



Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP)

Meeting Agenda

8:00 a.m., September 12, 2011

Hughes Metropolitan Complex
5015 E. 29th Street North, (29th and Oliver)
Mayor Kristey Williams, Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions: Mayor Kristey Williams

2. News and Announcements: Mayor Kristey Williams

3. Consent Agenda and Committee Reports: Mayor Kristey Williams

The action items in the reports have been reviewed, discussed and acted upon at the Committee level. Members of the Board of Directors may request discussion on any of the action items at the meeting or the reports may be accepted as presented in a single motion.

- A. Review of REAP Minutes from July 11, 2011
- B. REAP Committees Report
- C. Reports of Regional Committees and Organizations
- D. Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Recommended Action: Approve the consent agenda as presented.

4. Special Presentation – “Regional Sustainability Planning”

The term “sustainability” means “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Therefore, since present needs are different in every region, it is critical for each region to define what sustainability means to it. A presentation on what sustainability means to South Central Kansas, and REAP in particular, will be provided.

5. REAP Membership Discussion: REAP Members and Partners

Serving as the lead for the application of the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant will include focus on developing a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. It is essential to align this process with the REAP mission and goals. Discussion on how this fits within REAP is requested.

6. Unscheduled Business Items and Updates: REAP Members and Partners

7. Adjourn

The REAP WRC will meet immediately following the full Board meeting.

The next REAP Board meeting will be Monday, October 3, 2011.

Mission

Guide state and national actions that affect economic development in the region and adopt joint actions among member governments that enhance the regional economy.

Meeting Minutes July 11, 2011
NIAR, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas
Mayor Kristey Williams, Chairman

1. Welcome and Introduction.

Mayor Kristey Williams, City of Augusta, called the meeting to order; members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

2. New Business

A. Official Appointment of Executive Committee by REAP Chair

Mayor Williams thanked the members of REAP for extending her service as the Chair of REAP as well as extending the term for Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, as the Vice-Chair for REAP. She also noted that Commissioner Unruh would be serving as the Economic Development Committee Chair; Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita, would be the Legislative Committee Chair and Mayor Dion Avello, Derby would be taking over as the Water Resources Committee Chair. Mayor Williams thanked Commissioner Willis Heck, Newton, for his years of service as the Water Resources Committee Chair and all the things he has done for REAP and the Water Resources Committee. Mayor Williams told members that someone was needed to serve on the Airport Advisory Board to replace Commissioner Heck after his years of service. The meetings are held at 2:30 on the first Monday of each month.

Additional appointments included: Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope, as an At-Large City member and Treasurer; Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, as an At-Large County member; and Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County, as an additional At-Large member.

B. Bylaws Taskforce Update

Mayor Williams noted that she has requested staff to evaluate the bylaws and she will appoint a taskforce at the appropriate time.

3. Engineering Initiative Presentation and Update

Dean Zulma Toro-Ramos, Dean of Engineering at Wichita State University, gave a presentation updating members on the new initiatives in the Engineering program. Dean Toro-Ramos talked about the Center for Innovation and Enterprise Engagement and working with the WIRED Grant and the top three goals for the College of Engineering: 1- continuing to build the pipeline of engineering students through their K-12 outreach program; 2- increasing student retention and success; and 3- providing experience-based engineering education. The Dean also discussed the new Kan-Grow Engineering Initiative (SB 127) and the effects it could have on the school.

4. Kansas Affordable Airfares Program (KAAP) Update

Mayor Williams discussed the Executive Committee Meeting that was held on July 6th where the Executive Committee met with the two applicants from Sedgwick County and Garden City to hear their presentations and come up with a recommendation for how the funding should be distributed.

Mayor Williams discussed the two proposals, including the Garden City request for \$250,000 to expand their services under an important part of the statute that would establish a Regional Airport for the Western part of the state. Dodge City will be a partner in their proposal and will be giving up their essential air service in order to bring American Eagle, and jet service, to Garden City. Getting this American Eagle service will cost \$1.3 million with Dodge City putting \$1 million dollars toward this proposal. Garden City will make up the rest of the difference with the money from KAAP and their local match.

After hearing the presentations the Executive Committee recommends that REAP approve \$4.75 million for Sedgwick County and \$250,000 for Garden City contingent on them being approved to use Dodge City's Essential Air Service funds and providing the local match before June 30, 2012 with the reservation that the money will be reallocated if they do not meet these requirements.

There were some concerns that Garden City did not meet all of the statutory requirements, namely providing more competition and more affordable airfares in Kansas; however, establishing a Regional Airport in Western Kansas, a part of the statute that was emphasized during the post-audit, was a very important component along with the opportunity to strengthen coalitions and build partnerships across the state and to make the KAAP truly a state-wide program.

Ms. Diana Brooks, Colwich, moved (Mayor Carl Brewer, Wichita) to accept the Executive Committee's recommendations on funding for the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program and to fund Sedgwick County in the amount of \$4.75 million and Garden City in the amount of \$250,000 contingent on them meeting the requirements as presented.

5. Consent Agenda and Committee Reports

Mayor Williams noted that the Legislative Committee has moved forward with the Listening Tour and to let staff know if you would like your community to be visited sooner rather than later. They are working on a two year cycle where every community would be visited. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on August 26th and everyone is invited to attend and get involved.

Commissioner Unruh discussed the information on page 19 of the agenda packet to update members on what the EDC has been working on, including the Workforce Center Recertification, approving the Project Year 2011 Budget for Workforce Alliance, and approving the Workforce Alliance Executive Director to execute a contract with ManPower to approve a two year plan pending review.

Commissioner Heck noted that a special Water Resources Committee Meeting would be held on August 10th to bring in Dean Amhaus, who was supposed to be the keynote speaker at the Regional Water Conference but could not make it due to inclement weather, to give a presentation and everyone was encouraged to attend. It was also noted that Augusta was a new member of the Water Resources Committee.

