



**Economic Development Committee  
Meeting Agenda  
8:00 AM, February 2, 2012**  
Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices  
Commissioner Dave Unruh, Chairman

**1. Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements:** *Commissioner Dave Unruh*

**2. Minutes from the November 17, 2011 REAP EDC Meeting:** *Commissioner Dave Unruh*  
**Recommended Action:** *Approve or modify minutes as needed.*

**3. Local Area IV Chief Elected Officials Business:** *Workforce Alliance Staff*  
*An update will be provided on Workforce Center Operations and Performance. All members of the Economic Development Committee are encouraged to provide discussion, however, only elected officials serving as the CEOB may take official action.*  
**Recommended Action:** *Receive and file.*

**4. 2012 Wichita/Kansas Economic Outlook Revisions:** *Mr. Jeremy Hill*  
*A review of recent revisions to the 2012 Wichita and Kansas Economic Outlooks.*

**5. K-96 Corridor Presentation:** *Mr. Harland Priddle*  
*Mr. Priddle has been invited to provide a review of several happenings along the K-96 Corridor.*

**6. Recent Regional News Discussion:** *Mr. Joe Yager*  
*An update on several recent developments in the region will be provided. The Committee is asked to discuss.*

**7. Review and Discussion of EDC Purpose:** *Commissioner Dave Unruh*  
*In the 2012 EDC work plan it was identified to review the current purpose of the REAP Economic Development Committee and develop a Committee mission/purpose statement. The following items have been requested for discussion by the Committee.*

- A. 2012 EDC Work Plan
- B. Sustainable Communities Planning Grant
- C. EDC and Role of CEOB
- D. Alternative Energy Task Force

**Recommended Action:** *Discuss and identify next steps.*

**7. Unscheduled Topics:** *Committee Members*  
*Committee members are encouraged to provide updates or request discussion on issues that may be relevant to REAP.*

**8. Adjourn**

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*The next REAP EDC meeting will be at Noon on February 23, 2012.*

**Economic Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2011  
Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices  
Commissioner Dave Unruh, Chairman**

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**1. Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements.**

Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, opened the meeting; members, staff, and guests introduced themselves. It was noted Marvin Duncan, Sedgwick County, is the new legislative representative for Sedgwick County. Irene Hart, Sedgwick County, was recognized for her work with the Committee.

**2. Review of Minutes from the September 22, 2011 REAP Economic Development Committee Meeting**

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, moved (Mayor Keith DeHaven, City of Sedgwick) to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Local Area IV Chief Elected Officials Business**

**A. Workforce Center Operations and Performance Update**

Amanda Duncan, Workforce Alliance, provided an update for the Committee. The WA is seeing an uptick in workshop attendance due to implementation of online signup capabilities. There are overbookings occurring at some workshops and job screenings due to mass layoffs of workers who need training. Holiday job fairs are also being made available.

The Performance Report, found on page 15 of the agenda packet, indicates the WA is meeting all goals. There was a brief discussion on the National Emergency Grant, staff noted that most workers who receive benefits through this program have an associate's degree, creating low spending per person for additional training. The Department of Labor KEEP plan was explained as a joint program, a four year grant, through Wichita State University to help in training engineers.

It was noted Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance, had been appointed by Mayor Carl Brewer, City of Wichita, to the US Conference of Workforce Development Council.

**B. Discussion on Role of CEOB**

Linda Sorrell, Workforce Alliance, stated minimal requirements of how duties must be performed are in place at the state level. The State of Kansas had a policy that you must formally certify workforce centers which REAP completed in 2011. However, LA IV was the only local area to certify and the State is currently rethinking the process. It was noted that the current model for delivering the duties of the CEOB causes some delays and the WA is requesting the EDC to evaluate potential models that could create lesser burden on REAP. Discussion continued with the Committee and many members voiced they preferred hearing WA's reports since they are a vital key to economic development within the region. This will be added to next year's priorities.

