



Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP)

Meeting Agenda

8:00 a.m., September 13, 2010

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

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mayor Kristey Williams

II. Approval of Minutes from July 12, 2010 Meeting: Mayor Kristey Williams

Recommended Action: Approve or modify minutes as needed.

III. Special Presentations and Updates

1. Composites Kansas WIRED Grant Summary: Ms. Debbie Franklin

Ms. Debbie Franklin, Wichita State University, served as the program director for the Composites Kansas WIRED grant initiative that ended June 30, 2010. Ms. Franklin has been invited to provide a report on the many new and creative training, education, support and outreach programs, and activities within south central Kansas that were a direct result of this initiative.

2. Hugo Wall School Presentation: Dr. Nancy McCarthy Snyder

Dr. Nancy McCarthy Snyder, the new Director of the Hugo Wall School at Wichita State University, has been invited to provide an overview on the activities of the HWS.

IV. Regional Business Items

1. Report of the Executive Committee: Mayor Kristey Williams

A report will be provided on recent REAP activities, including the submission of the Sustainable Communities grant, KAAP update, and upcoming events.

2. Report of the Legislative Committee: Councilmember Jeff Longwell

A report will be provided on recent REAP legislative information, including plans for the 2010 Legislative Policy Summit and REAP meeting on transportation.

3. Report of the Economic Development Committee: Commissioner Dave Unruh

A report will be provided on the July 22 and August 26 EDC meetings, including actions taken by the Chief Elected Officials Board, and the upcoming scheduled committee meetings.

Recommendation: That REAP members from Local Area IV ratify the actions taken by the Chief Elected Officials Board as appropriate.

4. Report of the Water Resources Committee: Mayor Willis Heck

A report will be provided on recent actions taken by the WRC and the upcoming scheduled committee meetings.

5. Reports from REAP Representation on Regional Committees and Organizations

- *Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition: Mayor Kristey Williams*
- *Mid-Continent Airport Advisory Board: Mayor Willis Heck*
- *KansasBio: Mr. Joe Yager*
- *Report on Visioneering: Mr. Joe Yager*

6. Report of the Chief Executive Officer: Mr. Joe Yager

Recommended Action: Receive and file reports.

V. Unscheduled Business Items and Updates

VI. Adjourn (The next REAP meeting will be Monday, **October 4, 2010**, at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex, 29th and Oliver)

Meeting Minutes July 12, 2010
Hughes Metropolitan Complex, 29th and Oliver
Mayor Kristey Williams, Chairman

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Approval of Minutes from June 7, 2010 Meeting

Mayor Willis Heck, City of Newton, moved (Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County) to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Special Presentations and Updates

1. Downtown Wichita Draft Master Plan

Mr. Scott Knebel provided the board with the Plan's executive summary and presented a brief overview of the development process of the Wichita Downtown Master Plan. Mr. Knebel reviewed the plan's vision statement, key principles, and action strategies. Mr. Knebel noted that the plan focused on enhancing the culture, economic growth, community sustainability, and design of the downtown area. The City of Wichita plans to host several public feedback sessions in the near future, REAP members as well as their constituents were encouraged to attend.

2. GWEDC and REAP Regionalism Workshop

Vicki Pratt Gerbino, Executive Director of the Greater Wichita Economic Development Corporation, invited REAP members to attend a Regionalism Workshop co-sponsored by GWEDC and REAP on July 14th from 2pm-4pm at the Wichita Hyatt.

3. Hugo Wall School and Staffing Update

Dr. John Wong, Interim Director of the Hugo Wall School, introduced Ms. Nicole Bailey as the new REAP Graduate Assistant, and noted that Ms. Becky Eby would now serve as the Graduate Assistant for the Water Resources Committee.

Dr. Wong noted that an offer has been made to a candidate in regards to the Executive Officer for the Water Resources position. The hiring committee has identified the successful candidate for the Program Manager position for the Environmental Finance Center and an offer should be made within the week. It is anticipated that both of these positions will begin their appointment during the first week of August.

In regards to Hugo Wall faculty, Dr. Wong noted that Dr. Ed Flentje has formally requested to move into a phased retirement; as such it is anticipated that Dr. Flentje will continue his senior consultant services to REAP.

Dr. Wong concluded his report by announcing his resignation as the Interim Director for the Hugo Wall School, effective August 1, 2010. Dr. Wong has accepted a position as Professor and Chair of the Department of Urban and Public Leadership at the University of North Texas.

IV. Regional Business Items

1. Report of the Executive Committee

It was noted that a full report of the Committee could be found on pages 8 through 23 of the packet.

- a. KAAP Presentation – Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, Sedgwick County, provided REAP members with a 2010-2011 KAAP Funding Request Presentation for Sedgwick County. The presentation included a brief historical overview of Sedgwick County's involvement with KAAP and noted that the request would renew contracts with Airtran and Frontier for Fiscal Year 2011. It was noted that a full report on the process, and proposal was included in the packet on pages 9-11. Mr. Chronis did highlight a

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study done by the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University that shows that for every dollar the state invests, they receive \$5.25 dollars back into the state general fund.

b. KAAP Funding Recommendation – Mayor Williams noted that Sedgwick County was the only jurisdiction to submit a proposal for KAAP funds for Fiscal Year 2011 and the Executive Committee heard the Sedgwick County funding request at the July 7th meeting. Commissioner Unruh moved (Councilmember Jeff Longwell, City of Wichita) moved to approve KAAP funding in the amount of \$5,000,000 million for the Fiscal Year 2011 for Sedgwick County and direct staff to request KAAP funds through the Kansas Department of Commerce to implement this recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Treasurer’s Second Quarter Report – Mr. Joe Yager, Chief Executive Officer, REAP, provided the REAP Treasurer’s second quarter report and made a brief note of the change in the line item for carryover funds as a result of the correction made to the end of 2009 for consulting fees. Mr. Yager also made note that a similar correction will be found in the Water Resources Budget. Both of these items were approved by the full board in at the May meeting. Commissioner Unruh moved (Councilmember Longwell) moved to approve the REAP Treasurer’s second quarter report. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Yager also noted that the official population figures used for state purposes, as recorded by the Kansas Secretary of State, were released on July 1, 2010 and allowed for staff to provide updated annual REAP and WRC assessments for 2011. All jurisdictions, with the exception of Andover and Maize, should see assessments as anticipated. Both the City of Andover and the City of Maize crossed population thresholds that moved each community into a higher assessment category.

