

Common Cause Oklahoma  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
August 16, 2008  
United Ministry Center  
1027 Elm Avenue  
Norman, Oklahoma

**A. Attendance**

1. Members present were Lynn Howell, Ed Kessler, Richard Hilbert, O. Gail Poole, David Whitney, Marj Greer, Mark Burkett, David Whitney, Lois Hilbert and David Glover. Guest was Tom Elmore.

**B. Candidate survey**

1. Lynn will revise the candidate survey to include a Common Cause policy statement.
2. The survey will be mailed before September by a mail service.

**C. Crosstown Expressway developments**

1. Ed Kessler said there are 2 processes involved in the expressway issue, the political and the legal. Kessler is involved in the legal.

2. On the political side, Charles Wesner is chair of ONTRAC. The Norman Sustainability Group is also involved.

3. Kessler reviewed the history of the legal aspects of the Crosstown Expressway.

4. Currently Attorney Michael Salem is trying to establish the Western District as the venue for the court actions.

5. Kessler met Boardman Company vice president Joseph Merry a few days ago. The Boardman Company makes oil refinery equipment and has about 70 employees. Shipping their products by rail is much cheaper than by truck. They maintained that BNSF misrepresented their services to Boardman. Kessler has leased a railroad locomotive that is to be delivered by rail to the Boardman Company. Since the rail lines have been torn out, this would require that the lines be replaced. BNSF said in a filing to the STB that it would replace the lines if there were a demand for service. Our position is that the locomotive and Boardman's statement represent a demand for service. The Kessler group is waiting to see what will happen.

6. Tom Elmore reported on the efficiency of rail and Oklahoma's loss as the tracks around the state have been abandoned.

**D. Underground storage tank fund tank developments**

Kessler reported that he talked to Sue Wycoff on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The case is in District Court, OKC, with Barbara Swinton as Judge. The trial date will probably be in March. Before then, our side will have to depose witnesses from the other side. Our side has already been deposed. The second qui tam suit will have to wait for the outcome of the first.

**E. Corporation Commission report**

1. R. Hilbert had to leave before he could give a report. The DSM (Demand Side Management) coalition continues to meet.

**F. Legislative developments**

1. A legislator made a veiled threat on video about the Ethics Commission.

2. Howell will meet with the commission administration, Marilyn Hughes and Rebecca Adams.

3. Burkett commented that he supports the Ethics Commission.

4. The next meeting is next Friday and we will need to be there.

5. David Glover reported on his talk with the Senate Review Committee.
6. Kessler mentioned the quality jobs at the now defunct credit card collection company, CFS, that was run by Bartmann in Tulsa.
7. Secrecy in government was discussed.
8. Glover suggested that different organizations should get together to work on issues. and that we need a lobbyist. Openness and transparency were discussed.

**G. Treasurer's report**

1. Whitney reported that \$3,000 has been raised this year. We received \$600 from CC National. \$200 of that was given by CCOK for Constitution Day. It was suggested that we could open our own account.

**H. Other issues and reports**

1. No new issues.

**I. Next meeting time and place**

1. The next meeting will at 9:30 a.m. on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Oklahoma City Library.

**J. Adjournment**

1. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Lois Hilbert, Secretary  
Marj Greer, Acting Secretary