Mayor DeHaven moved, (Mayor Kristey Williams, Augusta) to receive and file the WA Operations and Performance Update. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Review and Discussion of 2011 Work Plan**

Joe Yager, Chief Executive Officer of REAP, provided the Committee a review of the 2011 work plan and noted how the items fit in the overall REAP mission and Strategic Plan. The Committee discussed the items from 2011 and survey results. Several items were discussed, including regional legislation affecting economic development, impact of incentive packages, and the discussions on income tax reform. Yager

noted the Legislative Committee needs input from this Committee for direction and needs to hear from cities and counties.

The Committee had discussion of how regional inclusiveness could be achieved. Education, decisions of companies, funding, understanding of needs, and a tool to recognize the needs were items brought up. An economic development informational basics session was proposed for REAP elected officials to help them have a better understanding.

The Committee identified the following five items to be forwarded to the Executive Committee for consideration:

- Review the current purpose of the REAP Economic Development Committee and develop a Committee mission/purpose statement.
- Evaluate the role of the REAP Economic Development Committee to serve as the Chief Elected Officials Board.
- Compile and evaluate the impact of local, state, and federal incentives and regulations on the region.
- Conduct education for local officials on economic and community development through promotion of existing opportunities and guidelines.
- Create an alternative energy taskforce with a clear purpose and objectives.

#### **5. 2012 EDC Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Tom Winters, Kingman County, moved, (Hart) to accept the 2012 EDC Meeting Schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. Alternative Energy Task Force Discussion**

Discussion of page 24 of the agenda packet included continuance of efforts in creating the alternative energy task force. No official action was taken.

#### **7. Unscheduled Topics**

Winters noted that [frackfocus.org](http://frackfocus.org) was an exceptional resource to view the horizontal wells and what chemicals are being injected into the ground from fracking.

Yager reminded the Committee of the REAP Legislative Policy Summit on December 8 and invited all members to attend.

#### **8. Adjourn**

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

<b>REAP Economic Development Committee</b>	
<b>Attendance – 11/17/2011</b>	
<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Jurisdiction</i></b>
Mayor Kristey Williams	City of Augusta
Commissioner Dave Unruh	Sedgwick County
Mayor Keith DeHaven	City of Sedgwick
Mr. Tom Winters	Kingman County
Mr. David Alfaro	Butler County
Commissioner Chip Westfall	Harvey County
Ms. Irene Hart	Sedgwick County
Mr. Allen Bell	City of Wichita
<b><i>Guests and Staff</i></b>	
Mr. Marv Duncan	Sedgwick County
Mr. Harland Priddle	K-96 Corridor Association
Ms. Amanda Duncan	Workforce Alliance
Ms. Linda Sorrell	Workforce Alliance
Ms. Misty Bruckner	WSU
Mr. Joe Yager	WSU
Mr. Dane Baxa	WSU
Mr. T aylour Tedder	WSU

**Wichita Forecast Summary**  
**Center for Economic Development and Business Research**  
**Wichita State University**

Employment in Wichita and the United States, as a whole, is poised to grow in 2011. As of November 2011, U.S. employment was 1.2 percent higher compared to November 2010. Wichita's employment was 0.8 percent higher for the same time period. The Center expects 2011 employment to grow 0.5 percent, for a gain of 1,477 jobs.

The Center for Economic Development and Business Research is forecasting a 0.6 percent increase in employment for 2012, for a total gain of 1,735 jobs. The 2012 forecast has been revised downward due to slower than expected national growth and continued unknowns in the local and global economy, including the closure of Boeing Wichita and the continued weakness in the Euro zone. Wichita's forecast for 2012 indicates a year of continued stabilization.

- Combined, production sector employment is expected to grow 0.4 percent in 2012.
  - Natural resources, mining and construction employment should demonstrate a more normal seasonal employment cycle.
  - Manufacturing is expected to regain footing, growing 0.2 percent in 2012 after declining 0.6 percent in 2011. That being said, on January 4, 2012, Boeing announced the closure of its Wichita facility. Boeing does not expect local suppliers to be adversely affected by the closure. Local job reductions are not expected to begin until third quarter 2012. The number and timing of job reductions has yet to be released.
- Job gains in the transportation and utility sector are expected to counteract job losses in both retail and wholesale trade, creating a 0.2 percent gain, or 75 jobs, in the trade, transportation and utilities sectors.
- The year-end employment numbers for the service sectors are expected to show growth of 0.9 percent in 2011 and are projected to grow another 0.9 percent in 2012. Information and financial activity sectors are expected to decline, for a combined loss of approximately 565 employees. Significant growth in professional business services of nearly 4 percent will help to offset the losses. In addition, modest growth is expected in other service sectors, leisure and hospitality sectors and the education and health services sector.
- Government employment is expected to increase by approximately 185 jobs in 2012. This sector is expected to grow as a result of stabilizing government budgets.