Mayor Williams noted that the Committee took action to authorize the Chief Executive Officer of REAP to participate in the 5th annual Region to Region Leadership Visit from October 10-13, 2010. The destination is Louisville, KY with the theme of regional economic and livability competitiveness and will focus on three main areas: downtown, economic development, and livability. The cost of the trip to REAP will be \$1,850.

Mayor Williams also noted that the Committee also reviewed potential areas of focus and discussed different scenarios that could affect REAP in the near future. Staff was directed to incorporate the discussion and continue with the development of the strategic planning process. The strategic planning session is still scheduled for the November 1, 2010 REAP Retreat.

2. Report of the Legislative Committee

Councilmember Longwell provided a report of the Legislative Committee noting that a full report could be found on pages 24-25 of the agenda packet. He noted that a final report on the legislative session was available on the REAP website. Councilmember Longwell also noted that the Legislative Committee will not meet during the month of July. The Legislative Committee will resume its regular meeting schedule in August.

3. Report of the Economic Development Committee

Commissioner Unruh provided the report on the June 24 EDC meeting, including the actions taken by the Chief Elected Officials Board, and the upcoming scheduled committee meetings. Commissioner Unruh commented on the EDC progress on its strategic focusing discussions, noting that the committee had recently heard two presentations by Dr. John Wong, Hugo Wall School, on potential areas of economic growth. The committee will continue this process in the upcoming months. Commissioner Unruh encouraged REAP members to attend the GWEDC and REAP Regionalism Workshop on July 14, 2010. Commissioner Unruh also noted that the EDC had

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made several appointments to the Workforce Alliance Board of Directors and approved a funding request to upgrade the telephone and computer systems at the Workforce Alliance.

Mr. Keith Lawing, Executive Director of the Workforce Alliance, provided brief updates on the National Emergency Grant and Summer Youth Employment programs. He noted that both programs were established and showing early positive results.

Commissioner Unruh made a special recognition of the hard work and efforts made by Ms. Debbie Franklin, WSU, who served as the project director for the Composites WIRED initiative. The rest of the REAP members also showed their appreciation for Ms. Franklin.

Commissioner Unruh moved (Councilmember Longwell) moved to ratify the actions taken by the Chief Elected Officials Board as noted. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Report of the Water Resources Committee

Mayor Heck reported on the recent actions of the WRC and noted that a full report of the WRC could be found on page 32 of the agenda packet. He thanked the City of El Dorado for hosting the Regional Water Conference and noted that we was very pleased with the participant turn out and the hard work of REAP staff members. He also noted that the next Committee meeting would immediately follow the full REAP board meeting. Mayor Heck also noted that Mayor Carl Brewer, City of Wichita, would be at the WRC meeting to discuss the recent activity of the Wichita Water Advisory Committee and on the current and future status of the State Water Plan Funding.

6. Report of Regional Committees and Organizations:

Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition

Mayor Williams provided a report of the GWEDC and noted that they were working on a variety of economic development projects.

Mid-Continent Airport Advisory Board

Mayor Heck provided a report of the MAAB. He noted that the passenger count was increasing and that the next Board meeting has a scheduled update on the new terminal.

KansasBio

Mr. Yager provided a report of KansasBio and noted that there were some upcoming events, including an Industry Advisory Panel on July 16 in Overland Park that would discuss the public policy survey results and results of the talent development and education survey. In addition, a stakeholder luncheon was planned in Overland Park on July 26 with Senator Sam Brownback scheduled as the keynote.

Report on Visioneering

Mr. Yager provided a report on Visioneering, noting that the Older Adult Alliance was holding a Livable Communities Showcase on July 29 at Newman University. He also noted that the Leadership Board was scheduled to meet July 19.

7. Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Yager also provided a report of the Chief Executive Officer and noted that a full report could be found on page 34-39 of the agenda packet. He provided an update on the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and noted that staff has taken the necessary steps for REAP to serve as the Applicant Organization as well as assembled a working committee comprised of staff members from several REAP member communities to compile and write the application. In addition, he noted that there was a strong federal movement towards supporting continued planning grants of this nature and that both the NLC and NACo have endorsed these

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commitments. He also noted that a recent article in the Kansas City Star provided some insight into the view of the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program in Kansas City. Finally, Mr. Yager provided an update on upcoming events, the recently released U.S. Census Bureau population figures, and REAP's website.

IV. Unscheduled Business Items and Updates

Mr. Yager reminded the board that there will not be a full board meeting during the month of August. The next REAP meeting is scheduled for September 13th at 8:00am at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex, (29th and Oliver).

V. Adjourn

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned. All reports were received and filed.

Meeting Minutes July 12, 2010

REAP Attendance 7/12/2010	
Members and Alternates	Jurisdiction
Mayor Kristey Williams	Augusta
Mayor Harold Smith	Bel Aire
Mr. Kent Brown	Clearwater
Ms. Diana Brooks	Colwich
Mr. Kurt Bookout	El Dorado
Commissioner Chip Westfall	Harvey County
Mr. David New	Haysville
Mr. Dave Kauffman	Hesston
Mr. Mark Tallman	Kechi
Council Member Nick Ard	Maize
Mayor Terry Somers	Mount Hope
Mayor Willis Heck	Newton
Commissioner Jim Nickel	Newton
Ms. Dana Walden	City of Park City
Mayor Keith DeHaven	Sedgwick
Commissioner Dave Unruh	Sedgwick County
Commissioner Garey Martin	Sumner County
Mr. Gus Collins	Wellington
Council Member Jeff Longwell	Wichita
Guests and Staff	
Ms. Vicki Pratt Gerbino	GWEDC
Mr. John Waltner	Harvey County
Mr. Harlen Priddle	K-96 Corridor Association
Mr. Randy Riggs	Newton
Ms. Irene Hart	Sedgwick County
Mr. Chris Chronis	Sedgwick County
Ms. Suzie Allstrand	Visioneering Wichita
Mr. Dale Goter	Wichita
Mr. Allen Bell	Wichita
Ms. Valerie Wise	Wichita Airport Authority
Mr. Scott Knebel	Wichita-Sedgwick County MAPD
Mr. Keith Lawing	Workforce Alliance
Ms. Misty Bruckner	WSU
Ms. Debbie Franklin	WSU
Dr. John Wong	WSU
Dr. Ed Flentje	WSU
Mr. Joe Yager	WSU
Ms. Angela Buzard	WSU
Ms. Vivian Spencer	WSU
Ms. Nicole Bailey	WSU
Ms. Becky Eby	WSU

Composites Kansas

Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development



Summary of Composites Kansas WIRED Initiative

Talent Driving Prosperity

“Talent Driving Prosperity” has been the WIRED tag line over the last three years, and talented regional leaders have been steering the south central Kansas regional economy towards accelerated materials and process transformation, thereby positioning our region to compete and win in the global economy.