Mr. Joe Yager, Chief Executive Officer of REAP, talked about the information on pages 34-35 of the agenda packet providing an update on the South Western Kansas Alliance who are working to form a regional organization and Mr. Yager and Mr. Dane Baxa, Water Resources Executive Officer, were asked to facilitate a meeting to work on strategic planning for forming an organization. The meeting went very well and a lot of relationships were built with that region of the state.

Mr. Yager also discussed that a notification was sent out for a second round for the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant and that staff was going to convene a meeting in order to determine whether REAP should proceed with the application process and an update would be provided.

Mayor Williams requested that board members review the consent agenda. Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, moved (Mayor Robert Jackson, Kechi) to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

6. NIAR Presentation

Dr. John Tomblin, Executive Director of NIAR, gave a presentation highlighting what NIAR is working on, including the fact that for every state dollar invested over the last seven years they have gotten nine dollars in return from NIAR's work and that Wichita State and NIAR is ranked fourth in dollars spent on

Aviation Research in the nation. Dr. Tomblin also noted the helpfulness of REAP's support in the legislature and that they are looking forward to a continued partnership in the future.

7. Unscheduled Business Items and Updates

No unscheduled items were discussed at this meeting.

8. Adjourn/Tour of NIAR

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned and members were invited to participate in a tour of the NIAR facilities.

REAP Attendance	
7/11/2011	
Name	Jurisdiction
Ms. Jennifer McCausland	Andover
Mayor Kristey Williams	Augusta
Ms. Diana Brooks	Colwich
Mr. Herb Llewellyn	El Dorado
Mr. Kiel Mangus	Goddard
Commissioner Chip Westfall	Harvey County
Mr. David New	Haysville
Mayor Dave Kauffman	Hesston
Mayor Robert Jackson	Kechi
Mr. Tom Winters	Kingman County
Commissioner Ron Loomis	McPherson County
Mayor Terry Somers	Mount Hope
Commissioner Willis Heck	Newton
Commissioner Jim Nickel	Newton
Commissioner Brad Dillon	Reno County
Commissioner Dave Unruh	Sedgwick County
Commissioner Richard Ranzau	Sedgwick County
Mayor Carl Brewer	Wichita
Guests and Staff	
Mr. Anthony Swartzendruber	Harvey County
Mr. John Waltner	Harvey County
Mr. Harland Priddle	K-96 Corridor Association
Mr. Randy Riggs	Newton
Mr. Chris Chronis	Sedgwick County
Ms. Irene Hart	Sedgwick County
Mr. Marv Duncan	Sedgwick County
Council Member Pete Meitzner	Wichita
Mr. Dale Goter	Wichita
Mr. Keith Lawing	Workforce Alliance
Dr. John Tomblin	WSU
Dean Zulma Toro-Ramos	WSU
Ms. Angela Buzard	WSU
Dr. Nancy McCarthy-Snyder	WSU
Mr. Joe Yager	WSU
Mr. Dane Baxa	WSU
Ms. Kate Flavin	WSU
Ms. Lorien Showalter	WSU

**REAP Board Meeting
September 12, 2011
Item #3 B**

Item

REAP Committee Reports

Background

Since the July 11, 2011 Board meeting, the REAP Committees received information or acted upon the following issues and projects listed below. Agendas and minutes from the committee meetings are available on the REAP website at <http://www.reap-ks.org>.

Report of the Executive Committee

The REAP Executive Committee held a conference call on August 4, 2011. The following is a report of the various updates and actions from that meeting as well as correspondence between the Chair and members of the Committee:

Kansas Affordable Airfares Update

Reporting and Funds Request Update

At its regular monthly meeting of July 11, 2011, REAP took action to award a \$4,750,000 grant to Sedgwick County to assure and enhance affordable airfares in Kansas. In accord with state law the grant requires a local match of 25 percent or \$1,583,333.33. The matching funds were received and confirmation was provided to the Kansas Department of Commerce. In addition, as required by Senate Bill 2968, REAP must submit a report on activities and progress for fiscal year 2011 (July 2010 – June 2011) to the Department of Commerce with this request for the release of funds. This report was provided with a letter noting that all obligations had been met and requesting release of payment on July 29, 2011. Staff received confirmation of receipt on August 4, 2011 of all of the required documentation and has since been notified that the Department of Commerce is still processing the report.

Garden City Update

Staff was informed by Matt Allen, City Manager of Garden City that the partnership between Dodge City and Garden City was still intact although Dodge City did vote against the alternate funding and would not relinquish their EAS funding. It is staffs understanding that the change in the process is that instead of applying “Alternate Air Service Funding” the Dodge City portion will utilize the normal “Essential Air Service” designation and that this has been approved through discussions with the FAA. It is important to note that there has not been an official determination by the FAA and staff is awaiting word on this process before we proceed with providing a request for funding to the Department of Commerce.

Amendment to the 2011 CUS Agreement

Under agreements approved December 13, 2010 with the Center for Urban Studies, Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs, Wichita State University, staff support and assistance is provided to REAP and the Water Resources Committee in calendar year 2011. In addition, per action taken by the REAP Executive Committee on December 7, 2010 the carryover in the Fund

balances for staffing are considered encumbered and are being applied at a rate of \$2,707.75 per quarter for REAP and \$8,500.00 per quarter for the WRC to accurately reflect the contractual amount per instruction from WSU.

