



Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP)

Meeting Agenda

8:00 a.m., December 13, 2010

National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT), Bldg 300, Room S206
4004 N. Webb Rd, Wichita, KS 67226
Mayor Kristey Williams, Chair

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mayor Kristey Williams

II. Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2010 Meeting: Mayor Kristey Williams

Recommended Action: Approve or modify minutes as needed.

III. Special Presentation: Downtown Wichita Master Plan – Mr. Scott Knebel

IV. Regional Business Items

1. Report of the Executive Committee: Mayor Kristey Williams

The Executive Committee is recommending 2011 Legislative Priorities and Operating Budgets.

Recommended actions:

- 1) *the adoption of the 2011 REAP Legislative Priorities;*
- 2) *continuance of the REAP 2010 work plans pending completion of the strategic planning process and revisions of work plans for 2011;*
- 3) *that the REAP budgets for calendar year 2011 be adopted;*
- 4) *that staffing assistance to REAP be provided by the Center for Urban Studies, Wichita State University, during calendar year 2011;*
- 5) *that REAP enter into contract with Bruno & Associates for legislative liaison to REAP for 2011.*

2. Report of the Legislative Committee: Council Member Jeff Longwell

3. Report of the Economic Development Committee: Commissioner Dave Unruh

A report will be provided on the actions taken by the Chief Elected Officials Board.

Recommended actions:

- 1) *Authorize the WA Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Wichita State University Center for Economic Development and Business Research for a composites industry wage survey not to exceed \$6,700 pending final legal review.*
- 2) *Ratify the actions taken by the Chief Elected Officials Board as appropriate.*

4. Report of the Water Resources Committee: Mayor Willis Heck

A report on the recent meetings of the WRC and the upcoming scheduled committee meetings.

5. Reports of Regional Committees and Organizations

- *Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition: Mayor Kristey Williams*
- *Mid-Continent Airport Advisory Board: Mayor Willis Heck*
- *KansasBio: Mr. Joe Yager*
- *Report on Visioneering: Mr. Joe Yager*

6. Report of the Chief Executive Officer: Mr. Joe Yager

Recommended Action for 2-6: Receive and file reports.

V. Unscheduled Business Items and Updates

VI. Special Presentation and NCAT Tour: Ms. Sheree Utash, Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs/Learner Services, Wichita Area Technical College (WATC)

VI. Adjourn (The next REAP meeting will be *Monday, January 10, 2011*, at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex, 29th and Oliver).

Meeting Minutes October 4, 2010
Hughes Metropolitan Complex, 29th and Oliver
Mayor Kristey Williams, Chairman

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Kristey Williams, City of Augusta, called the meeting to order; members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

II. Congressional Candidates Forum

The REAP Board welcome congressional candidates for the 4th district, State Representative Raj Goyle (D) and, Mike Pomero (R). Mayor Kristey Williams provided a brief introduction of each candidate, and each candidate was then given 15 minutes to provide information about themselves and their platforms. REAP members followed up with questions concerning economic development, job retention, and renewable energy sources.

III. Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2010 Meeting

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, moved (Mayor Willis Heck, Newton) to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Regional Business Items

1. Report of the Executive Committee

Mayor Williams provided the report of the Executive Committee noting that the committee met on September 29, 2010 and approved the quarterly payments to Wichita State University and the Hugo Wall School for REAP staffing and operating expenses, and requested the approval of the full board.

Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, moved (Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope) to approve the third quarter financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Williams also noted that to date, REAP has not received the \$5 million from the Kansas Department of Commerce. Joe Yager, Chief Executive Officer for REAP noted that REAP has received the official letter notifying that the funds are to be transferred shortly. Mayor Williams concluded her report by noting that the REAP Annual Retreat will be held November 1st. In preparation for the retreat she requested that board members complete the annual REAP electronic survey.

2. Report of the Legislative Committee

Mayor Williams provided the report of the Legislative Committee noting that the Committee held a Regional Transportation meeting on September 16th to discuss the 34 projects proposed in the T-Works program. The meeting brought together staff and elected officials from multiple jurisdictions within the REAP region. In an effort to summarize the perspectives presented at the meeting, the committee requested that staff put together a one-page document detailing the project priorities of the REAP region. The local consult meeting with KDOT will be held October 28th, all REAP members are encouraged to attend. Mayor Williams concluded her report by reminding the board that the REAP South Central Kansas Legislative Policy Summit will be held on December 2nd at the Courtyard Marriott in Old Town.

3. Report of the Economic Development Committee

Commissioner Unruh provided the report of the Economic Development Committee, noting that the Committee has concluded the strategic focusing process with Dr. John Wong and staff has been directed to put together a brief summary of the findings. Area economic development professionals have collaborated with Workforce Alliance to convene the area regional economic development partners. Commissioner Unruh then asked Keith Lawing, Executive Director of the Workforce Alliance provided a brief update on the National Emergency Grant.

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The Chief Elected Officials Board approved the action taken by the Workforce Alliance Board of Directors to extend the contract on 150 N. Main. Commissioner Unruh concluded his report by requesting action from the full board to ratify the actions of the Chief Elected Officials Board.

Commissioner Unruh moved (Mayor Keith DeHaven, Sedgwick) to ratify the actions taken by the Chief Elected Officials Board. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Report of the Water Resources Committee

Mayor Willis Heck provided the report of the Water Resources Committee. Mayor Heck cited that his report was available for full review on page 18 of the agenda packet. The WRC survey will be available next Monday and Mayor Heck encouraged everyone to take part in the survey. Mayor Heck concluded his report by noting that Mr. Dane Baxa, Executive Officer for the Water Resources Committee has visited most the 29 WRC member communities, it is anticipated that Mr. Baxa will visit all WRC member communities by the November 15th WRC Retreat.

5. Reports from REAP Representation on Regional Committees and Organizations

Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition

Mayor Williams had no report.

Mid-Continent Airport Advisory Board

Mayor Heck reported that the board has voted to move the new terminal project forward. The issue will now move on to the Wichita City Council. The advisory board will meet again later on today.

KansasBio

Mr. Yager directed members to page 20 of the agenda packet and noted that on October 5th, REAP will be collaborating with KansasBio to facilitate a Hot Team Meeting at the National Center for Aviation Training, Mr. Yager encouraged members to attend if their schedule permits.

Visioneering Wichita

Mr. Yager reported that his full report is available on page 21 of the agenda packet. The annual City-to-City delegation will leave Sunday for Louisville. The focus of the trip will be downtown development and regionalism.

6. Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Yager provided a brief report on upcoming events noting the upcoming Economic Outlook and LKM Conference. The REAP survey will be forwarded out following the meeting via e-mail, members are encouraged to share their thoughts and suggestions. The results of the survey will be shared at the Annual REAP Retreat on November 1st. Mr. Yager concluded his report by providing a brief overview of REAP milestones. Mr. Yager's presentation in its entirety is available on the REAP website.

Commissioner Jeff Masterson, Butler County moved (Herb Llewellyn, El Dorado) to receive and file reports. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Unscheduled Business Items and Updates

There were no unscheduled business items or updates.

V. Adjourn

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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REAP Attendance 10/4/2010	
Members and Alternates	Jurisdiction
Mayor Kristey Williams	Augusta
Commissioner Jeff Masterson	Butler County
Ms. Diana Brooks	Colwich
Mr. Kent Brown	Clearwater
Mayor Dion Avello	Derby
Mr. Herb Llewellyn	El Dorado
Commissioner Chip Westfall	Harvey County
Commissioner Marge Roberson	Harvey County
Mr. Bob Jackson	Kechi
Council Member Becky Bouska	Maize
Mayor Terry Somers	Mount Hope
Mayor Willis Heck	Newton
Commissioner Jim Nickel	Newton
Ms. Kathy Raney	Rose Hill
Mayor Keith DeHaven	Sedgwick
Commissioner Dave Unruh	Sedgwick County
Commissioner Garey Martin	Sumner County
Guests and Staff	
Representative Raj Goyle	Kansas District 4
Mr. Mike Pompeo	Congressional Candidate
Mr. Tom Bruno	Bruno & Associates
Ms. Debra Teufel	GWEDC
Mr. John Waltner	Harvey County
Mr. Harlen Priddle	K-96 Corridor Association
Mr. Randy Riggs	Newton
Mr. Dale Goter	Wichita
Mr. Keith Lawing	Workforce Alliance
Ms. Misty Bruckner	WSU
Ms. Angela Buzard	WSU
Dr. Ed Flentje	WSU
Ms. Debbie Franklin	WSU
Ms. Gayle Martin	WSU
Mr. Joe Yager	WSU
Mr. Dane Baxa	WSU
Ms. Nicole Bailey	WSU
Ms. Becky Eby	WSU

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Report of the Executive Committee

The REAP Executive Committee met on December 7, 2010, to take action on the 2011 REAP work plans and budget. The following report is provided:

REAP Staff Review

The Executive Committee held an executive session to hold annual review of REAP Chief Executive Officer Joe Yager and REAP Executive Officer of Water Resources Dane Baxa with REAP Senior Consultant Dr. Ed Flentje, Wichita State University and Ms. Misty Bruckner, Wichita State University.

REAP 2011 Legislative Priorities

Based on the recommendation of the REAP Legislative Committee, the REAP Executive Committee recommends the following REAP legislative priorities for 2011:

- 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.
 - business-driven technical education and training that supports the regional economy.
- 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 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.

REAP Work Plan for 2011

Strategic Planning Process

With changes in REAP leadership, current and anticipated requests from other organizations, and the challenging economic environment, a strategic planning process was leave as is to reinforce the value of the REAP organization, strengthen commitment to the REAP mission and set forth a framework for the direction of the REAP organization.

In coordination with the REAP strategic planning process, staff conducted individual interviews with key partners and stakeholders (GWEDC, SCKEDD, WA, WAMPO, WSU, and Regional Economic Development Partners group) to identify critical issues for the REAP organization. In addition, at the beginning of October, staff conducted strategic planning focus groups with former REAP leaders and

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city and county managers. The meetings and interviews were to help identify REAP's strengths, determine current and future challenges, and help refine its role and purpose for the region. In addition, staff utilized the annual survey to collect data from the REAP membership at large on current operations. REAP then held a strategic planning session on Monday, November 1, 2010, at the Sedgwick County Extension Office. This process was designed to engage REAP members and stakeholders in discussion on the future direction and sustainability of REAP over the next three to five years. All documents and materials from the retreat are available on the [REAP website](#).

The retreat included **Mayor Laura McConwell** (Mission) who is a current board member of the Mid America Regional Council (MARC) in Kansas City who focused on the importance of jurisdictions working together across traditional boundaries. There was also a panel response that allowed participants to hear perspectives from business, workforce development, and local government. The panel included **Mr. Steve Martens** (The Martens Companies), **Mr. Keith Lawing** (Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas), and former REAP Chair **Mr. John Waltner** (Harvey County). Participants also reviewed a report on a comparative analysis of other regional organizations and held group discussions of issues that REAP may face in the next 3-5 years. The retreat was facilitated by **Ms. Misty Bruckner** of the Hugo Wall School, Wichita State University.

Proposed Roles

The following roles were developed through the input of the stakeholder interviews, survey results, and focus groups.

- 1) **Provide a regional voice** to support fundamental economic development.
- 2) **Educate stakeholders** on topics of economic interest to our region.
- 3) **Guide state and national policy issues** that impact economic development of our region.
- 4) **Support regional planning efforts** in issues impacting the economic environment.
- 5) **Become proactive in identifying emerging issues** and encouraging dialogue.

Expectations Moving Forward

The retreat informed the planning process, including the identification of roles and strategies for REAP to consider. These were then used in combination with information from the annual surveys for initial discussion of work plans or action steps for 2011 at the November meetings of the Economic Development, Legislative, and Water Resources Committees. The work of the Committees was assembled in draft form and presented to the Executive Committee for review. Based on its review, the Executive Committee recommends the continuance of the REAP 2010 work plans pending completion of the strategic planning process and revisions of work plans for 2011.

REAP Budget Proposal for 2011

2011 REAP Operating Budget

REAP has assigned the Executive Committee responsibility for recommending an annual operating budget to REAP. In performing this assignment the Executive Committee has the benefit of guidance on priorities from the November 1 REAP retreat, committee recommendations and a budget proposal from the Executive Officer.

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The 2011 operating budget proposal is based on the following:

1) Revenues available to REAP for calendar year 2011 are projected at \$157,851. The revenue projections for calendar year 2011 are based on the following assumptions: a) REAP will receive assessments of \$106,311 from the current REAP membership of twenty-nine cities and seven counties (see attached assessments); b) REAP will apply 2010 interest earnings from the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program fund of \$25,000 to administration of KAAP; c) REAP will receive funding of \$16,000 for performing oversight duties with respect to implementation of the Workforce Investment Act; d) interest earnings projected at \$2,200; and e) 2010 carryover projected at \$8,340.

2) REAP continues to administer the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program in calendar year 2011.

3) The REAP Economic Development Committee continues to serve as the CEOB for implementation of the Workforce Investment Act and perform oversight duties in calendar year 2011.