Through the vision of the Composite Kansas Leadership Team led by Mark Conway and Mickey Fornaro-Dean, the initiative has:

- Updated educational and training curricula informed by research and development in collaboration with business and industry
- Supported applied research in aviation and health care
- Encouraged entrepreneurship
- Provided research tools for the region’s economic development community.

To position our region for a vital and prosperous economic recovery, the Composites Kansas WIRED Initiative empowered numerous agencies and individuals to align their resources and expand capacity. Among the many outcomes of the grant are:

- Training - nearly 2,900 individuals received training in advanced materials processes and techniques.
- Curricula - more than 50 curricula were developed in the areas of composites and advanced materials processes and repairs, entrepreneurship and business support, and more than 300 educators have been prepared for instructing these topics.
- Laboratory facilities – two new training laboratories have been equipped for the National Center for Aviation Training – a composites laboratory and a non-destructive testing laboratory.
- Workforce pipeline – career exploration education and training in science, technology, engineering and math have impacted and empowered more than 200 youth, many of whom are from underrepresented groups. In addition, nearly 250 technical professionals, who were trained in the pre-composite materials era, have had opportunities to upgrade their skills in composites and advanced materials processes.
- Economic diversification – Center of Innovation for Biomaterials in Orthopaedic Research (CiBOR) leverages the experience in advanced composites to grow a new medical device industry cluster.
- Collaboration – more than 100 regional partners have regularly convened across geographical, jurisdictional, and institutional boundaries to connect and work in concert with unity of purpose toward the Composites Kansas WIRED goals.

WIRED has spawned many new and creative training, education, support and outreach programs and activities within south central Kansas. Our challenge is not only to sustain these activities, but to expand the region’s ability to conceive, develop, and produce new technologies and to deploy new productive processes.

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Report of the Executive Committee

The REAP Executive Committee did not meet in July or August, however, there are several items to note. The following report is provided:

Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program Update

The Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) was requested and agreed to serve as the lead applicant organization for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) \$100 million Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program for regional planning. The grants will assist regional planning organizations and consortia of local governments to integrate housing, transportation, economic development, water infrastructure and environmental planning.

REAP views governmental cooperation as an essential step in the expansion of the regional economy and created a consortium that represents the Wichita MSA with the addition of Reno County to lead the population of this grant application. The consortium includes the City of Wichita, as the MSA's principal city, as well local units of government in Butler County, Harvey County, Reno County, Sumner County, and the largest cities in each county: El Dorado, Newton, Hutchinson, and Wellington. In addition, the consortium includes the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO); Wichita State University's Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs; Visioneering Wichita; and the Kansas Health Foundation.

Developing an engagement process to transform our region from "talking about a regional approach" to "thinking, behaving and valuing" a regional approach will be the fundamental measurement for success of the planning process. The approach must ensure a process to have meaningful discourse on diverse and sometimes polarizing topics, with regional representatives of diverse interests and backgrounds. Recognizing our current political and social culture of communities acting separately is not sustainable nor the best use of resources for our region.

Developing trust and agreement with political leadership will be a critical role of the Regional Sustainability Council of the consortium. Technical expertise and commitment to connecting the usual and unusual voices will be a constant challenge of our Leadership and Executive Committees. The consortium will be assisted by the program manager in the Hugo Wall School to provide daily oversight of plan development. The consortium will seek, through competitive request for proposal process, a consulting team led by a primary consultant that will assemble a team of qualified experts in the various disciplines needed for developing the plan, such as planners, community engagement specialists, engineers, environmental specialists and topic experts. The consortium will rely on consultant expertise to assist in data analysis, engagement process, technical advice and plan development.

The consortium identified five strategy areas on which the south central Kansas regional plan for sustainable development will focus: Housing; Environment (air quality and water); Transportation; Economic development (long-term job creation); and Healthy Community Design.

Overall, the grant will support multijurisdictional planning that integrates these five critical areas and empowers jurisdictions to consider interdependent challenges of 1) economic prosperity through

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competitiveness and revitalization; 2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; 3) energy use and climate change; and 4) public health and environmental impact.

The program translates the sustainable communities six livability principles into strategies that direct long-term development and reinvestment, address issues of regional significance, and engage stakeholders and citizens in meaningful decision-making.

In order to be open and transparent REAP has a dedicated a page on our website (www.reap-ks.org) for the Grant. On this page there are the links to the Grant Abstract, Grant Narrative, Rating Factor Form, NOFA, pertinent planning documents, and other information. The official submittal was made on Monday, August 23, 2010.

Kansas Affordable Airfares Program Update

The Executive Committee is charged to administer the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program and assure that all statutory requirements for programming, evaluation, accounting and auditing, financial management, and reporting are met.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Addendum Award

At the April 12 REAP meeting, REAP awarded \$125,000 for funding for the FY 2010 Addendum to a proposal from Sedgwick County. This proposal renewed a contract with Frontier for the period of April 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010. After receiving the local match of \$41,667 on July 8, REAP provided appropriate documentation regarding this award to the Kansas Department of Commerce, and on August 10 REAP received the funding from the State of Kansas. Funds were forwarded to Sedgwick County on August 13.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Award

At the July 12 REAP meeting, REAP awarded \$5 million for funding for the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program to a proposal from Sedgwick County. This proposal: 1) addressed all statutory criteria for the allocation of funding including the priorities of maintaining affordable airfares to eastern and western U.S. destinations and impacting a majority of Kansans; 2) renewed a contract with AirTran for the 12 months beginning July 1, 2010; 3) provided for the Frontier revenue guarantee agreement to continue through June 30, 2010; and, 4) provided for the local match of \$1,675,000. In addition, REAP has received notification of the funding from the State of Kansas and is awaiting the official transfer after submitting a performance report from the previous year.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Report

Highlights of the performance report submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce are provided below:

For fiscal year 2010 REAP awarded funds to Sedgwick County to provide a one year revenue guarantee for AirTran to maintain affordable airfares to eastern destinations, continuing an effective program initiated in 2002, and developing affordable airfares to western U.S. destinations by providing a one year revenue guarantee for Frontier. The total funding of the program was \$6,666,250, with \$5 million in State funding and the required \$1,666,250 by local match.