However, the Office of Research Administration at WSU indicated that both the REAP and the WRC would be short of staff funding for the end of the 2011 calendar year due to changes to the benefit percentages calculated. ***In order to correct this shortfall the REAP Executive Committee approved an amendment to the current agreements with WSU to allow for an additional \$1,400 for REAP staffing and \$2,610 for WRC staffing to be applied to the final two quarters of 2011. This would amend the total contract amount for REAP to \$78,437 with \$19,959.25 remaining for the remainder of 2011 and amend the WRC to \$32,945 with \$8,888.75 remaining for the remainder of 2011.***

Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program Update

On June 20, 2011 an advanced notice of funding was announced for the 2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. The REAP sustainability task force was convened on July 15 to review the initial information about the grant, and discussed if the region was capable of being a successful candidate for funding in 2011. The task force agreed that REAP should continue to take the lead on the opportunity and proceed with the grant application. On July 27th, an official announcement was made for 2011 program funding, including a pre-application deadline of August 25 with the final application due 30-45 days following pre-application selection. ***On August 8 the REAP Executive Committee took action to direct REAP staff to take the lead in coordinating the efforts in applying for the 2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.***

The purpose of the application will be to develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (the only category that our region is eligible for). The taskforce has identified the same consortium government members as last year and are working on detailed information to provide REAP and consortium members.

A taskforce is collecting the data required for the application and meeting every Friday at 8:30 AM through the end of September to discuss progress and formulate the application in order to meet the deadlines. All of the information is being made available on the REAP website on a page dedicated to the grant, which can be accessed [here](#). All members are encouraged to review this material and provide comments or suggestions.

The Pre-application for the grant was submitted on August 24 with notification of an invitation to proceed with submittal for the full grant on September 2. The full grant application is due on September 28.

Designation of WAMPO Technical Committee Members

On August 9, 2011 the WAMPO Transportation Policy Body (TPB) approved an amendment to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Bylaws changing the membership. The amended TAC Bylaws no longer designate membership by specific position but by agency and REAP was provided with a voting membership. All TAC members were then asked to designate a voting member in the TAC. ***REAP Chair, Mayor Kristey Williams discussed this appointment with***

the members of the Executive Committee and recommended REAP Chief Executive Officer Joe Yager be the official designee. REAP has notified WAMPO of this appointment. A full listing of the voting member agencies on the TAC is as follows:

- One (1) WAMPO TPB Member (Nominated by the TPB)
- One (1) WAMPO Representative (Named by the TPB)
- Three (3) City of Wichita Representatives
- One (1) City of Wichita Transit Representative
- One (1) Coordinated Transit District Representative
- One (1) Sedgwick County Representative
- Two (2) Kansas Department of Transportation Representatives
- One (1) Butler County/Sumner County Representative
- Three (3) Sedgwick County Association of Cities (SCAC) Representatives
- One (1) Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Representative
- One (1) Regional Pathways Representative from the WAMPO Regional Pathways System Plan (RPSP) Project Advisory Committee
- One (1) Air Quality Representative for the Metropolitan Statistical Area
- One (1) Kansas Turnpike Authority Representative
- One (1) At Large Representative Freight Movement Orientation (Named by the TPB)

REAP Assessments for 2012

The updated REAP and REAP Water Resources Committee annual assessments for 2012 using 2011 State certified populations levels in accordance with the REAP Bylaws and Fiscal Procedures have been forwarded to all jurisdictions. The new assessments have also been attached to the end of these reports.

Report of the Legislative Committee

The REAP Legislative Committee did not meet in July or August while they have conducted the Listening Tour. The following highlights information from the Committee.

2011 REAP Membership Engagement Presentations

One of the items identified in the REAP Strategic Plan is to engage stakeholders by conducting outreach on the purpose and accomplishment of REAP. The Legislative Committee identified an action step of scheduling on-going community visitations to provide updates to councils and commissions on the purpose, goals, and status of REAP. At the request of the Committee staff has compiled several upcoming outreach opportunities where REAP representatives will visit communities, members or potential members, to update councils and commissions on the purpose, priorities, and progress of REAP. These representatives would also take questions concerning REAP. Staff is coordinating the schedule for these meetings as well as all necessary materials.

Membership Presentation Schedule

Thursday, July 14	Kechi
Thursday, August 18	Cowley First (Arkansas City, Cowley County, Winfield)
Tuesday, September 6	El Dorado
Tuesday, September 20	Hutchinson

Other presentations are being planned as the Committee hopes to visit with fifteen member communities by the end of the year. Staff will be contacting members to schedule these presentations, however, please contact [Mr. Joe Yager](#), REAP CEO, or [Mr. Dane Baxa](#), REAP EO-WRC, if you would like to schedule a presentation or meeting with your community.

REAP Listening Tour

The REAP Legislative Committee kicked off its listening tour in Newton on **August 11**. The tour is intended to help the Committee connect REAP with the communities in the region while allowing 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 first stop focused on communities in Harvey and McPherson counties and followed it up with a stop in Hutchinson on **August 26** that focused on communities in Kingman and Reno counties. Future stops are being planned for El Dorado, Wellington and Wichita. Look for an invitation via email in the near future for the stop in your part of the region.

Next Legislative Committee Meeting

Due to the scheduling of the Listening Tour, the Committee will not hold additional meetings until the conclusion of the tour.

Report of the Economic Development Committee

The REAP Economic Development Committee met on July 21 and August 25, 2011. The following highlights information from those meetings.

Local Area IV Chief Elected Officials Business

Appointments to the WA Board of Directors

The following appointments were approved by the Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB).

New Appointment

Ms. Martha Webb-Jones, Senior Manager, Spirit AeroSystems, Global Employment & Workforce Planning was nominated to the Workforce Alliance Board of Directors, term to expire June 30, 2014. This was a new appointment representing a business partner.

Re-Appointments

The following individuals were nominated for re-appointment to the Workforce Alliance Board of Directors, terms to expire June 30, 2014.

