

## **REAP Water Resources Committee (WRC) 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.*

**Water Resources Committee (WRC) Purpose:** *Identify and coordinate collaborative efforts on regional issues of water quality and supply in South Central Kansas. In May of 2007 REAP created the WRC to serve as a regional conduit for dissemination to members of information and education while providing 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.*

- 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) Partner with private, non-profit, and public sector on water quality and quantity issues that are supported or that could potentially be supported by the WRC.
  - b) Strengthen relationships with existing partners.
    - i) Disseminate the mission of the WRC to regional, state, and national partners by attending or presenting information at special meetings.
  - c) Encourage dialogue on regional economic development.
    - i) Facilitate discussion on the value of water resources in regional economic development.
  - 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 water issues with legislative implication and allocate funds when appropriate.
    - ii) Coordinate REAP membership when appropriate to engage in the state legislation process on WRC supported issues.
  - b) Develop relationships with state and federal governmental officials.
    - i) Monitor activities of federal, state, and local agencies affecting water supply and quality in the region and advise members advised of relevant issues and partnership opportunities.
    - ii) Advise members on legislation regarding water conservation as a beneficial use in state water rights policy.
    - iii) Invite state and federal officials to REAP WRC meetings.
  - c) Establish a process to identify policies affecting specific industries.
  - d) Coordinate a unified agenda for regional economic development.
    - i) Support the League of Kansas Municipalities and their legislative priority to re-evaluate the State Water Plan Fund and the Kansas Water Authority
    - ii) Support the State Water Plan Fund be fully appropriated by attending Kansas Water Authority meetings and educating legislators on the issue.
  
- 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) Provide an open forum to discuss regional water issues and invite stakeholders from the private, non-profit, and public sector to sponsor or present information.
    - ii) Conduct meetings with the Technical Sub-Committee and establish special committees as needed.
    - iii) Conduct an annual regional water conference that includes relevant speakers and topics.
    - iv) Develop a communication plan with media contacts to attend WRC meetings and to disseminate information to WRC communities.

- v) Assemble and disseminate informational resources related to water quality and supply issues including:
    - (1) Annual regional survey of water and wastewater rate information.
    - (2) Financial review of water service territory agreements.
    - (3) Information on the Friends of the Kaw lawsuit with the Environmental Protection Agency.
    - (4) Information on water re-use and conservation initiatives
    - (5) Research regional expenditures on water and waste water.
    - (6) Develop a local government's guide to water related agency tasks and responsibilities in Kansas.
  - b) Conduct outreach on the purpose and accomplishments of REAP.
    - i) Send out meetings reviews following all WRC meetings.
    - ii) Disseminate "WaterWise," bi-monthly newsletter and include regional, state, and national municipal water related articles.
  - 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) Review and discuss interconnection for meeting long-term water supply needs in our region.
    - ii) Discuss interconnection for redundancy in water supply for regional water providers.
    - iii) Research and disseminate information on our regional water supply and demand.
    - iv) Review and assess models of interconnection and consolidation of water supplies.
  - b) Determine REAP's role in regional planning.
  - c) Engage professional staff in multiple jurisdictions for sustainable planning.
    - i) Facilitate educational forums with local jurisdiction planners on regional planning initiatives.
- 5) **Lead the region** in addressing future economic needs.
- a) Create a vision for regional economic development through REAP.
  - b) Determine the organizational capacity to support the future structure and needs of REAP.
  - c) Be proactive in identifying and discussing emerging issues.
    - i) Solicit REAP WRC members for agenda item ideas before WRC meetings.
    - ii) Facilitate speakers and WRC members to discuss and report on issues at meetings.
    - iii) Respond to research requests on regional or state water issues.