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KAAP Performance for Fiscal Year 2010

- residents from **three quarters of Kansas** counties utilize the airport
- **7-14%** of users come from **out of state**
- **35-41%** of users are from Kansas counties **other than Sedgwick County**
- AirTran's existence translated into a direct savings of **\$29.5 million saved** on airfares.
- Frontier's existence projected to translate into a direct savings of **\$32.6 million saved** on airfares.
- **The combined effect of these two services result in more than 1.07 million travelers benefiting from lower fares, with \$62.1 million saved on airfares in fiscal year 2009.**
- The direct investment of the \$7 million funding resulted in the following benefit-to-cost ratio:
 - **State of Kansas received \$5.25 for every \$1 invested**
 - **City of Wichita received \$1.35 for every \$1 invested**
 - **Sedgwick County received \$1.86 for every \$1 invested**
 - **For the three entities combined, they received \$3.64 for every \$1 invested.**
- It is also estimated that AirTran's entry into the Wichita market attributes to the following:
 - **Average annual number of jobs totaled 9,720**
 - **Average annual payroll for these jobs totaled \$283.4 million**
- The passenger growth from Wichita due to the existence of AirTran and Frontier over the period of 2000-2009 reveal that:
 - the top 50 destinations that existed in 2000 have experienced a **passenger growth of 50%** where a low-fare carrier exists.
 - the top 50 destinations in 2009 have experienced a **passenger growth of 56%** where a low-fare carrier exists.
- The changes in fares from Wichita due to the existence of AirTran and Frontier over the period of 2000-2009 reveal that:
 - the top 50 destinations that existed in 2000 have experienced a **28% decrease in fares** in markets served by a low-cost carrier.
 - the top 50 destinations in 2009 have experienced a **27% decrease in fares** in markets served by a low-cost carrier.
- Round trip fares through Atlanta and selected destinations served by AirTran have experienced **reductions of as much as 53%** between 2000 and 2009.
- Round trip fares through Denver and selected destinations served by Frontier have experienced **reductions of as much as 46%** between 2007 and 2009.

REAP Strategic Planning Update

REAP is conducting a strategic planning process designed to engage REAP members and stakeholders in discussion on the future direction and sustainability of REAP over the next three to five years. With changes in REAP leadership, current and anticipated requests from other organizations, and the economic environment, a strategic planning process will reinforce the value of the REAP organization, strengthen commitment to the REAP mission and set forth a framework for the direction of the REAP organization. The strategic planning session will include all members, alternates, participants, and several partners and is scheduled for the **November 1, 2010 REAP Retreat**.

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In conjunction with this staff will forward out the annual survey via email. All members, alternates, and participants are encouraged to respond on the survey. *Surveys will be forwarded on Monday, October 4 following the regularly scheduled REAP meeting and will be asked to be returned by Monday, October 18.*

REAP Congressional Forum

At the August REAP Economic Development Committee meeting, it was suggested that REAP extend invitations to the 4th District Congressional Candidates to appear at an upcoming REAP meeting. The Executive Committee reviewed this request and identified Monday, October 4, which is the regularly scheduled October REAP Board meeting, as an appropriate date. On behalf of REAP, REAP Chair Mayor Kristey Williams (Augusta), extended an invitation to candidates for both 1st and 4th Congressional Districts to provide an opportunity to speak and take questions for 10-15 minutes.

Next Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the REAP Executive Committee is being scheduled for the week of September 27, 2010.

Submitted by the Executive Committee:

Mayor Kristey Williams of Augusta, REAP Chair
Commissioner Garey Martin of Sumner County, REAP Vice-Chair and Treasurer
Commissioner Dave Unruh of Sedgwick County, Economic Development Committee Chair
Council Member Jeff Longwell of Wichita, Legislative Committee Chair
Commissioner Willis Heck of Newton, Water Resources Committee Chair
Mayor Terry Somers of Mount Hope, at-large representative
Commissioner Chip Westfall of Harvey County, at-large representative

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program
Application by the Regional Economic Area Partnership of South Central Kansas

ABSTRACT

The *South Central Kansas Regional Plan for Sustainable Development* will be a catalyst for change in our region. Since its founding in 1997, the grant applicant, the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) of South Central Kansas, has made considerable progress in promoting collaboration among its member counties and cities on a number of critical regional issues. The tendency of our region, however, has been to respond to singular situations, with focus on a particular concern. We have not practiced the art of integrating multiple issues over issue boundaries under shared long-range strategies. We are a region of many units of government with independent-minded and often competitive leaders. Development of this plan will cause us to think and work together outside of our usual and accustomed roles.

We expect that development of this plan will move REAP to a new level as an organization. Creation of the plan will require new regional partnerships to be formed among local units of government, non-profits and the private sector. We will have to acquire new skills of regional collaboration and opportunities will open for new leadership arrangements in the region. The plan will cause us to formalize those new relationships and compel us to practice regionalism.

By doing so, the plan will strengthen the region's competitiveness in today's world economy and its long-term viability as a place where people want to live, work and play. With an eye toward future generations, we worry about how our individual communities will survive, often forgetting how communities within our region are tied together economically, socially and environmentally. We must work together if we are to survive individually, and the plan will set forth strategies by which we can cooperate to our mutual benefit.

We expect the *South Central Kansas Regional Plan for Sustainable Development* to contain strategies to promote the long-term viability of our economy with a key focus on job creation and retention. We will know the plan has succeeded when employment and household income growth in the region remains constant and relatively stable over the long-term. It will be deemed a success when the unemployment rate within the region varies no more than the national rate through business cycles.

We expect the plan to address how to make it possible for everyone to have access to affordable quality housing in a livable neighborhood from which they can afford to reach their place of employment. There are common strategies that jurisdictions within the region can adopt that will promote this end.

The plan must acknowledge the strong regional preference to travel in one's own personal vehicle. Key regional strategies would be to assure that the level of congestion on the transportation system grows no faster than the rate of population and employment growth within the region. Among these would be to offer safe, cost-effective alternative transportation modes to those who may want or need other options. In addition, the plan would be an impetus for us to better coordinate transportation planning within the region in order to optimize available local, state and federal funding resources.

The plan must address a number of significant environment challenges that the region will face in the years ahead in order to maintain its economic competitiveness and livability. The region may be given a non-attainment designation for ozone in the next several years and will have to successfully implement an Air Quality Mitigation Plan for ozone in order to regain attainment status. This occurrence will necessitate significant new regional cooperation, particularly in transportation planning. The region will

also have to resolve long-term how it will provide adequate water supply to its industry and citizens and distribute that water in a cost-effective manner. Critical to the success of any environmental strategy within our region will be to achieve an appropriate balance among rural and urban interests in accessing environmental assets.

