



**Legislative Committee
Meeting Agenda
12:00 PM, November 17, 2011**
Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Chairman

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements:** *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
2. **Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2011:** *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
Recommended Action: *Approve or modify minutes as needed.*
3. **Kansas Affordable Airfares Update:** *Mr. Joe Yager*
4. **Visioning Wichita 2012 ULA Update:** *Mr. Joe Yager*
5. **2011 Legislative Committee Regional Listening Tour:** *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
The Committee is asked to discuss and provide input on the regional listening tour.
6. **Identification of Legislative Priorities for 2012:** *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
An element of the Committee's 2011 activities is to recommend legislative priorities to REAP for the 2012 legislative session.
Recommended Action: *Forward proposed legislative priorities to the Executive Committee for consideration.*
7. **Review and Discussion of 2011 Work Plan:** *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
A review of the 2011 Work Plan will be provided and the Committee is asked to discuss activities that should be focused on in 2012.
Recommended Action: *Forward proposed Committee activities for 2012 to the Executive Committee for consideration.*
8. **2012 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule:** *Mr. Joe Yager*
Recommended Action: *Approve meeting schedule.*
9. **2011 REAP Policy Summit:** *Mr. Joe Yager*
The Committee is asked to discuss and provide input into the agenda and content of the summit which is scheduled for December 8, 2011.
Recommended Action: *Discuss and identify next steps.*
10. **2012 REAP Legislative Liaison Discussion:** *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
The Committee will discuss the position of REAP legislative liaison for 2012.
Recommended Action: *Discuss and forward recommendation to Executive Committee.*
11. **Unscheduled Topics:** *Committee Members*
Committee members are encouraged to provide updates or request discussion on issues that may be relevant to REAP.
12. **Adjourn**

Reminder: The Policy Summit is December 8, 2011 and the next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for December 23, 2011.

Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes – June 24, 2011
City Hall First Floor Board Room
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Chair

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

Council Member Jeff Longwell, City of Wichita, opened the meeting; members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

2. Review of Minutes from the May 27, 2011 REAP Legislative Committee Meeting

Mayor Dion Avello, Derby, moved (Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita) to approve the minutes with an amendment to the attendance to include that Mayor Avello was present at the May 27, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. June REAP Board Meeting Review

Council Member Longwell discussed the June REAP meeting reviewing the legislative session which included a panel of local legislative liaisons. He noted that the engagement concept was well received and allowed members to get a different perspective. He also noted that our region is well represented and our local liaisons do a lot to help build relationships and drive the issues forward, the meeting was a great chance to get some insight into what they do.

4. 2011 REAP Membership Engagement Presentations

Mr. Joe Yager, Chief Executive Officer of REAP, noted the information on page four of the agenda packet discussing the presentations that are going to be made to member communities in order to get them more engaged and educated on what is important to REAP. Staff will be putting together a two-year schedule where every community will be visited. The first one will be on June 27th where Mayor Williams and Commissioner Unruh will be presenting at Sumner County. A presentation at Kechi has been confirmed for July 14th and staff is working on setting up a presentation at Cowley First.

5. Report on State Assets in the Region

Ms. Lorien Showalter, Graduate Assistant, handed out a draft on state investments in various counties in the region for the Regional Listening Tour. Discussion on how to structure the handout included emphasizing REAP priorities such as the impact of KAAP and Water Resources, including T-Works projects and money spent on transportation, and including a category for other assets in the county that may be of importance. The purpose of the handout is to educate members on what is in the REAP region and discovering how REAP can play a role if these issues come into play.

6. 2011 Legislative Committee Regional Listening Tour

Mr. Yager discussed the scheduling of the Regional Listening Tour with the first one taking place in Newton for Harvey County and McPherson County. When planning these visits staff is attempting to reach out to people who are representative of the state investments that have been identified to ask them to attend. The goal is to get communities more engaged and to find out where REAP can be of more help to them in identifying what issues they feel are important.

7. Unscheduled Topics

Council Member Longwell talked about the importance of placing Mr. Joe Yager on the WAMPO Board in order to help make REAP more significant regionally. It was decided that it would be discussed at the Executive Board meeting and then the full REAP Board meeting.

Mr. Yager noted that at the July 6 Executive Committee meeting the Executive Committee would be receiving presentations from two proposals requesting funding from the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program and presenting their recommendation at the next REAP Board Meeting.