4) The Center for Urban Studies, Wichita State University, continues to provide staff support to REAP in calendar year 2011, as follows:

- a) performing a secretariat function for REAP, that is, preparing agenda and organizing regular meetings and committee meetings of REAP, scheduling invited guests, disseminating meeting agenda and materials, recording minutes of meetings, keeping official records of REAP, executing official communications, and assisting REAP governing board in identifying regional issues and conducting research on those regional issues;
- b) assisting and advising the Executive Committee and Treasurer of REAP on financial management of REAP, including budgeting, collecting revenues, investing, accounting, and reporting on REAP finances;
- c) assisting and advising the REAP Executive Committee in administering the Kansas Affordable Airfare Program, including specifically: 1) performing financial management of the program; 2) reporting on program performance; and 3) serving as liaison with state and local officials in implementation of the program;
- d) providing consultation and technical assistance in addressing priorities identified in the REAP work plan for 2011, specifically staffing the Executive Committee, the Legislative Committee, and the Economic Development Committee and conducting research in support of the issues before those committees;
- e) providing consultation and technical assistance to the Local Elected Officials Board in fulfilling its duties in implementation of Workforce Investment Act of 1998; and serving as liaison between Local Elected Officials Board and Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas; and
- f) maintaining the REAP website.

4) Topeka-based representation is engaged by REAP in calendar year 2011.

Note: The Operating Budget is on the following pages.

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REAP Revenues

Annual fees for membership in REAP are assessed each calendar year, in accord with REAP Bylaws as follows:

Cities

- *Cities with population above 10,000: \$3,000 plus \$.065 per capita.*
- *Cities with population between 3,000 and 10,000: \$1,000 plus \$.065 per capita.*
- *Cities with population under 3,000: \$200 plus \$.065 per capita.*

Counties

- *Counties with population above 50,000: \$3,000 plus \$.025 per capita*
- *Counties with population less than 50,000: \$1,500 plus \$.025 per capita*

REAP will also receive funding of \$16,000 for performing oversight duties with respect to implementation of the Workforce Investment Act and apply interest earnings of \$25,000 to administration of the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program.

Historical Revenue Projections, 2008 through 2011

	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Projected	2011 Proposed
Annual Membership Assessments	\$100,627	\$105,850	\$102,100	\$106,311
Special Assessments	-	-	-	-
Workforce Oversight Agreement	\$22,190	\$17,000	\$16,000	\$16,000
Kansas Affordable Airfares Program	\$25,000	-	\$25,000	\$25,000
Other Revenues Received (interest, etc.)	\$5,160	\$2,214	\$523	\$2,200
Carryover Funds	\$5,574	\$19,898	\$1,033	\$8,340
Total Revenues Available	\$158,551	\$144,962	\$144,656	\$157,851

Projected Revenues for 2011

Revenues	Amount	Description
Annual Membership Assessments	\$106,311	Membership dues
Special Assessments	-	Special assessments
Workforce Agreement	\$16,000	CEOB oversight duties
Kansas Affordable Airfares Program	\$25,000	KAAP administration
Other Revenues Received	\$2,200	Interest and other revenues received (estimated)
Carryover Funds	\$8,340	Prior-year carryover (estimated)
Total	\$157,851	

Note: Table of annual membership assessments for calendar year 2011 is on the following page.

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Assessments of REAP Members for Calendar-Year 2011

Jurisdiction	Population*	Assessment
Andover	10,578	\$3,688
Arkansas City	10,977	\$3,714
Augusta	8,743	\$1,568
Bel Aire	6,873	\$1,447
Bentley	526	\$234
Benton	808	\$253
Butler County	64,084	\$4,602
Cheney	2,084	\$335
Clearwater	2,437	\$358
Colwich	1,429	\$293
Conway Springs	1,186	\$277
Derby	22,923	\$4,490
El Dorado	12,643	\$3,822
Garden Plain	868	\$256
Goddard	4,048	\$1,263
Halstead	1,917	\$325
Harvey County	34,247	\$2,356
Haysville	10,496	\$3,682
Hesston	3,829	\$1,249
Hutchinson	40,795	\$5,652
Kechi	1,796	\$317
Kingman County	7,571	\$1,689
Maize	3,346	\$1,217
McPherson County	28,866	\$2,222
Mount Hope	872	\$257
Mulvane	5,913	\$1,384
Newton	18,437	\$4,198
Park City	8,029	\$1,522
Reno County	63,357	\$4,584
Rose Hill	4,091	\$1,266
Sedgwick	1,694	\$310
Sedgwick County	490,864	\$15,272
Sumner County	23,488	\$2,087
Valley Center	6,638	\$1,431
Wellington	7,677	\$1,499
Wichita	372,186	\$27,192
Total		\$106,311

* Population is based on the 2010 State certification.

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REAP Expenditures

Proposed REAP Operating Budget for 2011

Expenditures	Amount	Description
Staffing		
Chief Executive Officer	\$71,917	Compensation and benefits
Graduate assistant	\$15,951	Compensation and benefits
<i>Staffing Subtotal</i>	\$87,868	
Operating		
Current office expense	\$8,610	Computing, telephone, fax, equipment, etc.
Consultation and technical assistance	\$10,000	Addtl assistance through WSU or other sources
Other operating—general	\$6,000	Meeting expense, memberships, travel, etc.
Other operating—KAAP	\$2,500	Accounting, auditing, reporting, legal counsel
Legislative liaison	\$28,000	Topeka-based representation, receptions, travel
Project funds	\$14,873	
<i>Operating Subtotal</i>	\$69,983	
Total	\$157,851	

Proposed REAP Operating Budget for 2011, by Fund

Expenditures	REAP	KAAP	WA	Totals
Staffing	\$70,868	\$4,000	\$13,000	\$87,868
Operating				
Current office expense	\$6,610	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$8,610
Consultation and technical assistance	\$9,000	\$1,000	-	\$10,000
Other operating—general	\$4,000	-	\$2,000	\$6,000
Other operating—KAAP	-	\$2,500	-	\$2,500
Legislative liaison	\$28,000	-	-	\$28,000
Project funds	\$13,373	\$1,500	-	\$14,873
Total	\$131,851	\$10,000	\$16,000	\$157,851
<i>2010 Adopted Budget Totals</i>	<i>\$130,020</i>	<i>\$6,500</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>	<i>\$151,520</i>
<i>Difference 10-11 (\$)</i>	<i>\$1,831</i>	<i>\$3,500</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$6,331</i>
<i>Difference 10-11 (%)</i>	<i>+1.4%</i>	<i>+15.4%</i>	<i>+6.7%</i>	<i>+4.2%</i>

Total Proposed REAP Operating Budget for 2011

Total Revenues	Total Expenditures	Total Remaining Balance
\$157,851	\$157,851	\$0

Note: The 2011 Proposed Water Resources Committee Budget is on the following page.