Underlying all the plan's strategies are a concern with how the built environment affects the health of the region's citizens. Community health is critical to the sustainability of any region and strategies regarding how the community is designed and built will be central to the plan. The plan will have succeeded when the design of healthy communities becomes the design standard for the built environment in all our jurisdictions and when the health of the community improves as measured by several key indices.

Plan Process. Creation of the *South Central Kansas Regional Plan for Sustainable Development* will be transformational for our region. Because we anticipate that its development will be a complex, adaptive process, we are scheduling the work over the allowed 36 months.

We anticipate considerable debate from stakeholders about what "sustainable development" means for the region. Achieving meaningful consensus will involve:

- 1) Correctly diagnosing our situation (Phase 1: Project Initiation, Existing Conditions Analysis [10 months]);
- 2) Engaging stakeholders in creating a shared vision (Phase 2: Alternative Regional Sustainability Scenarios & Vision [9 months]);
- 3) Developing shared goals, objectives and action strategies (Phase 3: Livability Elements of the Regional Sustainability Plan [11 months]); and
- 4) Reaching consensus (Phase 4: Alternative Regional Sustainability Scenarios & Vision [6 months]).

In order to accomplish this task, the Consortium anticipates hiring a qualified project director to manage a multi-disciplinary consulting team. Necessary skill sets for the project director and consulting team will include experience in community engagement processes, public awareness campaigns and consensus building, as well as a clear understanding of the program's purpose. Their work will be overseen by a Leadership Team consisting of Consortium members and will be supplemented by the participation of Consortium members in a committee structure focused on critical strategy areas.

With completion of the plan, REAP will create a Regional Sustainability Council to oversee plan implementation and to continue community education and outreach efforts. Each Consortium member will be asked to adopt the *South Central Kansas Regional Plan for Sustainable Development* and to commit to its implementation through the amendment of existing plans and policies, as appropriate.

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Report of the Legislative Committee

The REAP Legislative Committee held a meeting on August 27, 2009. The following report is provided:

Kansas Affordable Airfares Program

The Committee received an update on the submittal of the Fiscal Year 2010 Performance Report to the Kansas Department of Commerce and anticipated receipt of funding for the Fiscal Year 2011 program year. There was also discussion on the importance of the program and the need to define a process for continuation of funding.

Transportation Update

The REAP Legislative Committee directed staff to formulate a process for REAP to take the initiative in bringing the region together to discuss and prioritize the top tier listing of potential projects to receive funding for South Central Kansas as identified by KDOT.

KDOT has expressed its preference that each region identify projects of regional priority within available funding for expansion and modernization projects of \$300-\$600 Million over 10 years. The list includes 34 identified projects, which is far more than can be funded with the available money.

REAP will be scheduling a meeting of professional staff from the REAP member jurisdictions to review the KDOT project rating system and overall process, and the WAMPO project selection criteria that WAMPO used to rate projects in the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2035.

The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

- To provide informational content of how we got to this point and where we currently stand in the process with KDOT.
- Identify any concerns with the process or the project selection.
- Develop consensus about how jurisdictions in KDOT's South Central region might prioritize the region's projects.
- Recommend next steps to the REAP Legislative Committee at its regularly scheduled September 24, 2010 meeting.

Professional staff from the REAP member jurisdictions are invited to attend a REAP sponsored regional transportation meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2010 in the Sudermann Room at the Wichita State University Hughes Metroplex (29th and Oliver) from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

T-Works Update

The T-WORKS workshops and webinar comprised of more than 550 Kansans participating in discussions that are meant to help for the upcoming Local Consultation meetings. Below are the dates and locations for the Local Consultation meetings this October. All of these meetings will be from **9 a.m. to Noon**. KDOT staff will be also available after lunch if more discussion is needed. More information about the meeting (i.e. agenda, meeting format, etc) will be forwarded at a later date, but for now, please mark your calendars.

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REGION	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Southeast Kansas	October 8	Independence Memorial Hall 410 N. Pennsylvania Independence, KS 67301	9 a.m. to Noon
Northeast Kansas	October 22	National Guard Armory 100 S. 20th St Kansas City, KS 66102	9 a.m. to Noon
North Central Kansas	October 25	Abilene Fair Grounds 619 N. Rogers Abilene, KS 67410	9 a.m. to Noon
Northwest Kansas	October 26	Ramada Hays Hotel and Convention Center 3603 Vine St. Hays, KS 67601	9 a.m. to Noon
Southwest Kansas	October 27	Seward County Event Center 810 Stadium Ave. Liberal, KS 67901	9 a.m. to Noon
South Central Kansas	October 28	Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center 1400 N. Lorraine Hutchison, KS 67501	9 a.m. to Noon

REAP Endorsement of State Water Plan Fund Reevaluation

The Committee reviewed an endorsement letter from REAP in support for a reevaluation of the State Water Plan Fund as part of the 2011 LKM Statement of Municipal Policy. Included in that reevaluation is an assessment of the following: Kansas Water Authority representation; Revenue sources to the state water fund; Distribution of the state water fund ; and, Kansas legislative process for introduction, consideration and adoption of the annual Kansas Water Authority budget.

2010 REAP Policy Summit

The Committee directed staff to develop in conjunction with several partners the South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation Policy Summit to prepare for the 2011 legislative session. The Policy Summit is in development stages but it is expected to be held on **Thursday, December 2, 2010 at the Courtyard Marriott in Old Town**. One change this year is that the Summit will be a one day event, starting at approximately 9:30 am and ending with a reception at 5:00 PM.

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2011 Issue Identification

The Committee began the discussion to identify issues of importance in preparation of the Policy Summit and annual REAP retreat in November. Issues identified were the continuance of REAP priorities such as airfares and the development of water related legislative issues.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Transportation Meeting – The REAP sponsored regional transportation meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 16, 2010** in the Sudermann Room at the Wichita State University Hughes Metroplex (29th and Oliver) from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Committee Meeting – The next scheduled meeting is **Friday, September 25, 2010** from Noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Administrative Offices, 150 N. Main, Wichita. Meetings are not held if there is no business before the committee.

Congressional Forums – As noted in the REAP Executive Committee Report, candidates from the 1st and 4th District Congressional races have been invited to speak at the **October 4, 2010** REAP meeting. In addition, on **September 30, 2010**, the Workforce Alliance has invited the 4th District Congressional candidates to speak on jobs and job creation at the WA Board of Directors meeting.

