

REAP Water Resources Committee 2010 Work Plan

The REAP Water Resources Committee completed a survey of members, alternates and participants held a planning retreat on November 16, 2009. Based on the discussions at the retreat and survey results, the following work plan has been developed. The work plan is based on four Committee objectives, which are followed by specific strategies for implementation.

- I. *Serve as a regional voice on policy issues concerned with water quality and supply before federal, state, and local agencies; and organize member engagement in legislative action where appropriate.***
 1. Support the Municipal Utility Growth Issues Committee in seeking an amiable 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. Increase dialogue and provide informational resources for State Legislators on urban water issues.
 4. Work with the Division of Water Resources, 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; including monitoring and providing support for the Water Rights Conservation Program.
 5. Serve as a liaison to the REAP Legislative Committee on issues the Water Resources Committee recommends as REAP legislative priorities.

- II. *Serve as a regional forum for disseminating information regarding the various activities, programs, funding and initiatives of the federal, state, and local agencies involved in water quality and supply issues.***
 1. Provide a forum for regional water issues through regular meetings of the Water Resources Committee as well as meetings of the Technical Subcommittee and establishment of special committees as needed.
 2. Monitor the activities of federal, state, 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. *Encourage regional collaboration on issues of water quality and supply.***
 1. Identify and encourage the development of key elements necessary to create a regional water plan
 - i. Continue to partner with the Kansas Water Office and the KU Environmental Studies Department to create a GIS based Natural Resource Inventory of the REAP region.
 - ii. Work with the Kansas Water Office, Lower Arkansas and Walnut Basin Advisory Committees to develop collaborative efforts in the region.
 2. Conduct an annual regional water conference.
 3. Provide ongoing educational forums on legislative and policy related water issues.

- IV. *Assemble informational resources related to water quality and supply issues for members.***
 1. Annually survey and compile water and wastewater rate information for all REAP members.
 2. Provide information on water reuse and water conservation initiatives.
 3. Compile and disseminate information on the cumulative cost of water and wastewater service provision in the REAP region to serve as an educational tool.
 4. In consultation the REAP Executive Committee assess the Water Resources Committee's progress since its inception and if deemed satisfactory, recommend sustainable funding for 2011 and beyond.

(Adopted 12-14-2009)



Support Staff Responsibilities

The Center for Urban Studies, Wichita State University, continues to provide support staff to the REAP Water Resources Committee in the calendar year 2010, as follows;

1. 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.
2. Identify, monitor and update members on any legislative issues or initiatives regarding state water resources.
3. Provide consultation and technical assistance in addressing priorities identified in the Committee Work Plan for 2010, 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.
4. 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.
5. Develop and coordinate ongoing educational forums including an annual regional water conference.
6. Identify additional grant opportunities through the state and federal government to assist in water resource planning and development.
7. Monitor and coordinate efforts with REAP legislative liaison on water related issues as needed.
8. 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)
 - 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