The WSU Current and Leading Indexes support the CEDBR forecast for 2012. The WSU Current Conditions Index started 2011 on an upward trend that lasted through the first seven months of 2011. In August, the Index declined, followed by growth in September, and then decline in

October. This uncertainty is expected throughout 2012 as the Wichita MSA economy continues to find footing. In all, the Index value gained 1.4 percent between January and October 2011.

The WSU Leading Economic Indicators Index has given us reason to be optimistic about the local economy through early 2012. Fourteen of the 15 months ending in June, the Leading Index increased, for a total gain of 13.8 percent. Only one of the nine Index indicators showed deterioration from the first half of 2010 to the first half of 2011. That was the inflation-adjusted value of residential building permits in Wichita, which declined 21.8 percent. Particularly encouraging was a 16.6 percent drop in the number of Kansas initial unemployment claims.

<b>Wichita MSA Employment by Industry Summary*</b>					
	2010 (a)	2011 (e)	2012 (f)	2011-2012 Level Change	2011-2012 Percent Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>283,608</b>	<b>285,085</b>	<b>286,820</b>	<b>1,735</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
<b>Production Sectors</b>	<b>66,858</b>	<b>67,205</b>	<b>67,490</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>49,050</b>	<b>49,385</b>	<b>49,460</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
<b>Service Sectors</b>	<b>125,892</b>	<b>127,085</b>	<b>128,275</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>41,808</b>	<b>41,410</b>	<b>41,595</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections.					
(a) actual (e) estimated (f) forecasted					

**Kansas Economic Outlook**  
**Center for Economic Development and Business Research**  
**W. Frank Barton School of Business**  
**Wichita State University**

The national economic recovery has begun to take hold and is accelerating. Gross domestic product is expected to grow 3 percent in fourth quarter 2011 and 2.6 percent in 2012.<sup>i</sup> Year-over-year average annual employment grew 1 percent in November 2011, and modest gains are expected in 2012. In addition, the December 2011 seasonally adjusted employment report released on January 4, 2012, indicated much stronger growth than expected, with 200,000 jobs added. The national unemployment rate fell to 8.5 percent in December 2011, its lowest rate since February 2009.<sup>ii</sup> At the same time, political uncertainty and the Euro zone woes continue to stress the U.S. economy.

Creighton University's Business Conditions Index for Kansas was unstable throughout 2011. In January 2011, the index was 53.2. The Index remained above 50, indicating economic growth, until August when the index fell more than 10 points to 43.6. After August, the Index made upward progress, reaching 50.9 in November. In December 2011, the index stumbled to 50.1. The Kansas index signifies weak growth, especially in the first six months of the year, due to the state's dependence on global markets.<sup>iii</sup>

The Kansas unemployment rate was 6 percent in November 2011. This continues the general decline in unemployment rates since mid-2009, after fluctuating a bit throughout 2011. Kansas employment is expected to remain flat in 2011 when compared to 2010. Gains in the production and service sectors are expected to offset losses incurred in trade, transportation and utilities, as well as the government sectors.

The Kansas economy is expected to stabilize and begin growing at a modest pace. The Center for Economic Development and Business Research estimates total employment growth of 1 percent, for a net increase of 13,010 employees, in 2012.

- Production sectors are expected to grow by 2.5 percent, or 5,515 jobs, after increasing by 1.4 percent in 2011. Durable goods production employment will lead the production sector, increasing approximately 2.8 percent.
- Trade, transportation and utility sectors are expected to decline 0.2 percent in 2012. Declines will be seen in both wholesale and retail trade, while transportation and utility employment is expected to increase.
- Service sector employment is expected to increase by 1.2 percent, or 7,350 jobs. The information sector is expected to shed the most jobs, 1,520, for a loss of 5.4 percent;

while education and health service sectors are expected to gain the most jobs, 5,210 or 2.8 percent.