Technical Education Panel for Area Legislators – The Workforce Alliance will be hosting an informational session for area legislators and legislative candidates as a part of the follow up to the presentations made before the Technical Education Authority last March. The tentative date for the panel discussion is Tuesday, **September 28, 2010**. The session will be at the Wichita Workforce Center, on the 3rd floor in the Multipurpose room and will last approximately 90 minutes. Panel members will include Kathy Smith from Kaman, representing manufacturing; Tony Naylor from Wichita Electrical Apprenticeship, representing organized labor; and Krista Thacker from Via Christi, representing health care. The discussion will center around technical education and its effect and importance on the future of the respective industries.

Submitted by the Legislative Committee:

Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita, Chairman

Mayor Kristey Williams, Augusta

Mr. Will Johnson, Butler County

Mayor Dion Avello, Derby

Ms. Stephanie Knebel, Derby

Mr. Bob Myers, Newton

Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County

Mr. Dale Goter, Wichita

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Report of the Economic Development Committee

NOTICE: Through an agreement entered into by counties in Local Area IV as defined by the State of Kansas, the Economic Development Committee (EDC) has been designated to serve as the Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB), as defined in the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 in Local Area IV, which includes Butler, Cowley, Kingman, Harper, Sedgwick and Sumner counties. All EDC members are asked to participate, however, only those designated elected officials of the CEOB shall have a vote.

The REAP Economic Development Committee met on July 22 and August 26, 2010. The following details the business items that were discussed at the meeting:

Regional Economic Development Strategic Focusing

The EDC identified in the 2010 work plan the priority of use of a comparative analysis of the regional economy to identify the strengths and weaknesses and recommend action to address them. For the July meeting the Committee concluded the *Economic Base* section, conducting an in depth analysis of the trends of key industry within the region.

The data was placed in a power-point presentation and is available on the REAP website under the Strategic Focusing page (<http://www.reap-ks.org/focusing.html>). From these discussions the Committee directed staff to work on securing a teleconference with Dr. Wong for the September Committee meeting, at which time a draft report will be provided that provides an evaluation of the information to date and proposed focus areas.

GWEDC/REAP Regionalism Workshop Discussion

The GWEDC and REAP co-hosted “Positioning Your Region to Win – Building Blocks for Competitiveness” on July 14, 2010. Committee members discussed the event as well as the proposed focuses of: vision, infrastructure investment, and dedicated funding.

T-Works Wichita Workshop Update

The Committee received an update on the August 23rd KDOT T-Works Wichita Workshop. The Committee directed staff to explore options for REAP to serve as a regional voice on the proposed project prioritization request from KDOT.

HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program Update

The Committee received an update on the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program submittal by REAP, including a review of the abstract and discussion on potential impacts.

Hawker Beechcraft Discussion

The Committee discussed potential support for the aviation industry through REAP action of a proclamation or resolution. It was determined that symbolic actions may be considered at some point in time, but that it was more important to focus our efforts on continuing our strategic focusing initiative to help promote the overall economic environment in south central Kansas.

Adoption of the PY 2010 Workforce Alliance Operating Budget

Workforce Alliance Staff has prepared the PY 2010 operating budget for review and adoption. The WA Finance Committee reviewed and recommended adoption of the proposed budget to the Executive Committee, which took official action on June 15, 2010.

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WIA revenue is up 17% from the previous year. This is the first time since 2008 that WIA allocations have increased. The total amount of the proposed PY 2010 operating budget is \$4,677,148. The budget includes the funds received for the Senior program (SCSEP). In addition to the operating budget, the Workforce Alliance manages funds in separate budgets for the National Emergency Grant (NEG) and PACES program. These budgets are reviewed and approved separately. Staff estimates \$475,000 will carry over to PY 10 from the PY 2009 budget. These are largely ARRA funds. There will be a decrease in the facility operation costs (rent, communications, security) line items as the NEG budget is defraying part of those costs.

Following a discussion on the proposal the Committee took action to approve the PY 2010 operating budget as presented.

Appointment to the WA Board of Directors

The Committee took action to appoint two new Private Sector appointments to the Workforce Alliance Board of Directors for three year terms of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012 as follows: 1) Robyn Heinz, Human Resources, Vornado Air, LLC; and 2) Ben Mabry, P.E., Professional Engineering Consultants, P.A.

Workforce Alliance Strategic Plan Update

The Committee received the final draft of the WA Strategic Plan that was approved at the June 24 Board of Directors Meeting and reviewed the particular goals that included several roles for REAP.

Workforce Alliance Reports

Approval of Amendment to Agreement for Paymaster Services

The Workforce Alliance issued a RFP for Paymaster Services in spring 2007 and issued the winning contract to Allen Gibbs and Houlik. The original contract was for two (2) years with two (2) annual extension options. This period would be the last extension available under the original RFP. Allen Gibbs and Houlik have met the needs of the Workforce Alliance and has provided WA with exceptional service. The Committee took action to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an amendment to the agreement with AGH for one additional year of services pending legal review.

WIA Youth Services Procurement

Per guidance from the Department of Labor and Kansas Department of Commerce, the Workforce Alliance began the procurement process for the Workforce Investment Act Youth Elements in April 2010. An Invitation for Bid (IFB) was released on April 14, 2010 for the elements of Tutoring, Study Skills Training, and Drop-Out Prevention; Work Experience; Adult Mentoring; Alternative Secondary School Services; Counseling; and Leadership and Development. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on April 14, 2010 for the element of Occupational Skills Training.

Unfortunately, the WA did not receive a high number of responses to the IFB and RFP. Two proposals were received for the RFP for Occupational Skills Training. One proposal was received from a post-secondary institution and one was from a community based organization that only provides one specific training program. No proposals were received from local community colleges or technical schools. For many of the elements in the IFB only one bid was received and for one element no bid was received. All but one of the bids and proposals received were from providers in Sedgwick County.

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The task force appointed to review the proposals met and scored the responses received. They recommended, and staff concurred, that the following contracts be negotiated and signed by the Executive Director pending legal review:

- Friends University: Cisco Networking, Associate and Bachelor Degrees
- Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation: Business Fundamentals for Youth (Computer Training)
- Manpower: Work Experience and Work Training, several online courses
- Pyxis: Work Experience, Leadership Development, Adult Mentoring
- River Rock Ranch: Work Readiness, Life skills, Conflict Resolution, Problem Solving, and Improving Self Image

Staff requested technical assistance from the Department of Commerce on how to proceed to procure the additional elements required, including the possibility of using sole source procurement. Staff requested direction as to whether the Committee wished to delegate approval to negotiate and complete any additional contracts or to return for approval individually. The Committee took action to authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements with the five (5) providers listed and authorized staff to negotiate and complete any additional agreements consistent with technical assistance and pending final legal review.