- **Mr. Les Depperschmidt**, Director, AT&T Kansas (*Business*)
- **Ms. Nikki Freeman**, Director, Human Resources, Wesley Medical Center (*Business*)
- **Mr. Robert Giesen**, President/Owner, B&B Electric Motor Co. (*Business*)
- **Ms. Kerri Falletti**, Director, Cowley First (*Economic Development*)
- **Mr. Pat Hanrahan**, President, United Way of the Plains (*Community Based Organizations*)

- **Mr. Keith Lawing**, Executive Director, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (*Title I B of WIA (Adults, Dislocated Workers, Youth)/ Senior Community Service Employment/Title V Older Americans*)
- **Commissioner Dave Unruh**, Sedgwick County Commissioner (*Chief Elected Official/Designee*)

Internet Web Security and Email Security/Spam Filter

The Workforce Alliance received a PY 09 Incentive Award from the Kansas Department of Commerce (KDC) based on WIA performance; the award is to be used toward One-Stop improvements. An identified area of improvement that has been in high demand is to update the Internet Web Security Appliance and Email Security/Spam Filter for the One-Stops. A plan was submitted to KDC to upgrade these items with the incentive funds; the plan was approved in April. The Workforce Alliance then released an RFP to obtain bids. The bids closed in June and staff is recommending Alexander Open Systems bid for Ironports Web and Email Security products. The total project cost is \$25,092.50 and the licensing will be good for 3 years for all products and services.

WA received \$17,500 in incentive funds; the remaining balance will be paid through WIA funds. WA staff has looked into different options including hosted and non-hosted systems, and based on the Centers' needs for archiving and security, and on the costs, the IT staff recommended the onsite solution. ***The CEOB authorized the WA Executive Director to enter into purchase agreements for the IT equipment and allow for change orders not to exceed 10%.***

Youth Program Occupational Skills Training Contracts

WA staff is working with educational institutions in the area to provide youth occupational skills training, an element required to be made available through the WIA Youth Program. An open ended request for proposals (RFP) is currently posted and available for any vendor/provider to submit a bid for services. At this time there are a number of youth who want to attend institutions that have not yet responded to the RFP. Staff is working with those institutions, but the institutions have not been timely with the turnaround of the bids, and time is now becoming critical to meet the needs of the youth for the fall semester. Staff is concerned that the youth participants will not have an opportunity to enroll in fall semester; this could have a negative impact on the youth and the program's performance.

WA requested permission to allow the WA Executive Director to execute contracts with youth occupational skills providers if the programs being offered are on the demand occupations list for the local area and the costs are the same or less than the cost of the general public to attend. ***The CEOB authorized the WA Executive Director to approve additions to the WIA Youth Services Provider List and to enter into youth training contract(s), if the occupational skills training program(s) being offered are on WA's demand occupation list and the costs are the same or less than the cost to the general public.***

Alignment of Funds for Social Innovations Fund

In July the NFWS released a Request for Proposals for the Social Innovations Fund (SIF) and the Workforce Alliance identified this opportunity as a priority. Due to the timing of the application process, the grant application was due on August 12, the WA held a Special Meeting of the

Board of Directors on August 5, 2011 to discuss and take action on an application for this grant that would provide support to extend PACES for two additional years.

Applicants are required to have a 4-1 match for the SIF funds. Current funders Spirit AeroSystems, United Way of the Plains, TECT, City of Wichita, Cessna, and Via Christi Health System (pending) have expressed interest in continuing to support PACES as part of the funding collaborative for the SIF. Staff was also working to expand the funding collaborative in order to meet the match requirement to sustain the work done to date in this initiative. As part of the match, staff recommended the Workforce Alliance align a minimum of \$450,000 per year for two years to meet the match requirements of the SIF. These aligned funds would be used to support employment and training programs for the Aviation and Healthcare Industries.

Aviation, Advanced Manufacturing and Healthcare have been strong industries in South Central Kansas for years, and have remained on the List of Occupations Approved for Training in Local Area IV throughout the economic recession. Currently 68 percent of WIA participants in training are enrolled in a program within the aviation, advanced manufacturing and healthcare industries. Since 2009, the Workforce Alliance has invested a majority of WIA funding, more than \$2.3 million, into training participants for jobs in these industries.

At a Special Meeting of the WA Board of Directors on August 5, 2011 action was taken to formally affirm the alignment of the \$450,000 of WIA and KHPOP funds to be a part of the grant's matching fund requirement. Although the grant application had already been submitted, staff requested official confirmation from the CEOB to align these funds. ***The CEOB formally affirmed the Workforce Alliance's commitment to the SIF application by "aligning" a minimum of \$450,000 of WIA and KHPOP funds to be part of the grant's matching fund requirement.***

Workforce Center Operations and Performance Update

The Committee received several updates, including: Traffic report; WIA/NEG training breakdown; WIA performance update; Youth Program update; National Emergency Grant (NEG) update; and PACES update. The entire report of these updates is available in the [REAP EDC packets](#).

COTA Fee Structure

The Committee directed staff to draft a letter to be forwarded to the Kansas Court of Tax Appeals at a hearing on August 4. The letter was in response to the deliberation on the change to the filing fees for appealing property tax valuations. The Committee asked the Court to consider the potential impact their decisions would have on the ability of local government entities to compete for jobs and investment and to maintain a business friendly structure. The letter has been attached at the end of these reports.

Next Economic Development Committee Meeting

The next Economic Development Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2011.

Report of the Water Resources Committee

The REAP Water Resources Committee met August 10, 2011. The following highlights information from that meeting and other events.

Mayor Dion Avello, City of Derby, Assumes Water Resources Committee Chairmanship

At the August 10 Water Resources Committee, Commissioner Willis Heck, City of Newton, passed the reigns of the Committee to Mayor Dion Avello, City of Derby, who was appointed by REAP chair, Mayor Kristey Williams, City of Augusta. Commissioner Heck thanked the Water Resources Committee members and the Hugo Wall School staff for their support over the past three years. Mayor Avello thanked the committee as well and expressed his eagerness to learn about water issues in the region and leading the Water Resources Committee.