8. Adjourn

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

REAP Legislative Committee	
<i>Attendance</i>	
6/24/2011	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Jurisdiction</i>
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Chair	City of Wichita
Mayor Dion Avello	City of Derby
Mayor Kristey Williams	City of Augusta
Ms. Stephanie Knebel	City of Derby
Mr. Bob Myers	City of Newton
Mr. Dale Goter	City of Wichita
<i>Guests and Staff</i>	
Dr. Ed Flentje	WSU
Mr. Joe Yager	WSU
Ms. Lorien Showalter	WSU

Benchmarks: Job Growth, Education, Per-Capita Income

Aviation

- Keep the Kansas aviation industry competitive through continued state investments in the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University and through support of business-driven technical training at the National Center for Aviation Training at Jabara. (2012: ongoing support)

Medical

- State support for 25% expansion in the capacity of nursing programs in existing post-secondary public education institutions in South Central Kansas. (2012: maintain funding)
- Support for a Kansas Center for Innovation for Biomaterials in Orthopaedic Research in south-central-Kansas through the Kansas Bioscience Authority. (2012: ongoing funding)

General Infrastructure

- State support to maintain and expand low cost commercial air service from Mid-Continent Airport. (2012: maintain funding)
- Support for state funding for Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project and maintenance. (2012: maintain funding)
- Support for Kansas Small Business Development Centers (KSBDC) and maintenance of ongoing funding. (2012: maintain funding)

Item

2011 Legislative Committee Regional Listening Tour

Background

In an effort to connect REAP with the communities in the region while allowing REAP members to identify issues that are important to individual communities and could be beneficial to the region, the Committee held a five stop Listening Tour. The Committee has noted that many issues may not be of regional importance, but could be important to individual communities, and REAP should be aware and supportive as long as the issue does not hurt any other community in the region. The following are highlights from those stops:

Harvey County and McPherson County (Newton, August 11)

- Federal funding change to local bridges and streets drastically cut
- Perhaps the role of REAP could be used as role of convener to talk about priorities
- Commuting workers, living in one community, working in another
- Workforce Development
- Housing within the city of Newton, lack of affordable and transitional housing
- Changes in tax policy
- Critical role of local government in economic development
- How demand transfers affect the state budget
- REAP could play a role in tax reform education
- Renewable resources and wind energy
- EPA's relationship to drilling rights/mineral rights, fracking

Reno County and Kingman County (Hutchinson, August 26)

- Roadblocks with wind energy and economic development
- Promotion of industry and cities
- State fair- major economic driver for the region
- Fairgrounds host around 400 non-fair events per year
- Cosmosphere and Salt Museum draw in more tourism
- Workforce Development
- Lack of affordable housing
- Rural college loan repayment programs
- Transportation issues

Butler County (El Dorado, September 23)

- EPA regulations on wastewater treatment, user fees
- Refineries are ahead of the curve to comply with future air standards
- Future refinery tour
- Oil and gas has historically been in this area, fracking could be under control here

- Wind energy
- Concerned about dismantling of state and federal governments
- Workforce Development
- Income tax, tax reduction
- Other states attracting workers
- Shift from high wage and low skill jobs to high wage and high skill
- Affordable housing
- Major companies are buying up any affordable housing that comes on the market
- Decline in building permits

Harper, Cowley, and Sumner County (Wellington, October 27)

- Wind Energy
- Wheat Festival- Wellington
- Passenger Train
- Improving electrical grid
- Affordable, available housing
- Airport runway expansion could bring economic stimulation from the Mulvane casino
- Regional water planning
- Rural water districts
- Kansas Turnpike, corridors of development through this region
- Rural broadband/telephone services will diminish with price caps

Sedgwick County (Kechi, November 12)

- Developer specials, three years is too long
- Current jail process needs improvement, cities currently pay for those they incarcerate
- Elimination of income tax
- Online sales tax
- Affordable housing in small communities
- Cuts to SRS funding
- High quality sustainable water supply
- Consolidation of some city services with other cities, keeping spending lower
- Small business interaction strengthened

Common Issues Across Region:

- *Affordable Housing*
- *Wind Energy*
- *Workforce Development*
- *Fracking*
- *Tax Policy*
- *Local Government – State Government Funding*

Item

Identification of Legislative Priorities for 2012

Background

An element of the Committee's 2011 activities is to recommend legislative priorities to REAP for the 2012 legislative session. The following are the 2011 priorities:

- Maintain Kansas Affordable Airfares Program to assure more flight options, more competition for air travel, and affordable airfares for Kansas.
- Advance legislative and administrative action to secure state financial participation in:
 - the Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project to preserve the aquifer for agricultural, industrial, and municipal use that is essential to the regional economy.
 - aviation research at the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University.
 - orthopedic research at the Center of Innovation for Bio Orthopedic Research (CIBOR) at Wichita State University.
- Support a reevaluation of current state water policy including Kansas Water Authority representation; revenue sources and distribution for the state water plan fund; and, the process for adopting the annual state water plan fund budget.
- Support a stronger system of business-driven technical training and education in Kansas including enhanced funding support, better alignment and articulation of education and training programs, and transition programs to better serve adult learners.
- Support federal reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to include maintaining local control through private sector and employer driven Local Workforce Investment Boards.