- Government employment is expected to grow 0.3 percent or 700 jobs. The increase will come as government revenues stabilize.

<b>Kansas Employment by Industry Summary*</b>					
	2010 (a)	2011 (e)	2012 (f)	2011-2012 Level Change	2011-2012 Percent Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>1,323,033</b>	<b>1,322,830</b>	<b>1,335,840</b>	<b>13,010</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>Production Sectors</b>	<b>221,350</b>	<b>224,400</b>	<b>229,915</b>	<b>5,515</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>250,958</b>	<b>249,480</b>	<b>248,925</b>	<b>-555</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
<b>Service Sectors</b>	<b>588,742</b>	<b>588,980</b>	<b>596,330</b>	<b>7,350</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>261,983</b>	<b>259,970</b>	<b>260,670</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections.					
(a) actual (e) estimated (f) forecasted					

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.economy.com/mark-zandi/documents/2012-01-04-US-Macro-Outlook.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> [http://money.cnn.com/2012/01/06/news/economy/jobs\\_report\\_unemployment/?npt=NP1](http://money.cnn.com/2012/01/06/news/economy/jobs_report_unemployment/?npt=NP1)

<sup>iii</sup> [Creighton University's Business Conditions Index](#)

**Item**

Recent Regional News Discussion

**Background**

In the REAP Strategic Plan it was identified that dialogue on regional economic development and understanding of what is happening in our region will allow us to provide a unified voice to promote regional economic development.

In a January 22, 2012 *Wichita Eagle* article about competitiveness for our region and what it will take to compete for projects moving forward focused on where the South Central Kansas region is currently in regards to economic development. In December 2011 two site consultants were invited to Wichita as part of a tour given by the GWEDC. The general consensus was the region has positives with: quality of skilled workforce; central location; recent focus on Wichita's downtown; the state's incentives program; and strong local public/private partnerships. The negatives were: availability of relatively few large shovel-ready sites; few modern office and industrial buildings; lack of a dedicated funding stream to close deals; and uncertainty (potential political infighting) during the site selection process. They also noted that Wichita could be competitive for more than just aircraft but has failed to get its name out. The full article is attached to this report and can also be found at: [\*Why Isn't Wichita Winning Projects?\*](#)

**Regional News Relating to Economic Development**

Although the article above focuses on many of the concerns within the region, there have been several significant factors and even wins over the past year that need to be brought to the attention of the Committee. The following is a listing of several of those items and some local articles.

**Boeing** – [Boeing offers lesson](#); [Boeing decision stings](#); [Boeing closure spurs interest by job recruiters](#); [Boeing to boost spending with Kansas suppliers](#)

**Siemens** – [Teamwork, unity helped Hutchinson land Siemens](#); [Siemens to build 73 turbines for Kansas windfarm](#); [Hutchinson plant gets order to make 258 wind-farm turbines](#); [Siemens plans Wichita distribution center](#)

**Newton Logistics Park** – [Newton gets wind turbine plant](#) (Colorado-based New Millennium Wind Energy); [Tindall closes on Newton land](#); [Newton logistics park lands \\$2.3 million in KDOT funding](#); [First businesses ready to launch in Newton logistics park](#)

**Winfield** – [Newell Rubbermaid to move 200 jobs to Winfield plant](#); [Galaxy Technologies awarded Bell Helicopter Textron Contract](#)

**Kansas Star Casino** – [Mulvane is getting more than casino, officials say](#); [Lines greet Kansas Star Casino as it opens to public](#); [Kansas Star casino nets \\$3.25 million in first eight days](#)



Posted on Sun, Jan. 22, 2012

## Why isn't Wichita winning projects?

By Dan Voorhis  
The Wichita Eagle

Boeing's leaving. The top executives at Coleman are already gone. Wichita wasn't even in the running for the Siemens plant in Hutchinson or the Mars plant in Topeka.

