

Barton County Commission Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon KORA request to the Barton County Clerk's Office, 1400 Main – Room 202, Great Bend, Kansas 67530.

Phone (620) 793-1835 \ Fax (620) 793-1990 \ Email clerk@bartoncounty.org

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams** at the following link: <https://bit.ly/4q6EPgg>

August 11, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 11th day of August, 2026, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Casey Hubbard, Assistant County Administrator

Todd Powell, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Reif called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2026, Regular Meeting, and the August 5, 2026, Special Meeting.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business.

III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of July 28, 2026, and ending August 11, 2026.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of July 28, 2026, to August 11, 2026. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COMMUNITY ANTI-DRUG COALITIONS OF AMERICA: Mid-Year Training Institute Recap:

-Tyler Morton, Juvenile Services Prevention Advocate; Nichelle Holinde and Shane Sandberg, parents and stakeholders for the Youth Crew task force, will join area youth in presenting the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America mid-year training institute recap. Youth include (Great Bend High School) Branson Holinde (11th) and Braelyn Komarek (10th), (Ellinwood High School) Jaci Sandberg (10th) and (Hoisington High School) Mya Brewer (9th). The event was held earlier this year in Florida.

Tyler Morton, Juvenile Services Prevention Advocate, thanked the commission for approving the trip for the youth. Morton said this was the fifth time they had attended the conference. He said it was a way to reward the youth that put in the work throughout the year. They had four youth attend, two of which had

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viously gone and two who attended for the first time. Morton said two parents who were also Youth Crew Stakeholders traveled with the group. Morton said having the parents along allowed him to attend some of the adult training sessions. He had not been able to do that in the past as an adult had to always stay with the youth.

Jaci Sandberg, Braelyn Komarek, Mya Brewer and Branson Holinde presented information about the activities they participated in at the conference to the commissioners.

Shane Sandberg, Youth Crew Stakeholder, attended the conference as well. He said having stakeholders accompanying the youth allowed Morton to continue his training and education and gave Sandberg the opportunity to see how the Barton County group compared to others from around the country. Sandberg said these youth did a great job and had quite a reach across the United States. He was impressed and hoped they would continue to get these opportunities.

Commissioner Reif said they all did a great job.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was impressed by their presentation.

B. 20th JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUVENILE SERVICES: Fiscal Year 2026 Year-End Outcomes:

-Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, will provide details. The Kansas Department of Corrections provides grants to Kansas Counties to develop and maintain a range of programs for juvenile offenders. As a part of that grant funding, Juvenile Services is expected to meet certain outcomes as delineated in service provisions. The Year-End Outcomes Report sets out the results at the fiscal year's close and requires the review and approval of the Barton County Commissioners as the Administrative County for the District.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said they had about 370 youth go through the 20th Judicial District which included Barton, Ellsworth, Russell, Rice and Stafford counties. She said Barton was the biggest county in the district and had 154 juvenile offenders come through with 16 of those going to detention. Woodmansee said one of the things they were going to focus on more for FY2027 was access to resources after they came out of detention. Were there enough community resources for them to step down from detention so the county and the courts do not have to continue to pay that detention cost.

Woodmansee said the next piece was with HB2329 and what would be the unintended consequences. She said one of the biggest pieces of it was that it stated any juvenile's second subsequent arrest was a child detain. It did not minimize to alleged crime or anything, just a second subsequent arrest was a mandatory detention. There were several concerns.

Woodmansee said in FY2026, they had over 140 youth go through the diversion program with only 8 being unsuccessful throughout the entire district. She said that involved meeting with kids and families to get services in place, mitigating them through the justice system.

Woodmansee said the last step of the justice system was intensive probation. The success rate was always a driving factor by the partners at KDOC and the second component was program hours. Woodmansee said they really tried to impress the program hours, but it was tough with kids. There were 36 youths go through intensive probation in FY2026 with 32 being successful. Woodmansee said they met the 75% per statute requirement. She added that the youths had to meet the required program hours when they already had busy schedules with school, sports and jobs.

Commissioner Reif commended Woodmansee for all the energy she had and for not giving up.

Woodmansee said they had a great team.

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Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Year-End Outcomes Report for the 20th Judicial District Juvenile Services and authorize the Commission Chairman to sign the grant forms as needed.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. 2025 AUDIT REPORT:

-Delaney Smith, Senior Audit Staff Accountant, AdamsBrown, will present the 2025 Audit Report to the Commission. The report will cover the financial condition of Barton County from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

Delaney Smith, Senior Staff Accountant, AdamsBrown, said there were no written recommendations or material findings to report and the county received the cleanest opinion that could be received on an audit. Smith said the county was under the threshold for the single audit this year so no single audit was needed in the 2025 fiscal year.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to accept the 2025 Audit Report as submitted by AdamsBrown.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. KANSAS NATURAL RESOURCE COALITION: Member Vote on Endangered Species Act – Definition of “Harm”:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The Kansas Natural Resource Coalition (KNRC) requests that each member county consider two ballot questions relative to KNRC's proposed participation in federal litigation involving recent Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulatory changes.

Ballot question one is: Should the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition be authorized to participate, at no cost to KNRC or its member counties, in federal litigation defending the repeal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regulatory definition of “harm” under the Endangered Species Act?

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented the details.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she felt they should support this action to protect landowner rights. The broad definition of the word harm has included now unintentional harm. She added that grazing cattle in an area deemed to have a threatened species would be unintentional harm. Oil production would also be included as unintentional harm.

Commissioner Zimmerman said the definition was too broad.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to vote yes to the ESA Definition of “Harm” on the Ballot question No. 1 Question - Should the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition be authorized to participate, at no cost to the KNRC or its member counties, in federal litigation defending the repeal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regulatory definition of “harm” under the Endangered Species Act? Direct the Chairman to vote accordingly on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. KANSAS NATURAL RESOURCE COALITION: Member Vote on Endangered Species Act – Blanket Section 4(d) Rule:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Ballot question two is: Should the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition be authorized to participate, at no cost to KNRC or its member counties, in federal litigation defending the repeal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's blanket Section 4(d) rule?

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Patzner, County Administrator, said the Endangered Species Act distinguishes between species listed as endangered and those listed as threatened. However, under the blanket section 4(d) rule, the federal government generally applied the same broad prohibitions used for endangered species to newly listed threatened species unless the service later adopted a species-specific exception.

Commissioner Schlessiger felt they should support this one as well. It put the burden back on the landowner when it should really be on the agency trying to enforce the broad rule. She thought they should say that we found this and this was the reason why. By giving them a blanket, it allowed for quite a bit of government overreach.

Commissioner Reif said he took it that way also.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to vote yes to the ESA Blanket Section 4(d) Rule Ballot No. 2 Question - Should the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition be authorized to participate, at no cost to KNRC or its member counties, in federal litigation defending the repeal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's blanket Section 4(d) rule? Direct the Chairman to vote accordingly on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman Duane Reif will present. Any Commissioner may make a motion for the board to recess to executive session at this time as allowed by K.S.A. 75-4319. Any motion must contain the justification for executive session, the subject matter to be discussed, any individuals in addition to the board who will attend the executive session and the time at which the regular session shall resume.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

VII. ADJOURN:

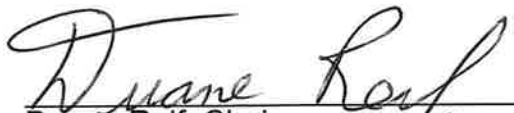
Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adjourn at 10:13 A.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Duane Reif, Chairman