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REAP Water Resources Committee Budget

REAP has also assigned the Executive Committee responsibility for recommending an annual Water Resources budget to REAP. In performing this assignment the Executive Committee has the benefit of guidance on priorities from the REAP Water Resources Committee and a budget proposal from the Chief Executive Officer.

The 2011 budget proposal is based on the following:

1) Revenues available to REAP for calendar year 2011 are projected at \$126,630. The revenue projections for calendar year 2011 are based on the following assumptions: a) REAP will receive assessments of \$82,850 from the current WRC membership of twenty-one cities and six counties (see attached assessments); b) interest earnings projected at \$3,000; and c) 2010 carryover projected at \$37,780.

2) The Executive Officer of Water Resources will serve at 0.90 FTE for 2011.

3) The Center for Urban Studies, Wichita State University, continues to provide staff support to the REAP Water Resources Committee in calendar year 2011, as follows:

- a) Performing a secretariat function for the committee, that is, preparing agendas and organizing committee, subcommittee, and special committee meetings, scheduling invited guests, disseminating meeting agenda materials, recording minutes of meetings, keeping official records for the committee, executing official communications, and assisting the committee in identifying regional issues and conducting research on those regional issues.
- b) Identify, monitor and update members on any legislative issues or initiatives regarding state water resources.
- c) Provide consultation and technical assistance in addressing priorities identified in the Committee Work Plan for 2011, specifically staffing the Water Resources Committee, Technical Subcommittee as needed, and any short-term special purpose committees, and conducting research in support of the issues before those committees.
- d) Continue to distribute the WaterWise newsletter informing committee members as well as other individuals about regional water related meetings and activities, with particular attention to policy related issues.
- e) Develop and coordinate ongoing educational forums including an annual regional water conference.
- f) Identify additional grant opportunities through the state and federal government to assist in water resource planning and development.
- g) Attend and report on the meetings and activities for the following water related committees and agencies as necessary:
 - Kansas Water Authority
 - Groundwater Management District #2
 - Lower Arkansas and Walnut Basin Advisory Committees
 - Kansas Dept of Health and Environment (regional meetings)
 - Kansas Water Office (regional meetings)

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- Environmental Protection Agency (regional meetings)
- KDA Division of Water Resources (regional meetings)
- Chamber Environmental Resources Committee
- Kansas Rural Water Association
- Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (regional meetings)
- Various agency related conferences in the region and state

4) Topeka-based representation is engaged by the REAP WRC in calendar year 2011.

Note: The WRC Budget is on the following pages.

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WRC Revenues

Annual fees for membership in REAP are assessed each calendar year, in accord with REAP Bylaws as follows:

Cities

- *Cities with population above 20,000: \$4,000 plus \$.075 per capita.*
- *Cities with population between 10,000 and 20,000: \$3,000 plus \$.075 per capita.*
- *Cities with population between 3,000 and 10,000: \$1,000 plus \$.075 per capita.*
- *Cities with population under 3,000: \$300 plus \$.075 per capita.*

Counties

- *Counties: \$800 flat base assessment*

Assessments of WRC Members for Calendar-Year 2011

Jurisdiction	Population*	Assessment
Andover	10,581	\$3,794
Arkansas City	10,977	\$3,823
Bel Aire	6,873	\$1,515
Benton	808	\$361
Butler Co.	64,084	\$800
Clearwater	2,437	\$483
Derby	22,923	\$5,719
El Dorado	12,643	\$3,948
Goddard	4,048	\$1,304
Harvey Co.	34,247	\$800
Hesston	3,829	\$1,287
Hutchinson	40,795	\$7,060
Kechi	1,796	\$435
Kingman Co.	7,571	\$800
Maize	3,346	\$1,251
McPherson	13,323	\$3,999
McPherson Co.	28,866	\$800
Mt. Hope	872	\$365
Newton	18,437	\$4,383
Park City	8,029	\$1,602
Rose Hill	4,091	\$1,307
Sedgwick	1,694	\$427
Sedgwick Co.	490,864	\$800
Sumner Co.	23,488	\$800
Valley Center	6,638	\$1,498
Wellington	7,677	\$1,576
Wichita	372,186	\$31,914
Total		\$82,850

* Population is based on the 2010 State certification.

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Projected WRC Revenues for 2011

Revenues	Amount	Description
Annual Membership Assessments	\$82,850	Membership dues
Special Assessments	-	Special assessments
Other Revenues Received	\$3,000	Interest and other revenues received (estimated)
Carryover Funds	\$37,780	Prior-year carryover (estimated)
Total	\$126,630	

WRC Expenditures

Proposed REAP WRC Budget for 2011

Expenditures	Amount	Description
Staffing		
Executive Officer	\$48,384	Compensation and benefits
Graduate assistant	\$15,951	Compensation and benefits
<i>Staffing Subtotal</i>	<i>\$64,335</i>	
Operating		
Current office expense	\$6,430	Computing, telephone, fax, equipment, etc.
Consultation and technical assistance	\$5,000	Addtl assistance through WSU or other sources
Other operating—general	\$7,000	Meeting expense, memberships, travel, etc.
Legislative liaison	\$5,000	Topeka-based representation, receptions, travel
Project funds	\$15,000	
<i>Operating Subtotal</i>	<i>\$38,430</i>	
Total	\$102,765	

Total Proposed REAP WRC Budget for 2011

Total Revenues	Total Expenditures	Total Remaining Balance
\$126,630	\$102,765	\$23,865

REAP Recapture of Unexpended Funds

The REAP Executive Committee was informed that REAP's contract with Wichita State University that structures quarterly payments, along with changes in staffing and other savings over the past two years, has accumulated a significant carry-over in funds. REAP has a balance in excess of \$9,000 authorized and the Water Resources Committee has a balance in excess of \$34,000. These funds have already been authorized by REAP, and the Executive Committee determined that these funds should be applied to the 2011 contract with Wichita State University. The only change to the REAP budgets will be realized in the year-end carry-over, which the Executive Committee will review in the next budget process.

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REAP Meeting Schedule for 2011

The Executive Committee took action to continue regular monthly meetings in 2011 on the second Monday of the month at 8:00 a.m. and will be held to the Hughes Metropolitan Complex, 5015 E. 29th Street North, unless otherwise indicated.