It's time for a little self-examination to see why Wichita is losing some of the economic development battles it could be winning, say key local economic development leaders

Their early conclusion: Wichita has gotten more competitive since the last recession, but it still lacks some crucial pieces – and acquiring them will be costly and politically challenging, they acknowledge.

One likely piece is a large, well-developed industrial park where land or buildings can be given away to the right prospect. Another is a sizable pot of money for closing deals. A third is an extensive and expensive promotions budget. A fourth is to finally get serious about building ties with the rest of south-central Kansas.

This isn't news, they acknowledge. The missing pieces have been obvious for years, but haven't materialized for one reason or another.

But the Boeing news may cause them to act. It will certainly be talked about when, in the next 60 days, the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce goes out to the community's business owners and CEOs to find out how willing they are to recommit to funding the community's economic development agency, the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition.

The coalition is based out of the Chamber of Commerce, and is partly funded by businesses and partly by local government.

Last week key members of the GWEDC – coalition chairman Paul Allen, chamber board chairman Lynn Nichols, chamber president Gary Plummer, Sedgwick County Commissioner Dave Unruh and Mayor Carl Brewer – gathered to pose some critical questions.

Growth in the Wichita economy, they said, really depends on how much Wichitans want it to grow.

"Are we willing as a community to step up and compete?" Allen said. "And at what level?"

What's wrong

Two site consultants familiar with Wichita said the leaders are largely on target with their self-examination.

Both were in Wichita in December as part of a tour given by the GWEDC to show off Wichita.

There's a lot to like, they said. They were wowed by the quality of the skilled workforce, appreciated the central location, lauded the state's incentives program and local economic development public/private partnerships. They even liked downtown.

"There's a charm factor," said Jay Garner of Garner Economics of Atlanta. "Your downtown shows very well. That's important."

But they were shown relatively few large shovel-ready sites and few modern office and industrial buildings, they said. Companies seeking to relocate need sites ready now, they said.

And they said a dedicated funding stream to close deals is absolutely essential. Texas allows its cities to raise the sales tax to create incentives, as well as having a whole host of powerful state incentives.

Oklahoma City has \$75 million available, said GWEDC officials. Topeka has an \$8 million war chest because of a dedicated sales tax.

"If Topeka can do it, Wichita can do it," Garner said.

Garner added that the turnover of GWEDC presidents – the chamber is seeking its fifth since 2004 – is a red flag to site consultants. Companies hate surprises and political infighting during the site selection process, he said.

Dennis Donovan of New Jersey-based Wadley Donovan Gutshaw Consulting also noted that Wichita could be competitive for more than just aircraft, food processing and alternative energy sectors

But Wichita hasn't got its name out. He recommended a large and sustained marketing/ advertising campaign, which said would cost at least \$1 million a year for three years.

"Wichita has a lot of advantages, but right now it isn't on the radar beyond a few sectors," he said.

### Challenges

But the group that gathered last week hesitated to talk about firm proposals, just yet. These issues are sensitive, and they want to gauge the appetite for change.

In the past, some local businesses involved in real estate fought city and county efforts to create a publicly-owned industrial park, saying it would compete unfairly with private parks. After years of dithering, Sedgwick County recently decided to build new roads and infrastructure around an 804-acre site owned by the city of Bel Aire, which hopes to attract large alternative energy or composites manufacturing plants.

And those in the group know that raising taxes or finding some other income stream to fund economic development efforts will cause a fight.

That's why they feel the need for a lengthy education and awareness campaign. They think that most citizens want them to bring more jobs in and don't put their faith in low taxes alone to build the economy.

"You hear a lot from the loud minority," said Mayor Carl Brewer. "If you talk to the average citizen, they think it's our responsibility to do whatever is necessary to bring new businesses and new jobs here."

Michael O'Donnell, who got elected to the Wichita City Council as an opponent of public involvement in most development, disagreed.

He respects the GWEDC and its mission, he said, but comes down strongly against raising any kind of taxes to create incentives. Low taxes should be Wichita's main economic development tool, O'Donnell said.

