, goals, priorities, organization. This is a starting point for discussion. It is important that you decide how you want the council to move forward. What needs to be the priorities over the next 4 months, and then how to achieve a statewide plan.

Dean asked about the word "sustainable" in the KEC overall goal "to help ensure that Kansans have low cost, reliable, and sustainable energy, produced in-state, to the fullest extent possible." Have you had a lot of discussion about that word? Brosius pointed out that the former council chose the word to embrace the concept of sustainable energy, and Dean noted that the word means a lot of things to a lot of people, just wondered where it came from and if it includes environmental considerations? Springe said that is correct.

Brosius suggested that the group discuss the long-term initiatives first since that was probably the harder part of figuring out what we are going to do, noting that long-term strategic planning had been mentioned as a first step towards developing comprehensive energy plan.

Dean said she mentioned long-range planning at first meeting and that there were a couple of ways to approach it, if the group subscribes to that idea. We could form a committee that would report to body for full discussion, or another possibility, with some funding, would be to hire professional facilitators to lead group through strategic planning process. Dean noted that she didn't want to jump at having professional

facilitators, that she thought KEC could do this ourselves. Said she sees long-term planning as not done in a year.

Allison pointed out that we set up the Executive Committee at last meeting. Haven't given thought on what that committee will do, aside from budget reviews; perhaps that group may play some additional role in setting up agenda.

Snead outlined two options for long-term planning process: one, in-house, forged here, the other a public planning process similar to that used by the Water Office, involving alternative state stakeholders, statewide meetings, year long process. Have draft proposal, have public input meetings where can have reactions, or have here. Allison said the council had that discussion, a year or two ago, about having public input, but we had no funding.

Hayden noted that the Water Office is a good model, that's evolved into really a very workable process, but it wasn't easy. One thing that makes it work is excellent staff, a critical element in whole thing. If we use the model of the Water Office, we'd have to have good support in the Legislature, with the Governor; can't do it with small staff of 2 or 3 people. Great model, but we are not prepared to take that model on. Maybe we need to ask governor and staff for assistance. It won't come easy. Should try to aspire for that, how to get there. But we are lacking budget and staff.

Dean asked if that would be something to put out there as a long-term goal in a long-term plan? Allison said we have put that in our plans: the need for resources is an underlying current, but the timing of the plan report has not been good for asking money from Legislature.

Moline pointed out that it doesn't look good for this coming year. He talked about a professor who gave a talk at a recent KIOGA meeting, who said that within very few years, oil and gas is going to get extremely expensive. If this is true, then we have to find some way to have energy efficiencies, and if we can't look to oil and gas, that leaves us with coal and nuclear. Better decide what is our long term problem. If you want to have long term plan, state priorities and funding needed.

Snead said there is no politically good time to ask for money, either it is the right thing to do or not. It takes time; we can't back away to from the statement that there needs to be energy availability, need to recognize the political realities.

Moline agreed that five to ten years from now, he would rather be able to say this is what we said, this is where we said we were going to be.

Springe raised the issue of defining specifically what it is we need to fund before we ask for financing, noting that there are probably 35 different ideas about where we need to be going. This group should focus on the meat of what we want funded.

Moline suggested that it might save some time, prevent us from reinventing the wheel to see what other states are doing, what has worked.

Merry pointed out that it is not so much a state problem as a national one. Mentioned the national energy plan of 1984—that we're still waiting for this to come down the pipeline. We are pushing up the pipeline, but nothing is coming in 20 years. We should have a committee that pushes the national plan.

Allison agreed that there is a role for us to play outside the state; we need to develop policy to pass along to the Governor. He noted that many oil and gas companies in Kansas are small Mom and Pop operations, and every year for last 4 to 5 years the federal government has cut fossil energy funding. That's one message we need to carry to Congress.

Volker said that before we start asking for money, before we get into the nitty-gritty, and have a SBC, we first need to define what we mean in long term planning. I have my idea of long term planning as an economist, but the council needs to decide what we mean.

Moline said that brings me back to my earlier point: we need to have common definition. People view things from their own perspective, but if we're going to get very far, we need to develop a common perspective.

Polansky noted that this was an excellent discussion, and agreed that there needed to be a common definition, but not appropriate to start out today on how do we deal with long term planning. We probably need to focus on short-term initiatives, bearing in mind the longer-term issues. What comes after this? We are going to be left with a report on the shelf, need process to move things forward.