Dean Amhaus Speaks at August 10, Water Resources Committee Meeting

Mr. Dean Amhaus, Milwaukee Water Council, spoke to the Water Resources Committee about water's role in economic development of a region. In his presentation, he was able to explain the significance of water locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. He provided insight of the future of water and current research taking place in Milwaukee to control certain water related issues (such as Asian carp, zebra mussels, and aquaponics). Mr. Amhaus gave a background of the Milwaukee Water Council and water issues in the Great Lakes region. The presentation provided the Water Resources Committee with an example of how to think about using water in our region's economic development. For Mr. Amhaus' presentation use visit http://reap-ks.org/images/content/files/dean_amhaus.pdf

El Dorado Water Feasibility Study

Mr. Kurt Bookout, City of El Dorado, provided the Water Resources Committee with information on the City's two phase feasibility study. Part One of the study is to confirm the capacity of water supply in reservoir. If part one determines that excess water is available, part two of the study will examine the feasibility of transporting and treating water to sell. He explained the purpose of the study is to maximize the utilization of existing regional water resources. The City of El Dorado and the region, are not utilizing the reservoir to its full potential. The feasibility study will continue to engage the Water Resources Committee and other stakeholders as it progresses.

Stormwater Rates to be Included in Annual WRC Water and Wastewater in 2012

Mr. Dane Baxa, REAP Water Resources, provided a preliminary survey of stormwater rates in the REAP region. The Committee discussed the interest if further exploring stormwater related issues. Overall, the Committee agreed that they would like to see stormwater rates included in the annual water/wastewater survey and supplemental information such as best management practices (BMPs) as well as what other comparable cities are doing with stormwater.

Next Water Resources Committee Meeting

The next Water Resources Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2011, immediately following the full REAP Board meeting.

REAP 2012 Assessments

Committee Member	2011 Certified Population	2011 Assessment	2012 Assessment	Percent Change
Andover	11,791	\$3,688	\$3,766	2.13%
Augusta	9,274	\$1,568	\$1,603	2.22%
Bel Aire	6,769	\$1,447	\$1,440	-0.48%
Bentley	530	\$234	\$234	0.19%
Benton	880	\$253	\$257	1.66%
Butler County	65,880	\$4,602	\$4,647	0.98%
Cheney	2,094	\$335	\$336	0.33%
Clearwater	2,481	\$358	\$361	0.91%
Colwich	1,327	\$293	\$286	-2.30%
Conway Springs	1,272	\$277	\$283	2.05%
Derby	22,158	\$4,490	\$4,440	-1.11%
El Dorado	13,021	\$3,822	\$3,846	0.64%
Garden Plain	849	\$256	\$255	-0.32%
Goddard	4,344	\$1,263	\$1,282	1.53%
Halstead	2,085	\$325	\$336	3.24%
Harvey County	34,684	\$2,356	\$2,367	0.47%
Haysville	10,826	\$3,682	\$3,704	0.59%
Hesston	3,709	\$1,249	\$1,241	-0.63%
Hutchinson	42,080	\$5,652	\$5,735	1.47%
Kechi	1,909	\$317	\$324	2.24%
Kingman County	7,858	\$1,689	\$1,696	0.44%
Maize	3,420	\$1,217	\$1,222	0.44%
McPherson County	29,180	\$2,222	\$2,230	0.34%
Mount Hope	813	\$257	\$253	-1.62%
Mulvane	6,111	\$1,384	\$1,397	0.95%
Newton	19,132	\$4,198	\$4,244	1.09%
Park City	7,297	\$1,522	\$1,474	-3.13%
Reno County	64,511	\$4,584	\$4,613	0.63%
Rose Hill	3,931	\$1,266	\$1,256	-0.83%
Sedgwick	1,695	\$310	\$310	0.06%
Sedgwick County	498,365	\$15,272	\$15,459	1.23%
Sumner County	24,132	\$2,087	\$2,103	0.78%
Valley Center	6,822	\$1,431	\$1,443	0.87%
Wellington	8,172	\$1,499	\$1,531	2.15%
Wichita	382,368	\$27,192	\$27,854	2.43%
Total		\$102,597	\$103,831	1.20%

Water Resources 2012 Assessments

Committee Member	2011 Certified Population	2011 Assessment	2012 Assessment	Percent Change
Andover	11,791	\$3,794	\$3,884	2.38%
Augusta	9,274	\$1,656	\$1,696	2.39%
Bel Aire	6,769	\$1,515	\$1,508	-0.48%
Benton	880	\$361	\$366	1.39%
Butler Co.	65,880	\$800	\$800	0.00%
Clearwater	2,481	\$483	\$486	0.64%
Derby	22,158	\$5,719	\$5,662	-1.00%
El Dorado	13,021	\$3,948	\$3,977	0.72%
Goddard	4,344	\$1,304	\$1,326	1.67%
Harvey Co.	34,684	\$800	\$800	0.00%
Hesston	3,709	\$1,287	\$1,278	-0.69%
Hutchinson	42,080	\$7,060	\$7,156	1.36%
Kechi	1,909	\$435	\$443	1.88%
Kingman Co.	7,858	\$800	\$800	0.00%
Maize	3,420	\$1,251	\$1,257	0.44%
McPherson	13,155	\$3,999	\$3,987	-0.31%
McPherson Co.	29,180	\$800	\$800	0.00%
Mt. Hope	813	\$365	\$361	-1.10%
Newton	19,132	\$4,383	\$4,435	1.18%
Park City	7,297	\$1,602	\$1,547	-3.42%
Rose Hill	3,931	\$1,307	\$1,295	-0.93%
Sedgwick	1,695	\$427	\$427	0.03%
Sedgwick Co.	498,365	\$800	\$800	0.00%
Sumner Co.	24,132	\$800	\$800	0.00%
Valley Center	6,822	\$1,498	\$1,512	0.91%
Wellington	8,172	\$1,576	\$1,613	2.34%
Wichita	382,368	\$31,914	\$32,678	2.39%
Total		\$80,684	\$81,692	1.25%