"I don't believe higher taxes is the pathway to success; it's the biggest obstacle," he said. "If it's important to fund something, we need to find other projects to defund."

### Their case

Last week Nichols recounted an often told, but still threatening, story.

As the owner of Yingling Aviation, he said, he gets calls regularly from economic development officials trying to lure him to other states. He listens to gauge the competition.

They've researched the industry, Nichols said, and know aircraft is a growth industry with high paying jobs. Their offers are seductive: free land, free or low-cost buildings built to suit, a workforce trained for free.

"Oh, and this is the one I like the best," he said. "They'll say: 'And we have cash.'"

If his 130-employee business attracts that many calls, Cessna Aircraft and Spirit AeroSystems must get twice as many or more from all over the world.

The threat can be subtle, Nichols said. Cessna, for instance, recently announced two new models and those out-of-state economic developers have been calling.

"If they are able to put together a large enough incentive package in front of Cessna to get them to build just one aircraft, a jet, in their community, that means that the workforce will be there, the structures will be there, the commitment to the community will be there," he said.

The next time Cessna adds a new jet, it might go to the new factory out of state, Nichols said.

Wichita won't dry up and blow away, they say. But its future gets a little poorer each time a new product line leaves or the search for a new factory site skips over Wichita.

"What will we look like in 10 years?" Nichols asked. "Will we be a community that goes, 'Wow, where did our aviation industry go?'"

"Could we be a city that dies of a thousand cuts?"

Reach Dan Voorhis at 316-268-6577 or [dvoorhis@wichitaeagle.com](mailto:dvoorhis@wichitaeagle.com).

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ANDOVER, AUGUSTA, BEL AIRE, BENTLEY, BENTON, BUTLER COUNTY, CHENEY, CLEARWATER, COLWICH, CONWAY SPRINGS, DERBY, EL DORADO, GARDEN PLAIN, GODDARD, HALSTEAD, HARVEY COUNTY, HAYSVILLE, HESSTON, HUTCHINSON, KECHI, KINGMAN COUNTY, MAIZE, MCPHERSON, MCPHERSON COUNTY, MOUNT HOPE, MULVANE, NEWTON, PARK CITY, RENO COUNTY, ROSE HILL, SEDGWICK, SEDGWICK COUNTY, SUMNER COUNTY, VALLEY CENTER, WELLINGTON, WICHITA

## **REAP Economic Development Committee 2012 Work Plan**

*Adopted December 8, 2011*

The **REAP Economic Development Committee** (EDC) identifies regional economic development issues and recommends action on those issues to REAP. In addition, through an agreement entered into by counties in Local Area IV as defined by the State of Kansas, the EDC has been designated to serve as the Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB), as defined in the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 in Local Area IV, which includes Butler, Cowley, Kingman, Harper, Sedgwick and Sumner counties. The following are the adopted work plan items identified for the EDC for 2012.

### **Economic Development Committee**

- Perform duties as Chief Elected Officials Board under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.
- Review the current purpose of the REAP Economic Development Committee and develop a Committee mission/purpose statement.
- Evaluate the role of the REAP Economic Development Committee to serve as the Chief Elected Officials Board.
- Compile and evaluate the impact of local, state, and federal incentives and regulations on the region.
- Conduct education for local officials on economic and community development through promotion of existing opportunities and guidelines.
- Create an alternative energy taskforce with a clear purpose and objectives.

## **What is the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant?**

The Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) of South Central Kansas has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to create a long-term regional plan for ensuring the health and productivity of our local economy. The grant will support community engagement to identify common values and goals, followed by local and regional efforts to enhance economic development, connect people with jobs, reduce housing and transportation costs, ensure public safety, and use of limited public funds efficiently in the years ahead.

The grant supports planning only; it does not mandate the creation of new policies/procedures by any participating jurisdiction. It does not create new governing entities or new powers for existing entities.

## **Key elements of the grant**

REAP, the project leader, will assemble a Consortium Leadership Team with members representing private business, the non-profit sector, local governments, and citizens at large to oversee five work teams that will focus on:

1. Business Development
2. Built Environment
3. Work Force Development
4. Transportation
5. Natural Resources

Each team will help communities review existing planning efforts, identify opportunities, and develop strategies to become more economically competitive, both locally and regionally. The goal is to ensure our region's economic viability in the 21st century. Every work team will be open and accessible to the public.