State Affordable Airfare Fund - Legislative Audit

On Friday, November 12, 2010 REAP staff, including Senior Consultant Dr. Ed Flentje, Chief Executive Officer Joe Yager, Executive Officer of Water Resources Dane Baxa, and Graduate Assistant Nicole Bailey, along with Mr. Jeremy Hill of the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at WSU, met with staff members of the Legislative Division of Post Audit. Legislative Post Auditor Scott Frank, Audit Manager Christine Clarke, and Auditor Lynn Retz attended for an introductory meeting regarding the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program. Earlier that day the team of auditors met with Chris Chronis of Sedgwick County.

Staff took this request seriously and provided the auditors with packets of prepared information regarding the program and REAP in general. The initial review was positive as we provided all of the requested documentation; however, the process is not complete and staff is currently working with Ms. Retz who is the lead on our audit to provide additional information. The auditors expect to complete this process by the start of the 2011 legislative session. Staff will keep the Executive Committee informed as we go through this process.

Next Committee Meeting

The Committee has tentatively scheduled to meet on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 to discuss the 2011 work plan and quarterly financial responsibilities.

Recommended actions:

- 1) the adoption of the 2011 REAP Legislative Priorities;**
- 2) continuance of the REAP 2010 work plans pending completion of the strategic planning process and revisions of work plans for 2011;**
- 3) that the REAP budgets for calendar year 2011 be adopted;**
- 4) that staffing assistance to REAP be provided by the Center for Urban Studies, Wichita State University, during calendar year 2011;**
- 5) that REAP enter into contract with Bruno & Associates for legislative liaison to REAP for 2011.**

Submitted by the Executive Committee:

Mayor Kristey Williams of Augusta, REAP Chair

Commissioner Garey Martin of Sumner County, REAP Vice-Chair and Treasurer

Commissioner Dave Unruh of Sedgwick County, Economic Development Committee Chair

Council Member Jeff Longwell of Wichita, Legislative Committee Chair

Commissioner Willis Heck of Newton, Water Resources Committee Chair

Mayor Terry Somers of Mount Hope, at-large representative

Commissioner Chip Westfall of Harvey County, at-large representative

REAP Agenda Item IV (2)

Report of the Legislative Committee

The REAP Legislative Committee held a meeting on November 19, 2010. The following report is provided:

Continuation of Legislative Liaison Contract for 2011

Mr. Tom Bruno, Bruno & Associates, has served as the legislative liaison to REAP since 2006. The Legislative Committee evaluated performance and recommended continuing this agreement for 2011. The terms of this new agreement run from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Payments for services total \$24,000 plus other expenses as deemed appropriate and will be made on a monthly basis.

South Central Kansas Policy Summit Review

REAP served as the host of the 2010 South Central Kansas Legislative Policy Summit, held on December 2 in Wichita at the Courtyard Marriott at Old Town. Overall attendance for the half-day event was 74, including 16 state legislators. REAP co-sponsored the luncheon with the Wichita Independent Business Association, expanding the conference to include members of the private sector. Congressman-elect Mike Pompeo gave the keynote address in which he laid out his expectations for his term and the new congress. Additionally, the following specific topics were discussed:

- Aviation & Manufacturing – An update on the current status of the aviation and manufacturing industries in South Central Kansas presented by Jim Walters, Cessna Aircraft Company.
- Workforce Development – An overview of how secondary education and business can work together to boost economic development and spur job creation presented by Dr. Jackie Vietti.
- Affordable Airfares – An overview of the history of KAAP and the impact it has on the region, presented by Joe Yager, REAP.
- The Kansas Budget -An analysis of the State of Kansas Budget Outlook by Alan Conroy, Kansas Legislative Research Department.
- Leading with Trade - Prescriptions for aiding a struggling economy and new industry identification presented by Karyn Page, Kansas World Trade Center.
- Transitioning the Economy – A panel discussion on how new initiatives such as CIBOR, WIRED, and NIAR and other research projects will assist the region in diversifying featuring Tom Aldag, NIAR; Deputy Secretary Caleb Asher, KS Department of Commerce; and Debbie Franklin, WSU.
- Perspectives on Water Issues – An overview of the importance of water to economic development by Earl Lewis, Kansas Water Office.
- Healthcare in Kansas – How the development of a 4-year medical program at KU School of Medicine-Wichita and the inclusion of a dental school at WSU exemplify the region's commitment to medical excellence featuring Claudia Blackburn, Sedgwick County; Randy Peterson, Via Christi; Dr. Jon Rosell, Medical Society of Sedgwick County.

Presentations from the event have been made available on a special page on the REAP website.

REAP Agenda Item IV (2)

Annual South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation Meeting

REAP has been invited to present its 2011 legislative priorities to area legislators at the annual delegation meeting scheduled for January 6, 2011 at the Marcus Welcome Center at Wichita State University. REAP will again serve as a co-host of a reception for elected officials in the region at the conclusion of the delegation meeting. The reception is expected to begin around 5:00 PM.

2011 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee agreed to hold its monthly meetings from Noon to 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month at the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Administrative Offices, 150 N. Main, Wichita, unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are not held if there is no business before the committee.

Communications Policy Request

The Committee received a request from Mr. Les Depperschmidt, AT&T, to discuss and possibly endorse increased investment and network infrastructure by requesting the State of Kansas to modernize its communications laws. A proposed endorsement letter was provided along with a presentation. The Committee directed Mr. Depperschmidt to keep them informed of any legislation that may be developed upon which time the Committee will review the appropriate response and forward to REAP.

Visioneering Unified Legislative Agenda Update

The Visioneering Unified Legislative Alliance (ULA) presented the 2011 Unified Legislative Agenda to the South Central Kansas Legislative delegation at the REAP Legislative Policy Summit. The following agenda was presented:

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. (2011: 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. (2011: maintain funding)
- Support for a Kansas Center for Innovation for Biomaterials in Orthopaedic Research in south-central-Kansas through the Kansas Bioscience Authority. (2011: ongoing funding)

General Infrastructure

- State support to maintain and expand low cost commercial air service from Mid-Continent Airport. (2011: maintain funding)
- Support for funding for Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project and maintenance of ongoing funding by becoming a Kansas Water Authority line item. (2011: maintain funding)
- Support for Kansas Small Business Development Centers (KSBDC) and maintenance of ongoing funding. (2011: maintain funding)

REAP Agenda Item IV (2)

Next Legislative Committee Meeting

The Committee will not meet in December, instead members are encouraged to attend the South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation meeting on January 6, 2011. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for **January 28, 2011 from Noon to 1:30 p.m..**

Submitted by the Legislative Committee:

Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita, Chairman

Mayor Kristey Williams, Augusta

Mr. Will Johnson, Butler County

Mayor Dion Avello, Derby

Ms. Stephanie Knebel, Derby

Mr. Bob Myers, Newton

Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County

Mr. Dale Goter, Wichita

REAP Agenda Item IV (3)

Report of the Economic Development Committee

NOTICE: Through an agreement entered into by counties in Local Area IV as defined by the State of Kansas, the Economic Development Committee (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. All EDC members are asked to participate, however, only those designated elected officials of the CEOB shall have a vote.