REAP

Cities

Over 10k= \$3000 + \$.065/pc

3-10k= \$1000+ \$.065/pc

Under 3k= \$200+ \$.065/pc

Counties

Over 50k= \$3000 + \$.025/pc

Under 50k= \$1500+ \$.025/pc

Water Resources

Cities

Over 20k=\$4000 + \$0.075/pc

10-20k= \$3000 + \$0.075/pc

3-10k= \$1000+ \$0.075/pc

Under 3k= \$300+ \$0.075/pc

Counties

\$800/each



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

August 4, 2011

Kansas Court of Tax Appeals
 Room 451, Docking State Office Building
 915 S.W. Harrison
 Topeka, KS 66612-1505

Judges of the Court of Tax Appeals:

The Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) is a council of 37 city and county governments in South Central Kansas that provides government leaders an opportunity to come together for support, ideas, collaboration, and for a common purpose -- to strengthen our individual communities and our region's economy. REAP promotes regional cooperation and develops innovative solutions by providing forums for the region to work together to advance economic partnerships, workforce development issues, water resources, and other issues that cross traditional jurisdictional boundaries.

More specifically, REAP represents a diverse membership of local officials and representatives from rural and urban communities in South Central Kansas who work together to promote a positive economic climate that will provide for population growth and wealth creation by supporting economic development tools and policies that will make our region, as well as all areas of Kansas, more competitive.

REAP supports incentives for economic development and through our discussions with local elected officials, economic development professionals and business leaders we believe that the tax abatements and industrial revenue bonds at the local level to encourage business investment in competitive economic development situations are valuable tools.

We do recognize the economic times that we are living in and understand the need to recover administrative costs associated with such applications, however, we would ask that you consider the potential impact your decisions will have on the ability of local government entities to compete for jobs and investment as you consider implementation of a new fee structure for exemption and IRB applications.

Therefore, on behalf of the members of REAP we respectfully request that you continue your support for these important tools by maintaining a fee structure and application process that is business friendly and does not discourage the prudent use of such resources.

Thank you for your leadership and service to the State and for your time in considering this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions or if REAP can be of any assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kristey Williams, Augusta
 REAP Chairman

REAP Board Meeting
September 12, 2011
Item #3 C

Item

Reports from REAP Representation on Regional Committees and Organizations

Background

REAP strives to be a regional leader through coordination and collaboration by partnering with organizations that help to shape economic development in South Central Kansas. The following are regional organizations REAP has an appointment on.

Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition *Submitted by: Mayor Kristey Williams*

- The GWEDC Steering Council met on Aug. 15. Scott Eilert provided the Council a Cargill Innovation Center update, showcasing how local and State cooperation and incentives worked smoothly together to secure Cargill's \$15 million capital investment, the retention of 50 high salary jobs, and the addition of two new high salary jobs. It was also noted that Wichita's clear vision for downtown was one determining factor during Cargill's site selection process. In addition, the Council was provided an activity update. The update included 66 active projects/leads, 53 YTD IDEA visits, and information regarding the joint partnership between GWEDC and the State at the Farnborough Air Show 2012.
- For additional GWEDC updates, go to their website www.gwedc.org.

Mid-Continent Airport Advisory Board *Submitted by: Commissioner Willis Heck*

- At that last Board meeting, an update on the new terminal was provided. The design work has been completed and the project will be bid in October of 2011. This places construction start scheduled for spring of 2012 and completion is scheduled for early 2012.
- Mike Carter, lead consultant on the project has retired. Mike was with the project for the last six years. The new lead consultant is Pat McCollom

KansasBio *Submitted by: Mr. Joe Yager*

- The Great Plains Capital Conference will be on September 15, 2011 at the Wichita Marriott Hotel. Registration begins at 11:15; Conference lunch begins at 12:15; Company Presentations are from 2-5pm; Reception 5-7pm. Opening remarks will be made by Kansas Secretary of Commerce, Pat George. The featured speaker is Joe Poletto, Partner, Indie Ventures and there will be a special guest Jack DeBoer, author, entrepreneur, and investor. There is a special rate for KansasBio members to attend the conference is \$100 - includes lunch, keynotes, conference materials, plus access to all conference activities, including the networking reception from 5-7pm. [More Information](#).

- The 2011 BIO International Convention closed with record breaking numbers. Some of the highlights from the 2011 BIO International Convention are as follows:
 - The 2011 BIO International Convention confirms 15,626 industry leaders from 48 states and 65 countries. [Read the full release »](#)
 - The top 10 largest international delegations included (in order): Canada, UK, Germany, France, Korea, Belgium, China, Japan, Spain and Australia.
 - The BIO Exhibition featured more than [1,800 exhibitors](#) and covered 180,000 square feet with 61 state and international pavilions.
 - The BIO Business Forum hosted a record breaking 21,183 partnering meetings between [2,410 companies](#) and featured 157 company presentations.
 - BIO attracted 11 U.S. Governors and more than 100 international public officials.