For 2012 the Committee is asked to review the 2011 priorities and consider any changes, additions, or deletions. In addition, through the Listening Tour, annual survey, and other Committee meetings the following items have been identified for consideration for 2012:

- Support re-instituting the required demand transfer from the state general fund to be used for sediment and nutrient reduction programs that protect and sustain the region's public water supplies.
- Support legislation that protects the region's ground water supply through science-based, site-specific water quality regulations.
- Support policies that encourage the development and redevelopment of commercial centers, residential communities, public facilities, and industrial areas necessary to the sustained growth and stability of the Kansas economy.

- Encourage the State to work with local governments to actively pursue manufacturing operations for wind, biomass, solar, and other energy-related industries in Kansas.
- Support research and development efforts regarding renewable energy sources.
- Address restructuring the Kansas tax system in a manner which promotes positive economic growth without shifting additional financial burdens to local governments.
- Strengthen home rule authority to allow for cities and counties to continue to fund service needs of local residents.

Recommended Action

Forward proposed legislative priorities to the Executive Committee for consideration.

FY 2013 SWPF Budget Request – Nutrient and Sediment Reduction

Amount: \$6,000,000 – dependent upon reinstatement of the statutory State General Fund demand transfer.

Agency: Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (KDA-DOC)

Purpose: Fund implementation of nutrient and sediment reduction practices in high priority areas.

Background: Excess nutrients in Kansas waters have caused algal blooms leading to suspension of drinking water production, interruption of recreational access to lakes and reservoirs, increased drinking water production costs, fish kills, and toxicity to livestock and domestic animals. Reservoirs are integral to Kansas' water supply infrastructure, providing water supply for more than two-thirds of the state's population. Sedimentation is impacting these reservoirs, reducing the capacity to store water to meet our needs.

Development of a new program within the KDA-DOC will allow for a more targeted approach in reducing sedimentation and nutrient loading into waterways and reservoirs.

The program, as proposed, would link existing efforts by local Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) groups with implementation efforts through conservation districts. Local WRAPs Stakeholder Leadership Teams (SLTs) have, in many cases, now developed the required 9-element plans that can lead to implementation. The completed or draft plans to date (18 plans representing about 50% of the WRAPS groups) identify more than \$7 million per year in estimated best management practices (BMPs) needed to achieve their water quality goals, chiefly tied to achievement of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for nutrients and sediment.

WRAPS coordinators are in a prime position to help identify projects that will have the most benefit to meet the goals of those plans. Local conservation districts are already well equipped to efficiently provide the cost share programs to local producers. Having WRAPS coordinators work with local producers to obtain cost share through the conservation districts will insure program dollars are spent on the highest priority projects. In some situations, high priority nutrient and sediment TMDLs that are not addressed in WRAPS plans may be identified as a critical need; these, too, would be eligible for this program (see attached map).

Due to the voluntary nature of the program and the fact that watersheds span multiple counties, the program would be an "on demand" funding mechanism rather than a county allocation approach. The local conservation district would request funding for each project, or group of projects, once they are identified. State agency staff would prioritize and respond to funding requests based on highest nutrient reduction for dollar spent.

Nutrient Impacts to Kansas Water Resources and Proposal for Nutrient Reduction

Recreation and Water Quality Issues

Between 1989 and 2007, at least 31 incidents related to Taste and Odor (T&O) problems were reported and investigated in KS. It is likely that many more incidents have occurred and gone unreported to the program. For each of these 31 documented events, there may well be a 100 that are not reported.

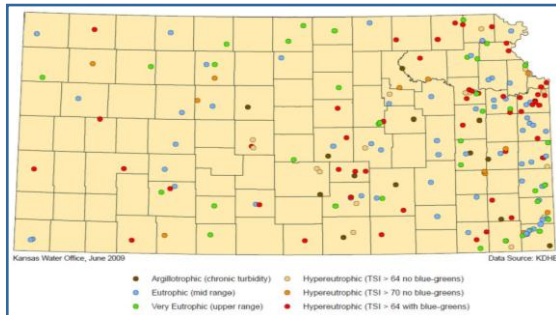


Figure 1 Map shows the lakes that are impaired for recreational use due to their trophic condition, according to the KDHE 2008 305(b) report.