## **Core purposes of the grant**

1. Identify shared values to address challenging issues
2. Use limited public funds more efficiently by building partnerships and identifying best practices to address challenges
3. Align regional housing, transportation, and infrastructure investments
4. Maximize housing and transportation choices through coordinated planning
5. Connect people with quality jobs through coordinated workforce development
6. Maximize public safety by working together for clean air and water
7. Improve our energy independence, locally and regionally through identifying best practices of efficiencies and ways to utilize regional energy assets
8. Create lasting value so our local communities and economies are stronger by working together

## Budget

The total budget for developing the South Central Kansas Regional Plan for Sustainable Development is \$2,322,804, which will fund a three-year plan development process. The proposed cost share is approximately 65 percent grant funds (\$1,500,000) from HUD and approximately 35 percent leveraged local resources. All local resources are in-kind (non-cash) contributions with the exception of a \$50,000 cash match from the Kansas Health Foundation.

Funds will be used for project management staff, technical consultation and assistance, and activities to engage underrepresented populations.

## Identified Partners

- The Regional Economic Area Partnership of South Central Kansas
- The Cities of:
  - Wichita
  - El Dorado
  - Newton
  - Hutchinson
  - Wellington
- The Counties of:
  - Sedgwick
  - Butler
  - Harvey
  - Reno
  - Sumner
- Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO)
- Wichita State University's Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs and Center for Community Support and Research
- Visioneering Wichita
- Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas
- Workforce One
- Kansas Small Business Development Center
- Wichita Downtown Development Corporation
- United Way
- Independent Living Resource Center
- University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita campus
- Wichita Independent Neighborhoods
- Urban League of Kansas
- Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Healthy Reno County Coalition
- Kansas Department of Transportation
- Our Local Foods
- Sumner County Economic Development Commission
- The Cowley County Housing Authority
- Central Plains Area Agency on Aging

## Outcomes

The planning process funded by the grant and partners will identify opportunities to make our communities stronger and the region more economically competitive. The regional plan will provide a framework for participating cities and counties to utilize as a resource for future partnerships.

## Sustainable Communities Grant Timeline(Draft)

<b>Actions</b>	2012					2013					2014					15									
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
<b>Sustainable Communities Grant Responsibilities</b>																									
Approve Cooperative Agreement with HUD																									
Grant Timeline Begins (Feb. 15)																									
Develop Work Plan and Gantt Chart																									
Hire Project Management Team																									
Develop Consortium Agreements																									
Assemble Consortium Leadership Team																									
Develop Grant Logic Model																									
Assemble 5 Work Teams (Built Environment, Transportation, Natural Resources, Workforce Development, Business Development)																									
Community Engagement and Facilitation (Needs Assessment)																									
Define Healthy Community Design (Vision)																									
Scenario Planning (Options for Healthy Community Design)																									
Work Teams develop goals, strategies, and action steps																									
Develop benchmarks and measures of progress for success																									
Coordinate the Regional Plan for Sustainable Communities																									
REAP adoption of the RPSC																									

**Item**

REAP Involvement in Workforce

**Background**

The REAP Economic Development Committee is established to identify economic development issues of a regional concern and recommend actions to the full REAP membership. The EDC members are appointed by the REAP chair and meetings are held on the fourth Thursday each month, unless otherwise decided by the committee. Meetings of the EDC are conducted in compliance with state laws with respect to public notice, openness, accessibility, and non-discrimination.

**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS BOARD (CEOB)**

Through an agreement entered into by counties in Local Area IV as defined by the State of Kansas, the Economic Development Committee has been designated to serve as the Chief Elected Officials Board, as defined in the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 in Local Area IV, which includes Butler, Cowley, Kingman, Harper, Sedgwick and Sumner counties. Members of the REAP Economic Development Committee who are appointed officials or represent jurisdictions outside of Local Area IV shall not have a vote when the Committee is conducting Chief Elected Officials Board business.

