



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

## **REAP 2008 Work Plan**

*Adopted December 10, 2007*

The Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) is comprised of thirty-two city and county governments in six counties of South Central Kansas, which include Butler, Harvey, McPherson, Reno, Sedgwick and Sumner counties. The thirty-two cities and counties have voluntarily joined together in REAP 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.

REAP adopted a work plan for 2008 and assigned elements of the plan to the four standing committees: Executive, Economic Development, Legislative, and Water Resources.

### **Executive Committee**

- Administer the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program and assure that all statutory requirements for programming, evaluation, accounting and auditing, financial management, and reporting are met.
- Serve as the treasury for REAP, collect all REAP revenues, make disbursements in accord with the budget adopted by REAP, and conduct financial management of REAP assets in accord with REAP fiscal procedures.
- Engage Topeka-based representation.
- Review the progress of the REAP Water Resources Committee to ensure appropriate action that will encourage collaboration among local governments on regional issues of water quality and water supply.
- Examine dues structure and recommend updated assessment levels to provide REAP necessary operating resources for 2009-2011.
- Review REAP's mission and direct research to strengthen and clarify a definition of regionalism.
- Carry out public relations and communication strategies about REAP activities to local governments and citizens in South Central Kansas.
- Assure representation by REAP in regional organizations concerned with economic development, including:
  - Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition;
  - Mid-Continent Airport Advisory Board;
  - KansasBio;
  - Visioneering Wichita; and
  - Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas.
- Oversee maintenance and upgrades of the REAP website.

*Strengthening the economy of South Central Kansas through joint action of cities and counties.*

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### **Economic Development Committee**

- Perform duties as Chief Elected Officials Board under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.
- Monitor progress of economic development initiatives, specifically:
  - State action on technical education and workforce issues in terms of assuring local control.
  - Local and regional initiatives in workforce development and technical training in manufacturing.
  - Development of the new Kansas transportation plan.
  - Local and regional initiatives for development of renewable energy.
  - State action on carbon emissions and energy regulations.
  - Local and regional initiatives for enhancement of recreational opportunities.
- Monitor the Kansas Bioscience Authority and KansasBio and explore opportunities for expanding bioscience industries in South Central Kansas.
- Sponsor regional economic leadership summit and assure that a comparative analysis of the regional economy is updated and shared broadly with organizations concerned with economic development in the region.
- Identify and support regional economic development projects that qualify for state funding assistance.
- Identify opportunities for the region to take advantage of its geographic location and natural resources to enhance economic development and improve the quality of life in South Central Kansas.
- Develop and implement coordination among local government, state government, businesses and other economic development groups in South Central Kansas.

### **Water Resources Committee**

- Develop an annual work plan and budget to carry out the purposes for which the South Central Kansas Water Coalition was created, specifically:
  - serve as a regional conduit for dissemination to members of information and education regarding the various activities, programs, funding and initiatives as to the various federal, state, regional and local agencies involved in water quality and supply issues in the South Central Kansas region;
  - serve as a regional voice on behalf of the members before federal, state, regional and local agencies and organize member involvement in the activities of those agencies;
  - develop and implement a regional water plan;
  - organize and coordinate collaborative efforts on regional issues of water quality and water supply; and
  - develop or organize services to member water utility operations.

## **REAP 2008 Work Plan**

### **Legislative Committee**

- Monitor progress on legislative priorities for 2008 and give guidance to legislative liaison as issues arise, specifically:
  - 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 participation in funding manufacturing-based, business-driven technical education in support of the Kansas economy.
  - Advance legislative and administrative action to increase state financial investments in South Central Kansas that strengthen the economy of Kansas, including:
    - Research and development on composites through the Kansas BioScience Authority under the Economic Growth Act.
    - Aviation research at the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University.
    - Graduate medical education program at the Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education.
    - Completion of regional projects in 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Plan.
  - Support state financial participation for the Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project to preserve the aquifer for agricultural, industrial, and municipal use that is essential to the State economy.
  - Protect the public water supply through science-based, site-specific water quality regulations.
- Monitor development of future State transportation plan.
- Develop and implement ongoing communication procedures between REAP and area legislators.
- Identify and make REAP members aware of legislative issues of significance to South Central Kansas.
- Recommend legislative priorities to REAP for the 2009 legislative session.