Allison said this was an excellent point and asked Streeter if he could comment on Water Office that has taken 20 years to evolve.

Streeter said although he was new to his position, he had served 10 years on the water board. Helpful to look at other states, survey other states, do some research. Said he saw from executive order that short term goal is to become a net energy exporter.

Moline noted that it was an interesting thing, being energy exporter or importer is going to depend on a lot of federal issues.

Springe said that the council has been discussing this for 2 years, that focusing on energy importing or exporting balance is not so important. It's not necessarily bad to import some things, can't be exporting everything; we export airplanes.

Allison pointed out that the energy council developed the additional goal statement (about helping Kansans have low cost, reliable, and sustainable energy) as a more appropriate goal than being an energy exporter. Springe noted that the exporter issue keeps coming up, not what we should be focusing on.

Allison said you keep hearing that because we are interested in developing other energy sources (e.g., wind energy) to export. Oil and gas exports used to be a major source of wealth to the state. Dayvault said we may want to try to do what we can to promote additional electrical transmission; transmission upgrades may be in our reach, rather than reversing trends in oil and gas production.

Springe suggested we take a crack at making a list of these, put them on a board. Allison noted that is what we asked of you, to send them to Liz, that we've created this list of initiatives to start the discussion.

Snead said ideally what will come out of that process is 5 or 6 priority items that point to what we should be doing now to make difference, that fits into goal of long term sustainable energy, that is worth asking for funding for. Agreed that if we ask for money, we need to state specifically what it's for.

Brosius suggested they discuss the list of short-term initiatives and said any additional ideas will be recorded and sent to council. Allison said that when the council breaks into committees after lunch, they can also look at long term broad solutions, and short term.

Allison noted that initiative #3 (R&D function) was addressed by the KS Inc. proposal and that initiative #14 (FutureGen) was also underway.

Snead pointed out that, with respect to initiative #11, he'd attended a national conference recently and that all this information would be available online: performance guidelines, summaries of energy efficiency programs and overviews. That work is done.

Brosius said that on the KEC website, we've made a preliminary stab at links and resources and asked them to take a look and send suggestions about additional links.

Allison pointed out that most of these initiatives are either being addressed or have at least been considered before. Initiatives #1 & 2, dealing with funding for KEC and specific energy initiatives, may be addressed by a subcommittee. Noted initiative #3 again, the KS Inc. proposal, and initiative #5, dealing with energy education, is also underway. Shari Wilson from KACEE is here today to talk about ways KEC can support the fall conference. We're also working with the KIOGA educational foundation. For initiative #6, developing renewable energy incentives, we're putting together a committee to work on this, which also ties in with wind energy, initiative #7. As for initiative #9, we need to gather and write additional materials for the annual energy report.

Volker strongly suggested that initiative #9 be combined with initiative #8.

Nelson asked if we could add biomass issues to the report. Brosius said yes, we would expect that info to come from you for inclusion in the annual energy report.

Allison said, with respect to initiatives #10 and #11, the surveys of in-state energy programs as well as other state energy plans, we have attempted to do this. Brosius noted that it is a job for staff, but trying to find time to do.

Allison said they'd formed the Conservation and energy efficiency committee to deal with initiative #12. Said he wasn't sure what was intended by initiative #13, and Krissek (author of that suggestion) clarified that you need to know what's stopping you if you want to move ahead.

Allison continued down the list, noting that initiative #14, the FutureGen effort, is being pursued by working group. Said he'd like to refer the study of pros and cons of bio-diesel to renewables committee, and Brosius explained that different members have different opinions on the bio-diesel issue and it would be useful to get a report on pros and cons.

Allison mentioned initiative #16 (study and report on effects of EPA and other regulations on small oil and gas marketers) and said it was important to look at specifics. KCC Commissioner Krehbiel pointed out that two years ago, the IOGCC asked EPA for a MOU regarding production and marketing concerns, that there was a potential to coordinate that issue with IOGCC, which meets with EPA about 2 times a year on these issues. Maybe it would be beneficial for you to attend the IOGCC meeting in Oklahoma City in November.

Dean pointed out that small coops in rural areas are in the same plight that Wright mentioned regarding oil and gas marketers, struggling with how to meet EPA regulations without going out of business. Wondered if it might be appropriate to consider these as well in initiative #16.

