

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Troy Waymaster at 9:00 am on Friday, May 15, 2020, Distant meeting on ZOOM.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department
David Wiese, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Norma Volkmer, Legislative Research Department
Steven Wu, Legislative Research Department
Zach Fridell, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Dylan Dear, Research Department
Charles Dupre, Research Department
David Fye, Research Department
John Hess, Research Department
Aaron Klaassen, Research Department
Megan Leopold, Research Department
Matt Moore, Research Department
Victoria Potts, Research Department
Murl Riedel, Research Department
J.G. Scott, Director, Research Department
Matthew Willis, Research Department
Scott Abbott, Office of Revisor's of Statutes
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor's of Statutes
Robin Crumpton, Office of Information Services
Travis Rose, Office of Information Services
Jeffrey House, Chief of Staff, Representative Waymaster
Sky Westerlund, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Executive Director, Governor's Recovery Office
Larry Campbell, Director of the Budget

Others in attendance:

No list available

Welcome

Members of the committee began logging in at 9:00 am. Roll call was taken.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 am on Friday, May 15, 2020, Distant meeting on ZOOM.

Chairman Waymaster read the following statement:

House Appropriations Committee is meeting remotely today by Zoom meeting. Members, staff and conferees making presentations before the committee are participating in the Zoom meeting.

- Due to health and safety concerns, members of the public are not in attendance at this meeting but full access to this meeting allows members of the public, without cost, to listen to the meeting through the use of live stream audio broadcasting on the internet. The audio link can be reached by:

<http://www.kslegislature.org> selecting the Audio/Video link, then Statehouse Live & Archive; or using the link provided in the meeting notification from Legislative Administrative Services.

The video of the meeting may be accessed on the Kansas Legislature's channel on YouTube.

- The agenda for this meeting has been posted on the Kansas Legislature website. Any other documents presented during this meeting will be available on the Kansas Legislature website and from the Kansas Legislative Research Department.
- All participants will state their name and title, each time the individual begins speaking or voting so that the individual can be readily identified by remote listeners. All participants are required to ensure that microphones, phones, or other electronic devices are muted when the participants are not speaking so that the ability of remote listeners or observers to hear the proceedings is not unnecessarily impeded. The person who has the floor to speak is requested to not have background noise. Committee members, if you cannot clearly hear the speaker, please notify the host through "chat". The chat feature will communicate only with the meeting host, who will communicate with the Chairman. The chat feature will not communicate with the rest of the committee.
- Committee members seeking recognition to comment or ask questions of the conferees should send a request *via* the chat functionality. Members should not begin speaking until recognized by the Chairperson. Members should state their names clearly before proceeding with a question or comment.
- Each motion, if any, will be clearly stated before the Committee votes; any vote will be by roll call vote; and the Chairperson will announce the results of the final vote.
- Public comment will not be allowed at this meeting.
- During this House Appropriations Committee meeting, the committee will not recess to a closed or executive meeting pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319, and amendments thereto.
- Audio will be available on the Legislature's official website within 30 minutes of the adjournment of the meeting for members of the public to review.

The host reserves the right to mute participants with excessive or repeat background noise to improve

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communication quality for the meeting.

Continued Discussion on Federal Funding for COVID-19

Amy Deckard, Legislative Research, reviewed the responses to questions the legislators asked during the May 13 meeting. ([Attachment 1](#)) She stated that the other documents include a list of the grants to airports in the state ([Attachment 2](#)) and a document from the Federal Aviation Administration about the CARES Act Airport grants. ([Attachment 3](#))

Chairman Waymaster welcomed Directors Cheryl Harrison-Lee and Larry Campbell to the committee.

The Chairperson asked the committee for their questions for the directors. Responses included:

- Ms. Harrison-Lee responded that the members of the Recovery Office committees have not been appointed. The office is in the process of securing the potential members for the committees. She anticipates that the Executive Committee will have five members and the Steering Committee will have fifteen members. Three sub-committees will be formed from the Steering Committee membership. These will be finance and policy development sub-committee, an implementation and accountability sub-committee, and a communications and engagement sub-committee. The Executive Committee will make the final recommendations and the governor's Recovery Office will disburse the funds.
- It was suggested that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) would be better suited to respond to an inquiry about counting and coding patients who have or are presumed to have COVID-19 and the subsequent reimbursement to hospitals.
- There were two lump sums wired to the state through the governor's office. The funds were deposited into their own account, which is earning about \$210,000.00 in interest monthly. The earnings are on a very short term, such as seven days. The interest can only be used for COVID-19 related expenditures.
- Mr. Campbell reviewed that the state received \$2.5 billion from all COVID-19 funds. The Coronavirus Relief Fund is \$1.25 billion. Out of this \$1.25 billion fund, any locality with a population of at least 500,000 has received funds directly. Johnson County received \$116.3 million and Sedgwick County received \$99.6 million. The state is not responsible for the funds directly distributed to the two counties. Subtracting the two counties, there is \$346.6 million available to the rest of the localities.
- The COVID-19 funding consists of 66 funds. Each of these different funds have their own specific guidance to use the funds for coronavirus recovery.
- The Coronavirus Relief Fund may, potentially, be used by entities to produce social distancing support. Those decisions would come through the governor's Recovery Office.
- It was clarified that the federal funds come through the governor's office because of the uniformity that each of the fifty states have a governor.

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Chairman Waymaster asked for discussion about potential recommendations from the committee.

The committee members engaged in discussion and offered several ideas including involvement of the legislature in the oversight of the process and distribution of the federal funds and adding members to currently existing budget committees to assist in oversight of the funds.

Concluding remarks

Chairman Waymaster offered concluding comments. He stated that when federal funds are distributed to various state programs, the budget committees review the program budgets and then they go to the appropriations committee for review. He supported having legislative oversight for the federal funds related to the coronavirus. He will work with Legislative Research, the Vice Chair and the Ranking Minority member to summarize the recommendations of the committee and forward the recommendations to the leadership.

Chairman Waymaster adjourned the meeting at 10:52 am.