The REAP Economic Development Committee met on October 21 and November 18, 2010. The following details the business items that were discussed at the meeting:

2011 Economic Development Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee agreed to hold its monthly meetings from Noon to 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Administrative Offices, 150 N. Main, Wichita, unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are not held if there is no business before the committee.

Workforce Development Eagle Editorial

WA Chairman Mark Conway released the attached op-ed piece regarding WIA reauthorization which was published in the Sunday, November 11, 2010, Wichita Eagle. Please take a moment and read the article. It can also be accessed by going to:

<http://www.kansas.com/2010/11/14/1588322/congress-needs-to-act-on-work.html>

CEOB and Workforce Alliance Report

Composites industry wage survey procurement

On November 8, 2010, the Workforce Alliance issued an RFP for a composites industry wage survey. Staff is concerned that wage information being reported from composites manufacturers is lower than the actual current market, which is discouraging students from enrolling in composites training programs. A major contributing factor to the existing low wage data stems from the fact there is no labor code for "composites"; the current data is based off of fiberglass labor codes. The survey will also assist the Workforce Alliance in gauging future demand for workers from advanced manufacturing employers utilizing composites in production processes.

One proposal was received in response to the RFP. Wichita State University Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CEDBR) responded to the RFP at a cost of \$6,700. The proposal submitted by CEDBR meets all of the requirements of the RFP. Staff is negotiating the cost of the survey with WSU, but the final cost of the survey will not exceed \$6,700.

The WA Executive Committee took action and the CEOB is requested to take action to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Wichita State University Center for Economic Development and Business Research for a composites industry wage survey not to exceed \$6,700 pending final legal review.

Official REAP Appointment to the WA Board of Directors

The Committee took action to appoint Ms. Kriste Weber, Manager, Staffing, Human Resources, Cessna Aircraft Company has been nominated to the Workforce Alliance Board of Directors as a Private Sector member. The nomination was made by the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce. This appointment is for a three year term, to expire June 30, 2013. Kriste will be replacing Ms. Lisa Harms from Cessna, who has been transferred to a different position within the organization.

REAP Agenda Item IV (3)

Selection of Vendor for Website Design and Development.

The Workforce Alliance released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Website Redesign, hosting, and maintenance on September 9, 2010. The RFP closed on September 27, 2010 with a total of eight proposals received. An initial review of the proposals was performed to ensure all proposals meet the minimum requirements established. During that review it was determined that only four met the minimum requirements. The four qualifying proposals were then reviewed and scored by a staff team and two finalists were selected. Contracts were negotiated between both finalists. A summary of those contracts is below.

	Vision Internet	CivicPlus
Website Redesign	\$0.00	\$19,191.00
Annual Maintenance & Hosting first Year	\$3,600	\$0.00
Year 1 Costs	\$3,600	\$19,191
Annual Maintenance & Hosting 2 nd and 3 rd Years	\$3,600	\$3,819
Total Cost end of Year 3	\$10,800	\$26,829
4 th Year Redesign		Free after 4 years of consecutive service

The contracts are very similar with cost as the significant difference. Both finalists are highly qualified companies. The reviews performed by staff scored the two proposals very close with, Civic Plus scoring 78 and Vision scoring 81.

Staff requested the WA Executive Committee to make the final selection. All contracts and proposals were available for the board to review, but the only significant difference was cost, and the offer of a 4th year redesign for free from Civic Plus. The WA Executive Committee took action to authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreement with Vision Internet. ***Due to the amount of the contract the CEOB was also asked to authorize this action.***

2010 Summer Youth Employment Report and Youth Work Experience Initiative

The following report is provided on the 2010 Summer Youth Employment Report as provided by the Workforce Alliance staff.

Background

In late 2009, a taskforce was appointed by the Board of Directors to review the final report for the Summer Youth Employment Program. The task force made the following recommendations:

- Target the hard to serve
- Require work readiness training of all participants
- Increase participation in the outlying counties

REAP Agenda Item IV (3)

Demographics of the 2010 SYEP Program:

Over 700 applications were received with priority being given to the 2009 participants. As the taskforce requested, outreach to the youth serving organizations in the area allowed targeting the most in need, hard to serve youth population. 280 applicants met eligibility requirements and completed a plan for participation. All completed a work readiness course prior to being placed on a job site.

Outcomes:

- A total of 40 regional employers (some with multiple sites) provided jobs for 280 youth for a total of 36,295 hours over the summer earnings period.
- More than \$263,143 in direct wages and \$18,623 in supportive services were provided directly to youth. The 2009 evaluation of the SYEP found that \$1.00 of regional wage expenditure generated an additional wage earning of \$1.66.
- Non-monetary benefits are also likely realized as a result of summer employment. Participants were encouraged to take responsibility for their learning, to understand and manage their career options, and to develop social skills and increase their maturity level and understand the world of work.
- A WSU doctoral candidate is researching further the long term benefits of participation and will share the results with the Workforce Alliance.
- 228 surveys were sent to site supervisors asking them to rate their summer youth employee. 131 were returned with a majority rating the youth exceptional or good

Recommendations:

- Program be expanded to a year round “Internship”
- Private business be added to potential worksites
- Explore opportunities to secure non-WIA funding to expand the number of participants served
- Limit the number of internships managed by a single case manager to no more than 30 if all participants are in that component
- Require a detailed job description with outcomes for each placement
- Require a minimum number of site visits and personal contact with interns
- Retain and possibly expand the pre-employment work/life skills training
- Obligate \$3155-\$3296 (depending on job classification) for each intern if assigned maximum # of hours (320) plus additional program costs
- Staff should continue to work cooperatively to place youth at worksites from which they are the most likely to make significant improvements in their workplace skills and yet be successful.
- Staff should more closely scrutinize worksites for their ability to work with special populations of youth, such as those with disabilities or other significant barriers which could compromise their success in the workplace.
- Develop a plan for worksite supervisors to contact staff prior to releasing youth placed at their worksites in order to try to mediate a solution to any problems without removal of the youth whenever possible

REAP Agenda Item IV (3)

2010 Economic Development Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee holds its monthly meetings from Noon to 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Administrative Offices, 150 N. Main, Wichita, unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are not held if there is no business before the committee.