Allison continued down the list, and said that initiative #17 (study and report on issues at oil refineries and develop proposals, recommendations) would be referred to the Oil and Gas committee. Initiative #18 (promote technologies, research to sustain existing fossil fuel resources refers back to initiative #3. As for initiative #19, perhaps we should turn to renewables committee on this? When you look at these short term initiatives, we either have something underway or are assigning them to a committee. We can add others, and when you meet this afternoon, some additional items may come up.

Brosius asked what the group wanted to do about the long term initiatives?

Allison said we've heard a variety of ways to go forward with these, committee, stakeholders, etc. Brosius asked if long-term planning was something the whole council wanted to deal with?

Dillard said you could have representatives from different energy sectors and different parts of state, start with smaller group, present to larger body.

Allison asked if they wanted to put together a long range planning committee? External priorities, report due in January, but have process in place for planning group, get short term out of the way.

Nelson said he agreed with this plan.

Allison asked if they wanted to discuss who should be on long-range planning committee now, or do you want to do this after the committees have met later this afternoon?

Dillard suggested they wait until after the committees have met.

Allison asked them to think about whether committee members should be strictly KEC or bring in members from outside. We have pretty good representation on the council.

Springe asked if the council had any representatives from natural gas utilities? Volker and Hansen said their companies included natural gas generation, and Springe noted that the council didn't have a representative from a large natural gas company.

Research and development recommendations to Kansas Inc.

Since there was time, Allison asked council to discuss the R&D recommendations from KS Inc. Noted that the KEC was asked us to look at the R&D proposal brought forward by one of their members, short resolution. Snead read resolution out loud to group.

Allison said he'd had discussions with Jerry Lonergan, President of KS Inc. Donna Johnson is on the board of KS Inc and she asked that they defer a decision until the KEC had a chance to consider. Kansas has done a good job of developing R&D in oil and gas; we get disproportionate share of federal funds, based on our population. Don Schnacke's resolution builds on that appropriately, but it might be more appropriate for KS Inc. to look at broader energy R&D.

Allison raised two questions: (1) Do we want to endorse proposal as it stands or expand to include other energy sectors? (2) Is this a good thing for KEC to, in a sense, delegate to KS Inc.? We have a lot on our plate, KS Inc. is a think tank.

Volker said he agreed that R&D belongs to KS Inc., and that the resolution needs to be extended beyond fossil energy.

Wright asked if we expand to include renewables, how can we be assured that oil and gas still get their fair share?

Nelson asked how this would differ from what the Kansas Geological Survey is currently doing? Allison said Schnacke and I discussed a new building, new programs, wanted us to look more like the Texas survey, with a large, externally funded R&D sector. Would have to discuss whether we wanted to look like Texas or Oklahoma.

Nelson said we are surrounded by excellent facilities, 3 in Oklahoma. Why wouldn't we be partnering with them?

Allison said within region, Kansas is doing extremely well. Specifics in proposal include bringing players together, broaden effort.

Springe asked if KS Inc. is set up in a manner that they can concentrate on petroleum at KU, and other areas at K-State? Are they an overlord of programs? Would this focus so much on petroleum at KU, that we would have to come up with an extremely separate program for K-State?

Allison said they would be the ones to say who the players should be, what direction the program would go.

Springe said he was in favor of KS Inc. holding forums, but if it is this group that asked them to do that, non discriminatory view.

Snead said he agreed with Springe; can't endorse this proposal unless it is more broad.

Allison suggested a few revisions to the KS Inc. resolution and said he'd work with Scott and Liz to revise during the lunch break.

Allison thanked Spencer Depew for volunteering to pay for lunch, but the state government ethics committee says that as a government entity, KEC can't accept. However, the KEC can accept lunch as provided today by KU.

Break for lunch at 12:00

Reconvene at 12:50

Allison announced that the presentation on Flint Hills mapping would be slightly delayed because presenters went to statehouse instead of KCC. He noted that Jim Ploger had passed out a chart showing state agencies that are also doing energy things. (Brosius said that Jesse McCurry says that this just scrapes the surface; there are many more agencies involved in energy throughout state).

Allison also noted that Jesse McCurry has put together a state-by-state summary of SBCs, what they are used for, a nice reference.

Research and development recommendations to Kansas Inc., continued

Allison presented the revised KS Inc. resolution:

"The Kansas Energy Council recognizes the potential for expanded energy research in Kansas and encourages Kansas Inc. to organize and conduct exploratory meetings of interested participants to discuss and develop a proposed strategy to foster energy research and development in Kansas."

The sense was to keep some of the original language. The Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the rewritten resolution.

Hayden moved to adopt; Snead seconded. Motion passed.

