



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

REAP 2009 Work Plan *Adopted December 8, 2008*

The Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) is comprised of thirty-five city and county governments in nine counties of South Central Kansas, which include Butler, Cowley, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, McPherson, Reno, Sedgwick and Sumner counties. Since its inception, REAP has been guided by the following 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.

REAP adopted a work plan for 2009 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.
- Examine available resources for REAP and the Water Resources Committee and recommend sustainable funding sources to provide REAP necessary operating resources for 2010.
- Carry out public relations and communication strategies about REAP activities to local governments and citizens in South Central Kansas.
- Engage Topeka-based representation.
- Review REAP's mission and structure.
- 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.

Legislative Committee

- Monitor progress on legislative priorities for 2009 and give guidance to legislative liaison as issues arise.
- Monitor legislative action related to annexation for any threats to economic development in the region.
- Develop and sponsor regional legislative policy summit.
- 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 2010 legislative session.

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

REAP 2008 Work Plan

Legislative Priorities for 2009

- 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 create a 2009 Comprehensive Transportation Plan.
- Advance legislative and administrative action to secure state participation in funding business-driven technical education that supports the regional economy.
- Advance legislative and administrative action to secure state financial investments in research and development in South Central Kansas that strengthen the economy of Kansas, including:
 - 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.
 - The Kansas Center for Innovation for Biomaterials in Orthopedic Research at Wichita State University.
- Support continued 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 regional economy.

Economic Development Committee

- Perform duties as Chief Elected Officials Board under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.
- Monitor progress of economic development initiatives, specifically:
 - Continued funding of Kansas Affordable Airfares Program.
 - 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.
 - Continued funding of the Kansas Career Pipeline as an educational workforce tool.
 - The creation of a State Economic Development fund for rapid action.
- Monitor the Kansas Bioscience Authority and KansasBio and explore opportunities for expanding bioscience industries in South Central Kansas.
- Determine the need to sponsor a regional economic leadership summit.
- Assure that a comparative analysis of the regional economy is updated and determine a method to disseminate the results of the analysis 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.

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Water Resources Committee

- I. *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 and engage in legislative activities when appropriate.*
 1. Support the Municipal Utility Growth Issues Committee in seeking an amicable solution for municipalities and rural water districts, including education and potential action on the regional, state and national level.
 2. Encourage the Kansas Water Authority to see that the State Water Plan Fund is adequately funded and a balance between urban and rural priorities is achieved.
 3. Work with the Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture, to ensure municipalities are not limited by regulations pertaining to acquiring water rights that would impede a community's ability to grow.
 4. Serve as a liaison to the REAP Legislative Committee on issues the Water Resources Committee recommends as REAP legislative priorities.

- II. *Serve as a networking forum and 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.*
 1. Provide a forum for regional water issues through regular meetings of the Water Resources Committee and Technical Subcommittee, and establishment of special committees as needed.
 2. Monitor the activities of federal, state, regional, and local agencies affecting water supply and water quality in the region and keep members advised of relevant issues and partnership opportunities
 3. Encourage additional communities to join the Water Resources Committee through communication and invitation to committee meetings, conferences and events.

- III. *Develop a regional water plan:*
 1. Work with the Kansas Water Office, Lower Arkansas and Walnut Basin Advisory Committees to develop a comprehensive regional watershed based plan to manage urbanization and minimize impacts on water resources in the area.

- IV. *Organize and coordinate collaborative efforts on regional issues of water quality and water supply.*
 1. Conduct ongoing educational forums including a regional water conference.
 2. Identify regional issues of water supply and water quality that call for collaboration

- V. *Develop or organize informational resources for member water utility operations.*
 1. Provide education on water reuse and water conservation initiatives.
 2. Work with state agencies to facilitate hosting a database of regional water studies.
 3. Distribute and update, as appropriate, the water supply and demand analysis to identify communities that are projected to have future water deficits and invite them to participate in the Committee.