Visioneering Wichita *Submitted by: Mr. Joe Yager*

- The next Visioneering Steering committee is scheduled for **September 12**. The committee is reviewing the current direction of Visioneering and discussing how it should move forward.
- **2011 City to City Trip** – Pittsburgh, PA, Sept 14 – 16. The visit this year is sponsored by BKD, LLP and the Wichita Downtown Development Corporation. In addition to hearing from Pittsburgh leaders, the agenda will feature special facilitated sessions where participants will have the opportunity to delve deeper into an in-depth discussion about our desire to dynamically increase our regional economic and livability competitiveness aspects. The trip is limited to 55 participants and is filled on a first come-first serve basis. The registration has not been determined yet, however, it includes round-trip air transportation plus room accommodations, all meals (except Thursday dinner) and receptions. Regional economic and livability competitiveness are the themes with focus on three main areas:
 - **Downtown:** Pittsburgh made their dreams come true through smart downtown initiatives. We want to understand what key components were needed to be in place to drive their revitalization plans and how those strategies worked together in their cultural district rebirth and streetscaping in the downtown area.
 - **Changing the Legend from Steel Capital to Green City:** We want to hear how their leaders have shifted the economic focus from steel to education, health care, financial services, higher education and advanced technology such as robotics. Pittsburgh ranks among the highest in the number of green technology initiatives.
 - **Livability:** We desire to learn more about how the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers to the Ohio River has been incorporated into their city activities and tourism opportunities plus how parks, recreation and open spaces have increased their community's livability factor.

**REAP Board Meeting
September 12, 2011
Item #3 D**

Item

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Background

The REAP Chief Executive Officer submits the following updates and report on relevant information to the REAP organization.

Southwest Kansas Alliance Update

On Wednesday, August 31, 2011 REAP Chief Executive Officer Joe Yager served as facilitator for a follow-up planning and development meeting hosted by the Southwest Kansas Chambers of Commerce at the Lee Richardson Zoo – Fynnup Center for Conservation Education in Garden City. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a report and recommendations for forming a regional economic partnership that Yager and REAP Executive Officer of Water Resources Dane Baxa had provided the group.

Several dozen local and state leaders were in attendance for the two-plus hour session, including state senators and representatives from southwest Kansas, city and county commissioners, and other business and community leaders from Garden City, Dodge City, Liberal, Ulysses, Hugoton and Scott City, just to name a few. The following article from the Garden City Telegram provides a good description of the meeting: <http://www.gctelegram.com/news/swks-alliance-9-1-11>

The meeting included a presentation on the findings from the report, formation of REAP, and general characteristics of regional alliances. The meeting also provided some positive outcomes for the participants in developing a regional alliance and allowed for further development of an ongoing relationship with several leaders in south west Kansas.

NLC Leader Featured Speaker at Hugo Wall Day

"Challenges and Changes in Public Service" is the theme of the keynote speech at the Sept. 30 Hugo Wall Day event at the Wichita State University Metroplex, 29th and Oliver streets. Keynote speaker is Don Borut, executive director, National League of Cities. His presentation begins at 1 p.m. A pre-session entitled "Leadership Challenges for the Future" by Matt Jordan, director of operations, Kansas Leadership Center, begins at 10 a.m.

Other afternoon sessions include "Financial Lessons in Contracting for Services" by Dr. Melissa Walker, Hugo Wall School associate professor; a followup conversation with Mr. Borut; "Future of Private/Public Partnerships" featuring faculty from HWS and the W. Frank Barton School of Business, and "Transitioning Through Leadership Changes" presented by HWS alumni Norman Williams, City of Wichita chief of police; Tim Kaufman, Sedgwick County deputy director Human Services, and Dan Bryan, auditor, Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit.

A social hour begins at 5 p.m. The event is free of charge. Register [online](#). For more information, contact [Misty Bruckner](#), (316) 978-6527.

CEDBR Economic Outlook Conference

The Center for Economic Development & Business Research (CEDBR) is holding the 32nd Annual Wichita Area Economic Outlook Conference scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2011 from 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Century II Convention Hall. Tickets are currently on sale for \$95 through September 16 and will be \$125 after that date. Breakfast is included with the registration. The complete program and registration details are available at: www.wichita.edu/cedbr.

2011 LKM Conference to be Held in Wichita

Registration and details for the 2011 LKM Conference is now available online at <http://www.lkm.org/conference/>. The 2011 LKM Conference will be held October 8-10 in Wichita, KS and is designed as the premier training event for city officials in Kansas. This year's schedule has been changed to allow for even more educational opportunities for both elected and appointed city officials.

Kansas 150 Festival to be Held in Wichita

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback announced the State of Kansas will celebrate its sesquicentennial with the "Kansas 150 Festival Day" on October 8th in Wichita, Kansas.

The sesquicentennial celebration will showcase the state's proud cultural heritage with a "Kansas Sunflower Parade," a special "Home on the Range" concert, and an encampment featuring representatives from Kansas cities and counties along with historical re-enactors. The parade will wind through downtown Wichita with other festival activities hosted by Old Cowtown Museum.

Towns, cities, high schools, universities, civic organizations, companies, and re-enactors are invited to enter floats and marching units in the Kansas Sunflower Parade to show off their unique part of Kansas' history and heritage. Marching bands from across Kansas—from high schools, colleges, universities and the military—are invited to help make the parade a rousing, rollicking good time. Kansas vendors and re-enactors are encouraged to show off their wares at the fair.

Participation in the parade is free, but registration is required. Tickets for the "Home on the Range" concert are \$5. There is a \$25 registration set-up fee for booths at the fair, but that price includes two tickets to the concert. For all inquiries related to the Kansas 150 festival, please visit www.ks150.com.

REAP Meeting Schedule

Meeting schedules for 2011 are available on the REAP website, www.reap-ks.org.

Please note that due to the League of Kansas Municipalities Annual Conference, the next REAP meeting is scheduled for the first Monday of the month, **Monday, October 3, 2011** at 8:00 AM at the **Hughes Metropolitan Complex**, (29th and Oliver).

REAP Three Year Strategic Plan: 2011-2013

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.*

- 1) **Provide a unified voice** to promote regional economic development.
 - a) Collaborate with private, non-profit, and public sector stakeholders on regional economic issues.
 - b) Strengthen relationships with existing partners.
 - c) Encourage dialogue on 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.
 - b) Develop relationships with state and federal governmental officials.
 - c) Establish a process to identify policies affecting specific industries.
 - d) Coordinate a unified agenda for regional economic development.
- 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.
 - b) Conduct outreach on the purpose and accomplishments of REAP.
 - 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.
 - b) Determine REAP's role in regional planning.
 - c) Engage professional staff in multiple jurisdictions for sustainable planning.
- 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.