Allison said he would talk to Lonergan; said he viewed this as a friendly resolution, consider expanding the plan.

Update on Flint Hills Mapping Project

Allison introduced Ken Nelson from DASC and Kelly Kindscher from the KU Biological Survey to give brief overview of what we are doing in the mapping of Flint Hills. The old SERCC was charged with developing Wind and Prairie Task Force (WPTF). That task force brought forward some recommendations, one of which was to produce an improved map of untilled areas of the prairie. The Governor has asked new council to take on the mapping effort. In the budget approved last month, there was some funding to do detailed mapping, that would be GIS based. DASC already had compiled many of the base layers for the WPTF. We're trying to fast-track this project, hope to have all of the mapping done in 6-8 weeks, after which we'll get it reviewed and bring it forward for legislature.

Nelson introduced himself as the Manager of DASC, located at KGS, based at KU. He showed some of the data layers from the state's GIS data base, that can be used for this applications. Kelly will talk about the mapping side and development of new issues. [On the screen, he displayed a spreadsheet of layers they put together for WPTF.]

Nelson noted that they have lots of good statewide data—1-meter, black and white 2002 aerial photographs, some satellite imagery. He demonstrated an online map, selecting different data layers.

Springe asked if this was the map that is on the website currently?

Nelson said that most of our maps are available on the DASC clearinghouse site; it's all public domain, can be downloaded from website.

Kindscher discussed the plan to map the untilled prairie in the Flint Hills. He said they were using a 1-mile grid, using ArcMap. He said they will do their best to define tallgrass prairie, the untilled and tilled, using data from satellite imagery. He identified some of the problems with the data and said, wherever possible, they would use additional data to verify. One of the issues, for example, is how to classify lands that once were tilled but were returned to grassland in the 1930's. Working on a square mile grid, they will use GAP data (satellite) to identify areas with 90% or greater untilled prairie, then verify with aerial photography. They will also do some ground-truthing.

Kindscher said he thought they could do the initial draft map in a matter of several weeks, using a lot of student time.

Dayvault asked if map will include elevations? Nelson said they have the National Elevation data set (30 minute, not highly precise but general).

Jennifer States asked how define the 90%, as opposed to 50%? Kindscher said he couldn't answer right now, that the group was in the process of defining the rules they'd follow in creating the maps. The maps would then be sent out for review. This map will be able to be used for siting.

Charles Benjamin asked if the mapping would include oil and gas wells as well as prairie chicken habitat? Kindscher said that a separate map is being done for prairie chickens, lek sites (breeding grounds).

Benjamin asked whether there is a separate map for manmade structures, as opposed to natural structures. Nelson said they had the layers for cell phone towers, petroleum/oil gas wells, transportation, so people can look at these and can draw their own conclusions. Would be happy to look for datasets that we don't currently have.

Allison showed the ecoregion map that indicates the 15 counties that are part of the Flint Hills; this is the area that we've asked Nelson and Kindscher to do the mapping of. Large area, lot of work, and the Governor has asked that we make this a top priority. DASC has done a lot of work over last few months to get base layers together.

Nelson noted that we can zoom in on these areas and put on paper.

Allison said these photomaps were just completed in July; you can go in and blow them up and see greater detail. Kindscher remarked that one meter resolution is really good.

Allison asked if any other states had done this, with one-meter resolution with shading and the seams eliminated? Nelson said a couple other states had done this, including Arkansas.

States: The Wind and Prairie Task Force was told that there would be some data available from Bio Survey, not sure what it was on. May have been prairie chicken habitat. Kindscher said he didn't know of any such data.

Springe asked what was the website to go to see this? Nelson said it was on the DASC website, which can be accessed through the KGS home page. Brosius mentioned that the online Wind and Prairie mapper was also linked through the WPTF web site.

Wind and Prairie Task Force guidelines – Discussion and adoption

Allison said that with the mapping project underway, we would like to bring forward the guidelines from the Wind & Prairie Task Force. Liz will go through those guidelines.

Brosius said that WPTF developed siting guidelines for counties to use and guidelines for landowners considering leasing their land to a developer, to create fair and equitable leases. These guidelines are included as Appendix 5 and 6 at back of the WPTF report.

Allison noted that the WPTF recommended these guidelines be used; if the KEC were to adopt these guidelines, that would send a message to the counties and cities. It would give them more import; if adopted, we'd post on website, publish, spread around.

