



Legislative Committee

Meeting Agenda

12:00 PM, May 27, 2011

Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Chairman

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements:** *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
2. **Approval of Minutes from April 29, 2011:** *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
Recommended Action: *Approve or modify minutes as needed.*
3. **REAP 2011 Legislative Session Review:** *Mr. Tom Bruno*
REAP Legislative Liaison Tom Bruno will be in attendance to provide a review of the 2011 Kansas Legislative Session. Discussion on this issue is requested.
4. **Water Conference Review and Update on Issues:** *Mr. Dane Baxa*
The annual REAP Water Conference was held on Thursday, May 26. The theme for the conference this year was “Water’s Role in Economic Development” and a review of the conference, including potential legislative issues will be provided.
5. **South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation Appreciation:** *Mr. Joe Yager*
Staff recommends that a letter of appreciation, co-signed by the REAP Chair and Legislative Committee Chair, be forwarded to the South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation. A draft of the letter is provided.
Recommended Action: *Approve a letter of appreciation on behalf of REAP to be forwarded to the members of the South Central Legislative Delegation.*
6. **June REAP Meeting – Legislative Engagement Theme Discussion Update:** *Mayor Kristey Williams*
7. **2011 Legislative Committee Regional Listening Tour:** *Mr. Joe Yager*
Staff has prepared a draft proposal for engaging in a regional tour that will focus on local assets to help identify potential legislative priorities and increase engagement. Discussion on this issue is requested.
8. **Unscheduled Topics:** *Committee Members*
Committee members are encouraged to provide updates or request discussion on issues that may be relevant to REAP.
9. **Adjourn**

The next REAP Legislative Committee meeting will be at Noon on June 24, 2011.

Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes – April 29, 2011
Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Chair

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

Council Member Jeff Longwell, City of Wichita, opened the meeting; members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

2. Review of Minutes from the October 22, 2010 REAP Legislative Committee Meeting

Mayor Dion Avello, Derby, moved (Council Member Longwell) to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. REAP 2011 Legislative Priorities Update

Mr. Tom Bruno, Legislative Liaison for REAP, provided an update on the status of Affordable Airfares stating that there had been no real changes in positions and that it was not funded in the House version, however, the Senate maintained its position with the inclusion of funding. There were conference committees being scheduled and airfares discussion would be involved during the deliberations of the budget.

Mr. Bruno also discussed the issue of NIAR and the fact that although the Senate and House both fund the initiative, they had different ideas on how to fund it. The House wanted to send it through Commerce, as the Governor has suggested, but the Senate wanted to send it through the Board of Regents, which could present a problem because the Governor has said before that he would veto it if it came through the Board of Regents. This issue will also be resolved in the budget deliberations.

Mr. Bruno noted that it was important to continue to communicate that we are hopeful and positive about the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program to the media and to call and thank Representative Marc Rhoades and Senator Carolyn McGinn for their support.

4. Kansas Aviation Summit Report

Council Member Longwell discussed the Kansas Aviation Summit and the presentations from the universities about engineering students, including the fact that the number of international students going through the programs has increased, while domestic students have decreased. He also mentioned the positives for our area, especially the fact that many places would like to duplicate what is being done here with all of the aviation training and programs but it would cost them billions of dollars to start from scratch while we have the important resources available and it is important to keep supporting and providing training and other incentives for the aviation companies that are embedded here.

Mr. Joe Yager, Chief Executive Officer of REAP, noted that REAP was an official sponsor of the Aviation Summit and made a good impression on those in attendance. He also mentioned that the first presentation was from Learjet, who noted it was imperative that funding for Affordable Airfares was included as well as NIAR and NCAT.

5. Engineering Growth Initiative Event Report

Mr. Bruno discussed the proposal to increase the number of engineers in the state. The legislature is building on what the Governor proposed for the engineering initiative and the Senate had increased funds and included or allowed for the issuance of bonds, however, the House was hesitant to pass the bonding issue. It is expected to pass and be signed by the governor, although there could be some changes.

Council Member Longwell talked about the question of whether there was a need for this program in Kansas and whether enough students from Kansas high schools would participate in this program since 60% of freshman who enter in engineering do not graduate in engineering. It was discussed that there needs to be more dialogue between high school and universities to work on recruitment and preparedness of high school kids to enter engineering programs, as well as the importance of support networks and opportunities such as NIAR to help kids get experience and pay for their education.

The Committee directed staff to invite the Dean of the School of Engineering at Wichita State University to a future REAP meeting to discuss the issue further.

6. June REAP Meeting – Legislative Engagement Theme Discussion

Mayor Kristey Williams, Augusta, talked about the June REAP meeting noting it will focus on Legislative Engagement. She asked for discussion on how the format for this meeting should be set up and who the Legislative Committee would like to hear from. Some of the suggestions from the Committee included: discussing how the Legislative Committee develops their legislative agenda with a panel to weigh in on how REAP does it; a partnership panel of those REAP works with in the region, such as Mr. Bruno; and various panels made of Senators or Legislators from within the region or around the State. It was noted that staff will utilize this discussion in developing the meeting.