Role: Through our Strategic Planning efforts, staff was able to take the plan and define the role of REAP through our work plans as providing collaboration to enhance the South Central Kansas regional economy through leadership, partnership, and advocacy.

Leadership

- Create a vision for regional economic development.
- Provide a forum to identify and discuss future economic needs.
- Promote consensus and commitment to regional solutions.

Partnership

- Engage stakeholders on workforce development, water resources, economic partnerships, and more.
- Encourage inter-jurisdictional planning to promote a sustainable regional economy.
- Coordinate policies that guide progress in the region.

Advocacy

- Guide state and national policies that impact the regional economy.
- Provide a unified voice to promote regional economic development.
- Advance sustainability in the region's vision for growth and development.

Sustainable Communities Our Story

In recent years, the term “sustainability” has been used to describe everything from creation of renewable energy manufacturing to saving the habitat of the spotted skunk. For some it conjures images of protesting people chained to trees, while for others it means continued financial cutbacks to public services. In reality, the term “sustainability” means "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Therefore, since present needs are different in every region, it is critical for each region to define what sustainability means to it.

For South Central Kansas, sustainability must include the best use of public resources to ensure the next generation does not inherit a financial burden that impedes their future. Sustainability must include a coordinated plan to foster long-term job creation with the adequate infrastructure to access employment and services, and fiscal responsibility of local governments to ensure our region’s economic competitiveness. In addition, sustainable planning must incorporate our heritage and culture for all communities...urban and rural...that preserves our quality of life to attract and retain future generations. In essence, a coordinated effort to define how we will be stewards for all that we have inherited from the past...economics, culture, and resources...to ensure the next generation has the same opportunities.

In 1886, Kansas legislated that county boundaries would be defined to ensure that it took only one day on horseback to reach the county seat from anywhere else in the county. While there was logic behind that decision in 1886, we still hold tightly to those political lines today. The vast independence and strength of the agricultural heritage that built Kansans has resulted with Kansas ranking fifth in the most units of local government while being thirty-third in population in the nation. We have always valued self-determination and respect the unique qualities that make each community special. However, those qualities that made us strong, can hinder our ability today to come together to solve issues that transcend political boundaries.

During the mid-1900’s our economy expanded in South-Central Kansas to lead the world as an aircraft manufacturing cluster and workforce quickly moved into the core of the region, Sedgwick County, to support the growing industry. The cyclical nature of our aircraft manufacturing industry created a tipping point for diversifying the regional economy, which led to new employment centers dispersed throughout the region. In adjacent Harvey and Reno County, wind energy manufacturing is expanding; Butler County is increasing oil and gas production; and Sumner County in the past year, began construction on one of the largest entertainment employment centers in Kansas. However, with these changes, our agricultural heritage still remains a critical piece of our economy, history and culture.

Overall, the region has benefited from a general low cost-of-living that has allowed for this shifting of the employment centers outside of the core of the region, dispersing the workforce, housing options, and public infrastructure and services. However, as this dispersed development occurs the demand for public infrastructure and services and lack of coordinated planning ultimately increases the financial obligations of all local governments. Our historic process of insular planning and building public infrastructure systems has resulted in local governments serving less population at higher expenses, and at times duplicating services.

Furthermore, the dispersed nature of these centers leads to new construction in outlying areas which leaves older, inner-core areas competing for scarce municipal services which can affect the livability of

the neighborhoods. In addition, there is a general lack of affordable and desirable housing options with no coordinated effort in codes or access to alternative transportation. In fact with the strong regional preference to travel in one's own personal vehicle means commuters rely on their automobiles for transportation with little consideration for the disparity in public transportation. In addition, the changes in growth patterns impact our natural resources as each community attempts to address water quality and quantity, as well as the cost of energy for operation of the capital outlay. The impact to the air quality is also a concern with significant financial implications for the private and public sectors.

The region is also experiencing a shift in our demographics. The aging population, the ability to attract young professionals, and the overall health of our citizens, impacts the need for improving universal design of infrastructure and transportation to ensure citizens have affordable access to basic services and employment. **Without a coordinated effort to address the shifting economy and demographics, local governments will independently continue to increase their costs of service, making the region as a whole less economically competitive.**

With so many independent local governing bodies competing for economic opportunities, it is difficult for the region to work on sustainability issues together. In fact, there are several initiatives started that support our region working together for a sustainable future. A few of these efforts include Livable Communities, Visioneering Environmental Sustainability Alliance, Green Biz Wichita, the WIRE Initiative at the KU School of Medicine Wichita, Our Local Foods and many others. However, for the most part these initiatives are independent and do not leverage one another.

For 14 years, the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) has been guiding stakeholders to think and act regionally. The 37 city and county local governments that make up REAP have come together to create a regional vision for economic development, engage partnerships in inter-jurisdictional planning efforts, and advocate for state and national policies that impact the region. Since the inception of REAP, local leaders have advocated that creating efficiencies in public services can be made by working across boundaries, and REAP has been providing a forum to continue making that dialogue a reality.

The HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant aligns with the mission of REAP by allowing regions to integrate housing, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments into a regional planning initiative that considers economic competitiveness, social equity, energy use, and public health. Creating a sustainable future for the next generation through the best planning of human, financial and capital resources must be a shared plan for all communities in South Central Kansas. We need to ensure that all voices are at the table to develop a plan that is unique and appropriate for our region. While our independent spirit has made our region strong, we now must use the innovative spirit to find new means to work together to ensure that we pass on the same opportunities to the next generation that we received.