Brosius summarized how the two sets of guidelines were created by subcommittees of the WPTF. The siting guidelines were based somewhat on the work of the Kansas Renewable Energy Working Group as well as on siting guidelines prepared by several counties who had been dealing with wind-energy projects. The authors worked hard on these, tried to find something that met all the concerns brought forward. Outlined the options for zoning or regulations, then included some specific things that counties could consider if they adopt guidelines.

The leasing guidelines were essentially edited from an existing product, and were fine tuned by 3 members of the WPTF. As you might expect, the WPTF had representatives that felt differently about wind development. Task force felt good that this was a balanced and representative set of guidelines—a list of things that landowners would need to think about and make sure they covered before signing a lease agreement.

Dean said she looked at both of these and was very pleased with the work done on leases; she suggested they get sent to Extension, that they'd be very useful to protect property owners when approached to lease their land. She said she was less enthusiastic about the siting guidelines—they are fine, but they are ratifying what currently exists in zoning or not zoning. Nothing new is proposed; all decisions are left to counties. She said she had no problem with that, but suggested a footnote be included that as wind develops in state, we may want to revisit this subject as related to whole Kansas. May be questions down the line.

Allison said that if you go back and look at WPTF Option A, they proposed state regulation, possibly with KCC, but we have not made recommendation on Option A or B, the Governor has not.

Brosius followed up on Dean's comment, saying that the siting guidelines do include a statement about state regulations.

Snead asked whether adopting the guidelines was the only action the council was going to take with respect to the WPTF report?

Allison said that the Governor asked that the mapping be done as soon as possible; we felt that getting these guidelines adopted right away would also be good.

Snead noted that more detailed siting guidelines were being published in Riley county for public review.

Allison said the WPTF guidelines took into consideration earlier guidelines from Riley, Butler, and Wabanssee counties. Guidelines are available at rileycountykansas.gov website.

Depew said, for the record, he would like to abstain from any discussion and vote on this because of pending litigation.

Merry said that the Association of Counties wants to keep local control, is very comfortable with this.

Allison called for vote on siting guidelines. Majority was in favor of adopting guidelines.

Hayden stated that he wanted to be recorded as opposed, that he didn't think we should allow wind development without state policy, that he didn't think that 105 policies is good, think will be a disaster.

Allison then called for a vote on the leasing guidelines, which were adopted unanimously. Allison said we will post on KEC website. Will put out press release to try to get info out.

Committee assignments

Allison outlined KEC committee structure, said it was modeled somewhat from old SERCC group, with 3 standing committees—Electric Utilities, Petroleum & Natural Gas, and Renewable Energy. Committees discuss what needs to be done, come forward with recommendations. Colin Hansen will chair electric utilities, Steve Dillard will chair Petroleum & Natural Gas, and Donna Johnson will chair Renewable Energy. Donna is away and has asked Richard Nelson to serve as chair for today. Secretary Hayden, Tracy Streeter and John Moore—we weren't sure where you should actually serve. Brian Moline and I will circulate among the committees.

Allison also mentioned three other subcommittees—Energy Education & Outreach, Conservation & Energy Efficiency, and State Energy Program. Want these committees to bring forward ideas on where we should be going, recommendations on funding, legislative, federal, etc. Want to make sure we have all the right people on these committees; if subcommittees need more expertise or representation, this should be considered. Have assigned staff to help each committee. The State Energy Program, chaired by Volker and the Renewable Energy Incentives Working Group is co-chaired by Nelson and Volker.

Allison summarized three external committees—FutureGen Working Group, WPTF (dissolved 6/7/04), and Transmission Task Force (dissolved 8/04). Regarding the Renewable Energy Incentives Working Group, Allison said he wanted this group to have a draft package in 2 months, same time that mapping is done, so we can merge together and have package to vet to broader political areas, governor, legislature if legislation is needed.

Allison noted that some funds have already been committed for the FutureGen Working Group to help them develop their proposal.

Polansky said that, as he served on the renewable energy group, he'd also be interested in the incentives group. What the renewable energy incentives working group comes up with will have impact on the renewable energy committee.

Volker suggested that we probably didn't need a separate committee for the State Energy Program. Allison concurred that it probably couldn't be worked on at this time.

Allison said it's tough to structure what we have to do and some of the short-term and long-term issues. No simple way to do this without overlap.

Snead pointed out that the energy efficiency initiatives (circulated earlier) cross over the committees.