The Committee will not meet in December, in lieu of this meeting, members are invited to attend the Workforce Alliance Board of Directors meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2010, at the Wichita Workforce Center in the 3rd floor Multipurpose Room. The agenda and meeting materials will be sent out under separate cover.

We ask that you please confirm attendance via e-mail to Kelly Fuller at kfuller@workforce-ks.com by Tuesday, December 14, 2010 so staff can make the necessary arrangements.

Recommended actions:

- 1) **Authorize the WA Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Wichita State University Center for Economic Development and Business Research for a composites industry wage survey not to exceed \$6,700 pending final legal review.**
- 2) **Ratify the actions taken by the Chief Elected Officials Board as appropriate.**

Submitted by the Economic Development Committee:

*Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, Chairman

*Commissioner Jeff Masterson, Butler County

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County

*Commissioner Earl Reno, Kingman County

*Mayor Emil Bergquist, Park City

*Mayor Keith DeHaven, Sedgwick

*Commissioner Garey Martin, Sumner County

*Mayor Carl Brewer, Wichita

Ms. Allison Moeding, Derby (*ex officio*)

Mr. Allen Bell, Wichita (*ex officio*)

**Voting members on CEOB Business*



Posted on Sun, Nov. 14, 2010

Mark Conway: Congress needs to act on work-force training

By Mark Conway

The trends of the past three federal elections clearly show that the frustration of the American public is much stronger than any positive enthusiasm for either Democrats or Republicans. For most of us, it appears that too many members of Congress are preoccupied with trying to make the opposing party look bad and neglecting the real problems that are weakening the middle class and small businesses in this country.

Though there are uncompromising extremists on both the left and right, most voters want Congress to work together and come to agreement on ideas and legislation based on merits and public benefit, instead of which side of the aisle could score political points.

If the president and Congress are truly getting this message from the midterm elections, they need to find common ground and take action on legislation to help create jobs and get people back to work.

An easy and ready-made first step would be to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Despite strong and historic bipartisan support, this legislation has languished in Congress for more than seven years. Even though the need for skilled workers has been well-documented and employers have been sounding this alarm for more than a decade, neither party has made job training a priority.

A number of work-force bills have been introduced, but like many issues recently debated in Congress, partisan battles over minor elements such as the role of labor unions or faith-based organizations have prevented action on legislation that would benefit both employers and job seekers.

This has not been a policy battle generating headlines, but it is one of too many examples where philosophical differences have prevented progress on pragmatic legislation that traditionally has enjoyed support from both parties.

When the new Congress convenes in January, one of the first things it could do to support economic growth would be to reauthorize and improve the Workforce Investment Act. There are bipartisan drafted bills in both houses of Congress that could be acted upon immediately.

If the law's existing rules for on-the-job training support were more flexible, this legislation could be used as a strong incentive for businesses to hire new employees. Providing resources to help employers underwrite training costs and wages for new employees would grow small businesses and start getting people back to work, thus stimulating the economy.

Other elements of the Workforce Investment Act can help transition workers and equip them with specialized skills required in the fastest-growing employment sectors, especially health care, advanced manufacturing and information technology.

With the recent opening of the National Center for Aviation Training, and other high-quality education institutions such as Butler Community College and Wichita State University, job-training programs can have a particularly significant impact on the labor force in south-central Kansas.

As the members of the Kansas congressional delegation get to Washington, D.C., they should be aware of this fact and aggressively promote the Workforce Investment Act and other job-training programs that earn bipartisan support and lead to job growth in Kansas. This is what voters want to see.

Mark Conway is board chairman of the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas.

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REAP Agenda Item IV (4)

Report of the Water Resources Committee

Assistant Director of Kansas Water Office Speaks at REAP Legislative Policy Summit

Earl Lewis, Assistant Director of the Kansas Water Office, presented information at our 2010 REAP Legislative Policy Summit on December 2nd. He presented information on the Dam Safety and Rehabilitation Program, Easement on Navigable Rivers, WTAP Extension, Conservation as a Beneficial Use, and the 2011 State Water Plan Fund. For Mr. Lewis' complete presentation, please visit our [REAP Website](#).

REAP Water Resources Technical Sub-Committee Meeting Following REAP

The REAP Water Resources Technical Sub-Committee will be meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m. following the REAP meeting on December 13th. They will be discussing the REAP Water Resources Planner Scope of Work with the University of Kansas, the Financial Review of Service Territory Agreements, the sub-committee's role in 2011, and where to host the 2011 regional water conference. To obtain a complete agenda packet, please visit our [REAP Website](#).

Upcoming Regional Conferences

Kansas Natural Resources Conference

The 2011 Kansas Natural Resources Conference will be held in Wichita, Kansas, on January 20-21 at the Airport Hilton. This year's conference is titled Through the Haze – The Role of Fire on the Prairie. For more information on the conference and the call for papers please visit: <http://www.kaws.org/whats-new>.

Kansas Water Issues Forum: Kansas in Transition

The Kansas Water Office is now taking registrations for their Kansas in Transition water forum. The forum will be held at two separate location: Tuesday, February 22nd in Wichita, and Wednesday, February 23rd in Hays. Meetings are open to the first 150 registrants at each location. To register please visit, www.kwo.org and click on the Kansas Water Issues Forum button located on the right side of the screen.

2011 Kansas Rural Water Association Conference

The 2011 Kansas Rural Water Association Annual Conference will take place on March 29-31 in Wichita. Conference updates can be found at <http://www.krwa.net/conference>.

Upcoming meetings

- *GMD # 2 Meeting*: December 14, Halstead, KS (1:00 PM)
- *Kansas Water Authority Meeting*: December 15, Salina, KS (10:30 AM)
- *Kansas Water Authority Meeting*: January 26 & 27, Topeka, KS
- *Lower Arkansas Basin Advisory Committee Meeting*: March 30, Cheney, KS (9:00 AM)
- *Walnut Basin Advisory Committee Meeting*: March 30, Winfield, KS (6:30 PM)

Submitted by the Water Resources Committee:

Commissioner Willis Heck, Newton, Chair

REAP Agenda Item IV (5)

**Reports from REAP Representation on
Regional Committees and Organizations**

Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition

Mayor Kristey Williams

Mid-Continent Airport Advisory Board

Mayor Willis Heck

KansasBio

Mr. Joe Yager

Visioneering Wichita

Mr. Joe Yager

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

REAP Agenda Item IV (6)

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Update

HUD Awards Announced

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the awards for nearly \$100 million in new grants to support more livable and sustainable communities across the country on Thursday, October 14, 2010. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan announced that 45 regional areas will receive funding through a new initiative intended to build economic competitiveness by connecting housing with good jobs, quality schools and transportation. However, our regional submittal was unfortunately not one of the finalists.