WIA Oversight Committee

In an effort to better engage the Board of Directors, increase efficiencies and encourage a more strategic, systematic approach to WIA resources, staff proposed and the WA Executive Committee approved the creation of the WIA Oversight Committee by combining the current Operations Committee and Youth Council responsibilities into a single committee to advise the Board on Adult, Dislocated Worker, Older Adult/Senior and Youth programs and initiatives. The Committee also directed the Chair to make appointments to the WIA Oversight Committee.

Summer Youth Employment Program Update

The Summer Youth Employment program for summer 2010 is coming to a close. 262 youth participated in the program at 70 worksites. Celebrations were held in Wichita, Derby and El Dorado to recognize the youth and the employers who contributed to its success. Staff is evaluating the current participants to determine who may continue in the year round program after the end of September. Some of the older out of school youth will work until then if interested and requested by their worksite. A full report on the Summer Youth program will be given at a future Board meeting.

WIA Performance Update.

After renegotiating the common measures for PY 2009 and PY 2010 with the Kansas State Department of Commerce, the year end results for the PY 2009 reporting period show Local Area IV met sanctions and goals on all but the Dislocated Worker Average Earning category. A request from Local Area IV to renegotiate this standard further is still pending with the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Even though the standards for PY 2010 have been lowered, staff remains concerned about meeting the common measures due to the ongoing limited job opportunities in the foreseeable future. The PY 2009 completed report and current PY 2010 reports are attached. At this time it is still too early to draw any conclusions from the PY 2010 figures.

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South Central Kansas Layoff Information

Along with the monthly reports staff provides regarding layoffs and regional unemployment rates since October 2008, the Workforce Alliance has issued a special report containing layoff and unemployment rates in the 4th Congressional District. Due to the increased focus on the 4th District, the Local Area IV report was expanded to include Chautauqua, Elk, Greenwood, Harvey, and Montgomery counties. The data shows that the July 2010 unemployment average for the state was 6.9 percent, but 9 percent in the 4th District after peaking at 10.3 percent in July 2009. A press release regarding the special report was sent to the 4th District Congressional candidates and the media was also released and is also available on the website. The special report can be accessed on the Workforce Alliance website at:

<http://www.workforce-ks.com/Index.aspx?page=49&recordid=141&returnURL=%2findex.aspx>

2010 Economic Development Committee Meeting Schedule

Committee Meeting – The Committee holds its monthly meetings from Noon to 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Administrative Offices, 150 N. Main, Wichita, unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are not held if there is no business before the committee. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for **September 23, 2010**.

Technical Education Panel for Area Legislators – The Workforce Alliance will be hosting an informational session for area legislators and legislative candidates as a part of the follow up to the presentations made before the Technical Education Authority last March. The tentative date for the panel discussion is Tuesday, **September 28, 2010**. The session will be at the Wichita Workforce Center, on the 3rd floor in the Multipurpose room and will last approximately 90 minutes.

WA Board of Directors and Congressional Forum – On **September 30, 2010**, the Workforce Alliance has invited the 4th District Congressional candidates to speak on jobs and job creation at the WA Board of Directors meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 10:30 AM and will be held at the Wichita Workforce Center, on the 3rd floor in the Multipurpose room.

Recommendation: That REAP members from Local Area IV ratify the actions taken by the Chief Elected Officials Board as appropriate.

Submitted by the Economic Development Committee:

*Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, Chairman

*Commissioner Jeff Masterson, Butler County

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County

*Commissioner Earl Reno, Kingman County

*Council Member Nick Ard, Maize

*Mayor Emil Bergquist, Park City

*Mayor Keith DeHaven, Sedgwick

*Commissioner Garey Martin, Sumner County

*Mayor Carl Brewer, Wichita

Ms. Allison Ohlman-Moeding, Derby (*ex officio*)

Mr. Allen Bell, Wichita (*ex officio*)

**Voting members on CEOB Business*

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Report of the Water Resources Committee

Water Resources Committee Staffing Update

The Hugo Wall School at Wichita State University announced the appointment of Mr. Dane Baxa as a public affairs associate, effective August 2. His primary duty will be to serve as the Executive Officer for the Water Resources Committee of REAP. For most of the past two years Mr. Baxa has served as EARTH and WaterLINK Program Coordinator for Kansas State University at the K-State Research and Extension Offices in Sedgwick County. He has also served as a Congressional Intern for Congressman Jerry Moran in the Salina regional office and as an Environmental Management Intern for the City of Salina. He completed his Masters in Business Administration degree in 2009 and earned an undergraduate degree in biology and philosophy in 2008, both from Kansas Wesleyan University. He is also scheduled to receive his Masters of Science in Environmental Studies from Friends University in 2011.

Johnson County Stormwater Management Tour with Greenway Alliance

The GreenWay Alliance is sponsoring an opportunity for cities and counties in south-central Kansas to spend a day learning and visiting successful stormwater management, flood prevention, and regional collaboration stories in Johnson County.

The tour date is October 14th, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The bus will depart and arrive back at the Lawrence-Dumont Stadium parking lot at 300 South Sycamore St. in Wichita. Lunch will be provided at the new Johnson County KSU Extension Office. The cost of this tour is free. Deadline to RSVP for the event is October 1st. Please contact Hoyt Hillman for questions or to make reservations at 316-686-7105 or at hoythillman@sbcglobal.net. Hoyt will be giving a presentation at the following Water Resources Committee Meeting.

Kansas Water Authority Meeting Update

On August 5th, The Kansas Water Authority approved a proposed 2012 budget for the state Water Fund, including a recommendation for *\$850,000 for the Equus Beds ASR project*, \$725,000 for WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy), and 1,400,000 for Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP). (*See KWA Budget on the REAP website for complete list of projects*).

The recommendation now goes to the state budget office for possible inclusion in the Governor's recommended 2012 budget. While the current administration and budget staff will prepare budget recommendations, the crafting of the proposed 2012 state budget will be the responsibility of the Governor-elect and incoming staff beginning immediately following the November election.

Next Meeting

Monday, September 13th immediately following the full REAP meeting at the WSU Metroplex. The Committee will look at the schedule for the remainder of 2010 and will participate in the REAP Retreat on November 1, 2010.