Allison said the idea was for each of the committees to discuss what conservation and energy efficiency can be applied to their committees. Suggested we take a break and then go to breakout sessions at 2:30 and come back to full council at 3:30.

Larry Holloway, KCC, asked if renewable energy is just the renewables and Nelson (and Allison) explained that it also included fuels, etc.

Full Council Reconvened at 3:40

Allison noted that two more council members had arrived since we did our initial introductions—David Phelps and John Moore.

Allison asked committees to report briefly on their discussions and recommendations.

Brief reports from standing committee chairs

Dillard, chair of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Committee, said they went through list, talked about refineries, sulfur regulations, marketing situation. They talked about prior recommendations of oil and gas committee, whether or not to make those recommendations again. Identified some problems within this sector, including shortage of technical expertise, employment, personnel problems, with rising oil and gas prices, trying to prioritize some things we talked about.

Moore brought up a new state initiative in workforce development, KansasFirst, and described this program to help employers get the workers they need. He said their job was to understand the needs of industry and business and find ways to help them find those employees. He suggested they could work with Dillard on the workforce issues he raised. Said it was a fairly simple process, not a bunch of paperwork.

Nelson, who chaired the Renewable Energy Committee, said they looked at short term and long term goals. Short term, they wanted to assist new incentives working group with suggestions, data, literature—review other states' initiatives, which resources to take under consideration, federal legislative, incentives. Said they thought the long term-planning committee good idea, and of their committee members volunteered to serve (Dean and Nelson). As for the renewable energy road map, this should be small group first, have bulleted items, proposals for consideration.

Hansen, chair of the Electric Utilities Committee, said they had a pretty good discussion, considering they had two economists, and three engineers. The first thing they thought they should look at was utility demand. Looked at long term objectives of council, and the need to keep costs low was emphasized. Came up with 6 objectives for Kansas utilities: (1) position ourselves to take advantage of full scale market, (2) greater certainty on environmental regulations, (3) maintain diversity of electric generation: coal, nuclear, renewables, gas all have their place, (4) endorse FutureGen initiative, (5) enhance transmission, (6) education.

Allison asked if there was any discussion of committee reports. Where are we going with long term planning—a committee (executive committee)? Or a small working group that brings proposal back to larger group?

Volker volunteered to help with planning committee.

Allison asked if we should add strategic planning to the executive committee duties?

Dean mentioned the need for a vision statement in a strategic plan.

Allison suggested that they continue discussion via email. Don't have to make decision today. Resolve by next meeting.

KEC involvement with KACEE fall conference

Shari Wilson, KACEE (Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education) said she was there to talk about possible roles for KEC in the KACEE fall conference. KACEE is non profit, public private partnership; its members are school districts, regents universities, all state agencies that deal with natural resources, cities, counties. This is the 6th year for conference, and this year's theme is Energizing Environmental Education: Merging cultures and resources. Conference includes lots of activities, not lecturers. They try to keep cost of attending conference low for teachers, have some help from agencies.

Wilson passed out list of options that KEC can consider for supporting conference that included becoming a member, sponsoring conference (\$100 or more), sponsoring field trip, having an exhibit, sponsoring teacher to attend, sponsoring energy council member or staff to attend.

Snead asked for a brief list of other conference. Sponsors, and Wilson mentioned Wildlife & Parks, Green Team at Westar, Department of Agriculture, State Conservation Commission, Water Office, Conservation districts.

Allison raised the question of how the KEC wanted to deal with these kinds of things? Do you want to let staff decide how to support?

Dillard said he didn't think we want to do membership, that you and your staff make the decision of sponsorship out of budget.

Allison said the Executive Committee could make decision and told Wilson she could count on some support, whether it be money or an exhibit.

Announcements

The Kansas Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency '04 conference is October 26th and 27th in Topeka.

The Transmission Summit, coordinated by Tom Sloan, is at Dole Institute on Sept. 8th. Had questions about how many energy council members would be attending: had several members and staff that would like to attend and have notified Tom Sloan.

The next meeting will be at the KCC in Wichita. The October meeting will be in Manhattan; Richard Nelson will get back to us on venue. The November meeting will be back in Topeka.

Allison reminded people about listserv etiquette—remember that when you reply to listserv your message goes to everyone. Also mentioned the new Links page on the energy council website. If you have some links that you use, send them on to Liz to have added. Scott also posts news daily on the KEIN website, energy-related news stories.

Allison asked if there were other announcements?

Snead mentioned Renewable Energy Careers conference in Dodge City, October 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.