According to HUD the response to the program was numerous including applications from every state and two territories – from central cities to rural areas and tribal governments. Staff will evaluate the regions that did receive the awards to evaluate possible next steps for our efforts and report those findings to you. I would note that our efforts on the initial collaboration for this submittal is still very valuable and we will make every effort to continue to strengthen several of these new partnerships and ideas.

The official announcement can be viewed here:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-233.

In addition, a listing of those regions that were selected is attached and can also be found here:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/documents/Sustainable_communities_regionalplanning_grant_finalists.pdf.

Applicant Debriefing

Following this announcement, REAP requested that the HUD Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities (OSHC) provide a debriefing of our application for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program and HUD scheduled our debriefing for Monday, November 29, 2010. The Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning department agreed to host this conference call and members of the REAP Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Taskforce were invited.

The debriefing consisted of a walkthrough of our application's strengths and weaknesses, in order to identify the areas where we did well and the areas we can improve. Through this discussion, HUD has indicated that they hope to assist us in submitting a future successful application.

Some observations from the debriefing included:

- 225 applications were received for this program, with another 600-700 challenger grant applications.
- 45 proposals were funded, and not all were funded at 100% of their request.
- Our application was considered a strong application and scored a 67 out of 100, with 75 being the eligibility threshold.
- REAP, the Environmental Finance Center, and Visioneering were all viewed as strengths.

- The application was deemed a clear, well-defined vision, with good identification of issues and strategies.
- A need for more defined roles and details on connection between the issues and results as well as defined use of consultants were the most common weaknesses.
- There was a concern on the identification of how the proposal would enhance the partner organization and how outreach to underserved populations would be included.
- There is \$2 million that was set aside for use on capacity building, including identification of “Preferred Sustainability Status” for certain communities.
- We are eligible and have a strong likelihood of being included in this status.
- There is an expectation that this program will be funded for another round of grants and our region is encouraged to refine our proposal and resubmit at that time.

Lessons from Louisville

More than 50 business, academic, civic and government leaders participated in a four-day Visioneering Wichita city-to-city visit to Louisville, Ky, October 10-13. The focus of the trip was to examine how Louisville undertook an effort to revitalize its downtown and economy through public and private initiatives.

REAP and local government was represented by REAP Chair Mayor Kristey Williams of Augusta, Sedgwick County Commissioner Tim Norton, Council Member Janet Miller of Wichita; Ron Holt and Kristi Zukovich, Sedgwick County; and REAP CEO Joe Yager. Several REAP partners also attended, including Keith Lawing, WA; Anne Corrison, WA; Jeremy Hill, CEDBR; Vicki Pratt Gerbino, GWEDC; and Andy Schlapp, WSU.

The following are a few observations from the trip:

- This was the sixth city-to-city trip, and unlike the previous trips, this one shifted the discussion from evaluating and planning to **action** and **implementation**.
- The Louisville area (13 counties in two states) has focused its efforts on generating a **livable community** that serves as a center to attract people and businesses. Although the City and County consolidated in the early 2000s, there are numerous surrounding cities that maintain their own identity. The connection with Indiana is also interesting due to the differences in State laws and approaches to economic development, but the state line is largely ignored when looking at attracting businesses.
- The **main themes** throughout the trip were: *Be patient. Develop a plan and follow it through. Get private industry involved as much and as often as you can.*
- Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson noted that downtown revitalization takes a lot of time, requires a long-term strategic plan and the cooperation of private industry.
- A strong message of the importance of partnerships, relationships with business and industry. The Mayor noted that the city was somewhat complacent when it came to tackling projects important to growth and had to develop a **can-do attitude** to become a busy, active hub. By focusing on the City core and revitalizing downtown with a plan that included the business community support and sticking to that plan was necessary because it took more than a decade to show signs of life. *In addition, revitalizing downtown wasn't undertaken solely for the sake of benefiting the city's core. The effort — as well as one to redevelop the riverbank along the Ohio River and create a system of parks and recreational areas — was more about economic development.*

- **Quality of life** has become an increasingly significant factor when recruiting companies to relocate to Louisville. The Mayor noted: "What I now find in the economic development field is that decision makers ask me about the parks. Decision makers ask me about the opera and the ballet. Decision makers ask me about the neighborhoods."
- According to Greater Louisville (metro area's chamber of commerce) CEO Joe Reagan discussed tackling problems from a **regional**, rather than a Louisville-centric, **perspective**. He noted that the challenges before their region are stronger than any one community can solve. He also said the region has been successful in convincing 14 companies to relocate their headquarters to the Louisville area since 2005.
- **Residential development** has come along slowly but steadily. About 2,200 residential units have been created in the city's downtown since the effort began.
- Dan Jones, chairman and CEO of 21st Century Parks, discussed the development of nearly 4,000 new acres of parkland on the edge of Jefferson County. He noted that the project has a capital budget of \$113 million, \$103 million of which his nonprofit group has raised. He said \$60 million of the total will come from private sources. His focus was that the **park land** is a key part of the area's **economic development**. He said "At the end of the day this is all about making Louisville a great place to live and work."
- Louisville has made enormous **investments in quality of life** through parks, recreation, and entertainment in an effort to differentiate itself from competition. *Several speakers noted that there is no difference between the cities in the Mid-West when it comes to what they have to offer naturally, the only difference comes from the investment of the communities to create an environment worth living and working in.*

The following are a few outcomes from the trip:

- The idea of some regular but informal gathering of city, county, downtown development and chamber officials to help shepherd along implementation of the plan was discussed.
- In addition, it was suggested that as the redevelopment of downtown Wichita occurs, it will be important to continue talking about the progress of the master plan and the process, because a lot of time could go by in which it appears nothing is being done.
- Some in the group also reminded others that when it comes to discussing Wichita's downtown and economic development that the broader metropolitan area needs to be included. "It needs to be a regional effort," said Kori Gregg, special assistant to the president of Butler Community College. "Every time we go on these trips (the efforts of the cities Visioneering examines) are very regional focused. I think we need to build that synergy out amongst the outlying areas."
- An added benefit of the trip is that it served as an opportunity to spend high-quality time with community and business leaders that may not know of our efforts and continues to build partnerships for building a stronger region.

REAP Meeting Schedule

Staff has prepared meeting schedules that will be provided at the meeting as well as made available on the REAP website, www.reap-ks.org. Please note that the next REAP meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 10, 2011** at 8:00 AM at the **Hughes Metropolitan Complex**, (29th and Oliver).

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

Submitted by: Mr. Joe Yager, REAP Chief Executive Officer