7. WIA Funding Update

Mr. Yager discussed the information pertaining to WIA allocations on page 9 of the packet showing past funding and total funding as of right now. The federal funding looks as though it will stay the same as last year; however, the State's funding will be decreased from 15% to 5%. While this will not be felt at the local level right away, eventually this cut will affect the local Workforce Centers.

Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, stated that he had talked to Congressman Mike Pompeo about the effect that the cuts would have and how many people use and rely on these programs. He noted that it is highly likely that additional cuts will occur across the board at the federal level, including workforce investment funds.

Dr. Ed Flentje, Wichita State University, discussed the idea of directing money straight to individuals for training and education whereas now Workforce Alliance gets the money to allocate for the training. Dr. Flentje also noted that that if the plan is to direct the funds to individuals it may raise the question of authority between the states and local governments.

8. 2011 Legislative Committee Regional Tour

Council Member Longwell noted that the Legislative Committee is considering doing a regional tour among partners of REAP this summer and will need people to sign-up to attend some of these meetings. The Committee determined that REAP should connect with these communities and get involved in issues that help them even if they don't help every REAP member, especially when they do not hurt any other community in the region. Staff was directed to develop this tour.

9. Unscheduled Topics

No unscheduled topics were discussed at this meeting.

10. Adjourn

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

REAP Legislative Committee	
Attendance	
4/29/2011	
Name	Jurisdiction
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Chair	City of Wichita
Mayor Dion Avello	City of Derby
Commissioner Dave Unruh	Sedgwick County
Mayor Kristey Williams	City of Augusta
Mr. Dale Goter (via phone)	City of Wichita
Guests and Staff	
Mr. Tom Bruno (via phone)	Bruno & Associates
Mr. Bill Bolin	SCKEDD
Mr. Marv Duncan	Sedgwick County
Dr. Ed Flentje	WSU
Mr. Joe Yager	WSU
Mr. Dane Baxa	WSU
Ms. Lorien Showalter	WSU



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

REAP Legislative Committee 2011 Legislative Priorities

Adopted December 13, 2010

Legislative Priorities

- 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.
- 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 business-driven 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.



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

May 27, 2011

Representative/Senator NAME
ADDRESS
ADDRESS
CITY, KS ZIP

Dear Representative/Senator NAME:

On behalf of the Regional Economic Area Partnership, we want to thank you for your hard work and thoughtful consideration of the REAP legislative agenda in the 2011 legislative session.

We greatly appreciate the inclusion of funding for Affordable Airfares, the Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery project, NIAR, and the National Center for Aviation Training. We also appreciate the support of the delegation on other issues vital to economic development, such as examining funding for the Center of Innovation for Bio Orthopedic Research. The projects you have funded are vital to the economic success of our region and contribute to the economic vitality of Kansas.

The members of REAP understand the challenges involved in finding the necessary resources to fund vital services and can empathize with the difficult task that you undertook as you worked to meet the needs of the region and the state as a whole.

Again, thank you for your support of our legislative agenda, and we look forward to continue to work with you to accomplish our common goals. REAP remains strongly committed to a partnership between our South Central Kansas region and the State of Kansas.

Sincerely:

Mayor Kristey Williams, Augusta
REAP Chair

Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita
REAP Legislative Chairman

Item

2011 Legislative Committee Regional Listening Tour

Background

The Legislative Committee directed staff to develop a “Regional Listening Tour” for the Committee this summer to help connect REAP with the communities in the region. The tour would allow REAP members to identify issues that are important to individual communities and could be beneficial to the region. The Committee has noted that although many issues may not be of regional importance, if they are important to that community REAP should be aware and supportive as long as the issue does not hurt any other community in the region.

The Committee identified two goals for the tour:

- 1) Value and purpose for REAP membership by connection of REAP to our member communities with identification of issues and methods for how REAP can support.
- 2) Encourage discussions in our communities about our communities.

In order to accomplish these goals, staff is developing an asset report and has identified five potential host communities for the tour. The following meeting schedule provides a look at a Friday-only schedule to minimize conflicts, however, staff can be flexible as we discuss with each host location for day and time:

- June 24 – REAP Meeting with presentation of initial findings on asset report.
- July 15 – Hutchinson (Reno and Kingman Counties)
- July 22 – Newton (Harvey and McPherson Counties)
- August 5 – El Dorado (Butler County)
- August 12 – Wellington/Winfield/Arkansas City (Harper, Sumner, and Cowley Counties)
- August 19 – Wichita (Sedgwick County)
- August 26 – REAP meeting with review of meetings.

Recommended Action

Discuss and provide direction to staff.