In Kansas, nearly 200 nutrient-related Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) have been prepared for streams and lakes.

2011 Blue Green Algae Statistics

- 17 confirmed human health illnesses have been entered into KDHE’s surveillance system as of August 23, 2011
- 4 animal fatalities related to Blue Green Algae (including livestock)
- 59 complaints filed with KDHE
- Number and locations of advisories/warnings:
 - 12 advisories issued (Herington, Marion, Big Hill, Logan, Perry, Marion SFL, Cheney, Hillsdale, Milford)
 - 31 warnings issues (Memorial Park, Lake Meade, Logan, Marion SFL, Milford, Feldhausen, Johnson & Mitchell Pond, Riggs Park, Cheney, Lake Warnock, Augusta, Harvey Co. East, Perry)



Figure 2 Photos of Algae Bloom at Marion Lake

Economic Impact

Maintaining the health and viability of Kansas reservoirs is a critical component to a healthy Kansas economy. For example, Milford, Perry and Tuttle Creek provide more than \$83.2 million each year in annual visitor spending and approximately \$294 million in water supply benefits.

In addition to the economic loss resulting from closure of a recreational lake during an algae bloom, treating water for T&O issues during blooms is costly. For example, the City of Lawrence reported the additional cost of \$500,000 per year to the city for continuous drinking water treatment. The City of Wichita reported the additional cost of \$750,000 per year for treatment, as well as, \$11 million for treatment plant changes and a new ozone plant.

EPA Nutrient Criteria

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has requested that all states develop plans to establish

Nutrient Impacts to Kansas Water Resources and Proposal for Nutrient Reduction

water quality criteria for nutrients in surface waters. Kansas has focused on nutrient reduction rather than nutrient criteria as proposed in the *Kansas Surface Water Nutrient Reduction Plan*, because:

- Reduction targets have proved effective elsewhere in the U.S., notably Connecticut and North Carolina.
- Over half of the streams nationwide might not be able to meet the EPA-derived criteria because of natural conditions.
- Poorly developed nutrient criteria could cause loss of credibility for state agencies and lead to prolonged conflicts that would further delay any appreciable reduction in waterborne nutrients.

Nutrient Reduction in Kansas

Kansas currently addresses nutrient reduction through several state and federal programs, including TMDLs and the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS). Additional funding is needed to accelerate the progress of these initiatives and improve targeting to ensure the highest attainable results for the dollars spent.

FY 2013 Budget Request Proposal

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Best Management Practice (BMP) Implementation Areas to Address Nutrients and Sediment



REAP Legislative Committee (LC) 2011 Work Plan

REAP Mission: *To guide state and national actions that affect economic development in the region, and to adopt joint actions among member governments that enhance the regional economy.*

Legislative Committee Purpose: *Identify legislative issues of regional concern and recommend legislative action at the state or federal level to REAP. In particular the LC monitors the progress on the annual legislative priorities and since 2000 has provided guidance to the legislative liaison as issues arise. The LC also develops and recommends legislative priorities to REAP for the following year.*

- 1) **Provide a unified voice** to promote regional economic development.
 - a) Collaborate with private, non-profit, and public sector stakeholders on regional economic issues.
 - i) Expand the composition of the Legislative Committee to include representation from various industries and groups.
 - ii) Evaluate methods to engage the business community through increased participation and communication.
 - b) Strengthen relationships with existing partners.
 - i) Evaluate REAP representation on WAMPO.
 - c) Encourage dialogue on regional economic development.
 - i) Evaluate process for determining legislative priorities to increase participation.
 - d) Instill regional identity through coordinated branding.

- 2) **Guide state and national policies** that impact regional economic development.
 - a) Engage local leadership to represent the region at the state and national level.
 - i) Identify and make REAP members aware of legislative issues of significance to South Central Kansas and promote engagement.
 - ii) Develop and implement ongoing communication procedures between REAP and area legislators.
 - iii) Coordinate local leadership, including public and private sectors, when appropriate and on an as needed basis to engage in the state legislative process on REAP supported issues.
 - iv) Coordinate with member jurisdictions to encourage promotion of issues with Congressional delegation.
 - v) Develop a local government's guide to lobbying.
 - b) Develop relationships with state and federal governmental officials.
 - i) Invite state and national legislators to attend REAP meetings and events.
 - ii) Invite officials from the local offices of the Governor and Congressional delegation to participate with the Committee.
 - c) Establish a process to identify policies affecting specific industries.
 - d) Coordinate a unified agenda for regional economic development.
 - i) Create a process for legislative agenda items to be submitted and selected for REAP's priorities.