Specifically, REAP supports the REAP EDC in its role as CEOB to exercise oversight of the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas with respect to financial accountability, program performance, and public accountability as enumerated in the Operating Agreement. In addition, REAP assists the REAP Economic Development Committee carry out CEOB duties identified in the Workforce Investment Act and other duties consistent with the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

**WORKFORCE ALLIANCE OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS**

The Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas is incorporated as a not-for-profit with primary duties of managing federal job training funds, operating One-Stop Workforce Centers and coordinating the public workforce system in South Central Kansas. Activities of the Workforce Alliance are carried out by professional staff led by an Executive Director, appointed by the Board of Directors.

Following the passage of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, the Workforce Alliance was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation. As the Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB) for Butler, Cowley, Harper, Kingman, and Sedgwick counties (Area IV), the primary duties of the Workforce Alliance are to manage federal job training funds, operate One-Stop Workforce Centers and coordinate the public workforce system in South Central Kansas. Day-to-day activities of the Workforce Alliance are carried out by skilled professional staff led by an Executive Director, appointed by the Board of Directors.

The primary function of the Workforce Alliance Board of Directors is to assure public funds invested in workforce development issues address the needs of employers and job seekers in South Central Kansas. WIA mandates that a majority of Board members come from the private sector. Representatives from various community based organizations and educational institutions which provide job-training services are also required to serve on LWIBs. There are a minimum of 36 voting members of the Workforce Alliance Board of Directors, which meets quarterly. Due to the large size of the Board of Directors, most of its work is done through a combination of standing committees and ad hoc taskforces. There are four committees which meet monthly: Executive, WIA Oversight, and Finance Committees.

Under WIA, LWIBs are encouraged to tailor priorities, operations and strategies to best meet the needs of the local labor market. Currently the Workforce Alliance serves as the operator of the One-Stop Workforce Centers in South Central Kansas. The Wichita Workforce Center is one of the premier facilities in the nation; in 2010, 92,108 job seekers received services and the Center hosted more than 50 job fairs. Along with the Wichita Workforce Center, the Workforce Alliance has offices in El Dorado, Cowley County and Wellington; staff is also available to assist job seekers and businesses as needed in Augusta, Anthony and Kingman. To accomplish this mission, Local Area IV was awarded approximately \$2.9 million for PY 2010 in WIA funds.

The Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas has been the WIA Program Operator in Local Area IV since 2008.

In January of 2010 The Workforce Alliance was awarded a \$7,543,200 National Emergency Grant (NEG) through the U.S. Department of Labor in response to the overwhelming number of layoffs experienced in South Central Kansas, particularly in aviation and non-aviation manufacturing. Funding received from the National Emergency Grant will be used to provide training to approximately 1,100 eligible laid-off workers in South Central Kansas in new and emerging advanced manufacturing technology, healthcare, and other high demand occupations.

**Item**

Alternative Energy Taskforce

**Background**

At the September REAP Economic Development Committee meeting, the Committee discussed the emerging wind energy manufacturing and production cluster within the region and State. A handout called “Wind Energy Cluster Regionalization Fast Facts” was presented.

From these discussions the Committee identified the potential need for a Wind and Alternative Energy Task Force. The following list contains the key areas that the Committee felt important to include as “working groups” or subcommittees under a potential task force. These were intended to cover the broad spectrum of community interests related to wind and other alternative energy opportunities in the REAP area.

- **Developer & landowner education** related to wind farm site negotiation (include a future speaker such as Pete Ferrell to share his experience and help others negotiate successful wind farm locations)
- **Community Preparedness** around wind farm sites – housing during construction phase
- **Education & workforce** readiness for construction & maintenance of wind farms
- **Marketing & attraction** of manufacturers & suppliers to the industry
- **Other energy** related development opportunities – biomass, solar, oil & natural gas.

The Committee is asked to further evaluate capabilities of forming this task force. Key components that must be identified are:

- What is the purpose of this task force?
- What are the goals that this task force is expected to accomplish?
- What is the role of the REAP EDC with this taskforce?
- Are the identified “working groups” appropriate?
- Who should serve on this task force?
- Are there other partners who should be included with this task force?
- What is the timeline for this task force?