- 3) **Engage stakeholders** on issues shaping our regional economy.
 - a) Provide regional forums that connect REAP membership with private, non-profit, and public sector stakeholders.
 - i) Conduct an annual regional legislative policy summit that includes relevant speakers and topics.
 - ii) Coordinate and sponsor issue specific forum by fall 2011.
 - b) Conduct outreach on the purpose and accomplishments of REAP.
 - i) Develop and schedule on-going community visitations to provide updates to councils and commissions on the purpose, goals, and status of REAP.
 - c) Involve REAP membership in educational opportunities.

- 4) **Support inter-jurisdictional planning** on issues affecting economic development.
 - a) Promote the benefits of a sustainable regional economy.
 - i) Coordinate local activities when appropriate to engage citizens in the process of sustainability planning.
 - b) Determine REAP's role in regional planning.
 - i) Initiate activities to engage REAP in regional transportation planning.
 - c) Engage professional staff in multiple jurisdictions for sustainable planning.

- 5) **Lead the region** in addressing future economic needs.
 - a) Create a vision for regional economic development through REAP.
 - i) Develop an ongoing branding/marketing strategy.
 - ii) Develop a communication plan with media contacts to disseminate information.
 - b) Determine the organizational capacity to support the future structure and needs of REAP.
 - i) Monitor progress on legislative priorities for 2011 and give guidance to legislative liaison as issues arise.
 - ii) Recommend legislative priorities to REAP for the 2012 legislative session.
 - c) Be proactive in identifying and discussing emerging issues.
 - i) Identify speakers to provide information on emerging issues.
 - ii) Monitor and report issues of regional concern from attending conferences, organization meetings, and visiting with member communities.

Item

2012 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule

Background

In 2011, the Legislative Committee scheduled monthly meetings for the fourth Friday of each month.

For 2012 it is advised that the meetings continue to be working lunches from Noon to 1:30 and be held at the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Administrative Offices, 150 N. Main, Wichita, unless otherwise indicated.

Staff recommends continuation of meetings on the 4th Friday of each month unless there is a conflict.

Meetings are not held if there is no business before the committee.

4th Friday Schedule

January 27, 2012

February 24, 2012

March 30, 2012 (5th Friday – Spring Break)

April 27, 2012

May 25, 2012

June 22, 2012

No meetings in July, August, September (Listening Tour)

October 26, 2012

November 16, 2012 (3rd Friday – Thanksgiving)

December 21, 2012 (3rd Friday – Christmas)

Listening Tour for 2012

July, August, September

Potential Date for 2012 Legislative Policy Summit

Thursday, December 6, 2012

Recommended Action

Approve meeting schedule.

Item

2011 REAP Policy Summit

Background

It was determined in the 2011-13 REAP Strategic Plan that REAP will guide state and national policies that impact regional economic development by engaging local leadership to represent the region at the state and national level through awareness, communication and coordination. The Committee identified use of an annual regional legislative policy summit that includes relevant speakers and topics as an activity for this goal to be completed in 2011.

The Committee Chair directed staff to develop in conjunction with several partners the South Central Kansas Legislative Policy Summit to prepare for the 2012 legislative session. The Policy Summit has been scheduled for *Thursday, December 8, 2011 at the Drury-Broadview Hotel in Downtown Wichita*. A major change this year is that the Summit will be a half day event, starting at approximately 2:30 pm and ending with a reception at 5:00 PM. In addition, the reception will also serve as the REAP December Board meeting and celebration.

The issues that have been identified below are looked at as an opportunity to highlight the strengths and needs of South Central Kansas. Many of the issues will be simple updates, but some will be more in depth discussions. Following is a draft schedule and those potential issues:

Tentative Schedule

2:30 PM	Welcome and Introductory Remarks
2:45 PM	Keynote and/or Panel
3:30 PM	General Sessions
5:00 PM	Closing Remarks with Reception/REAP Celebration to immediately follow

General Session Issues

Keynote Suggestion: Understanding our Economy: Contributions and Returns

The South Central Kansas Economy – *Dr. John Wong or Jeremy Hill*

(Could have a panel that would discuss the economy from different angles as a follow-up, perhaps using different sectors of our economy and could even approach taxation and economical development from the local perspective)

Proposed Topics to Highlight

- **Affordable Airfares**
- **Local Economic Development**
- **Trade**
- **Aviation/Manufacturing**
- **Training/Workforce Development**
- **New Opportunities (Wind/Medical)**
- **Healthcare (Med School/Dental/Pharmacy)**
- **Water**