Submitted by the Water Resources Committee:

Commissioner Willis Heck, Newton, Chair

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**Reports from REAP Representation on
Regional Committees and Organizations**

Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition

Mayor Kristey Williams

Mid-Continent Airport Advisory Board

Mayor Willis Heck

KansasBio

Mr. Joe Yager

Visioneering Wichita

Mr. Joe Yager

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

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Report of the Chief Executive Officer

A Conversation With Randy Riggs

Mr. Randy Riggs, City Manager of Newton was the focus of “A Conversation with...” in the Sunday, August 29, 2010 Wichita Eagle. The conversation focused on the recent development in Newton, particularly the Kansas Logistics Park. However, Mr. Riggs also utilized the conversation to illustrate the importance of regional thinking. Some excerpts are below:

“What's good for Newton is good for Harvey County, Wichita, south-central Kansas and even the broader I-35 corridor from Kansas City to San Antonio. We're just not thinking about Newton. Economic development doesn't stick to tidy political boundaries.”

“We're absolutely thrilled, for example, by the Siemens announcement in Hutch. That is a definite victory for us. With Reno County and Hutch, there's a lot of camaraderie, seeing our mutual interests linked with a short little span of highway good for businesses serving those who locate in Hutch and in Newton.” *(In response to the question – You don't see economic development as a community-by-community competition. Why?)*

"Honestly, we haven't had much time to focus on the south yet. It will be very big for all of us in our concept, the work force is to the south of us. There is a whole lot of applicability from the aviation world to the businesses locating in Newton, Hutchinson and other areas. We have to be partners that get along. We are a part of the Metropolitan Statistical Area. We are a part of the Wichita region, and just physically, the Wichita area is getting closer to us and we are getting closer to them. It's not about us and them anymore. I see us as a region."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.kansas.com/2010/08/29/v-print/1468321/a-conversation-with-randy-riggs.html>.

CEDBR Economic Outlook Conference

The Center for Economic Development & Business Research (CEDBR) is holding “On the Road Again” the 31st Annual Wichita Area Economic Outlook Conference scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2010 from 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Century II Convention Hall. Tickets are currently on sale for \$95 through September 25 and will be \$105 after September 24. The complete program and registration details are available at: www.wichita.edu/cedbr.

2010 LKM Annual Conference

The League of Kansas Municipalities’ 2010 Annual Conference and 100th Anniversary Celebration will be held in Overland Park, October 9-12, 2010. This year, the Annual Conference schedule has been significantly changed in order to allow for more workshop opportunities for attendees and to provide for the 100th Anniversary gala event. The Conference events will be held at the Overland Park Convention Center & Sheraton Hotel and attendees will have the opportunity to choose from 24 different workshop sessions and 30 different roundtable discussions. In addition, the conference will feature five experienced keynote presenters, including renowned historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, who will be

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discussing the importance of understanding history in making better leaders for the future. The complete program and registration details are available at: www.lkm.org.

Business Facilities Magazine's 2010 Rankings Report

Kansas was recently named a Top 10 state in eight of 20 categories in Business Facilities magazine's 2010 Rankings Report. The annual Rankings Report rates the 50 states on their economic development efforts with an emphasis on states that are leading the way in emerging industries such as alternative energy. Kansas was a Top 10 state in the following categories: Economic Growth Potential (10), Biotechnology Strength (5), Biofuels Manufacturing Research (10), Alternative Energy Industry (10), Wind Energy Manufacturing (3), Quality of Life (3), Employment Leaders (5) and Best Education Climate (3). This is Kansas' best-ever finish in the Rankings Report, which is designed to be a state-by-state barometer of the national economic outlook.

Financing Local Government in Tough Economic Times

The Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR) is holding two public forums in September to give local government officials as well as the public an opportunity to discuss financing for local governments.

Hays: September 9, 2010, Thursday, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Lobby, Ft. Hays State University, 3000 Sternberg Drive, Hays KS

Overland Park: September 30, 2010, Thursday, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Matt Ross Community Center, Plaza Room, 8101 Marty, Overland Park KS

The KACIR encourages government officials to take this opportunity to come and talk with the members of the KACIR and other local officials about your cost savings ideas or "out of the box" local government financing issues. This forum will allow discussion of these financing issues before the November elections and before the 2011 legislative session convenes in January.

Some topics to consider are:

- Many local governments utilize sales taxes. Is your current level of sales tax authority sufficient to meet your needs?
- Would you favor changing the distribution formula for local option sales taxes imposed by a county?
- Many cities or counties have begun to identify the services that can be eliminated in order to reduce expenditures and free up revenue for essential services. Has your local government identified or utilized cost savings measures?
- Is consolidation an answer?

If you haven't completed KACIR's survey, [Funding of Local Governments](http://www.ksrevenue.org/kacir.htm), you can go to: <http://www.ksrevenue.org/kacir.htm>. For more information, contact: lynn_robinson@kdor.state.ks.us.

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KACIR Election of Chair

At the June 15, 2010 Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR) meeting, members elected Mayor Willis Heck, Newton, to be Chair and Rep. Julie Menghini to be Vice-Chair of KACIR. The KACIR engages in a continuous study of the services provided by the various levels of government within the state. By monitoring a wide range of governmental relations, the Council helps to promote cooperation and efficiency within government; thereby helping the leaders in Kansas work together more efficiently.

REAP Website Update

For the months of July and August, there was an average of 450 unique visits (753 unique visits) viewing an average of 3246 pages; with an average length of time spent on the website of 222 seconds, or three minutes and forty-four seconds.

The website viewers, pages viewed and visit duration graphs show the monthly website stats for 2009 and 2010. The number of unique visitors for July and August 2010 was similar to the number of unique visitors in July and August 2009. The total number of visits for July and August 2010 was slightly lower than the July and August 2009 numbers. The number of pages viewed for July and August 2010 was higher than our numbers from July and August 2009. There was a slight decrease in the duration of visits from June 2010 to August 2010, each visitor spent an average time of three minutes and twenty-four seconds versus four minutes and twenty-four seconds in June 2010. The difference in visit duration is likely attributed to the conclusion of the fiscal year and the slower pace of business during the summer months. The website is active at www.reap-ks.org.

WRC Reminder

Please note that the REAP Water Resources Committee meets immediately following the full Board meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming REAP Meeting Schedule

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 4, 2010** at 8:00 AM at the **Hughes Metropolitan Complex**, (29th and Oliver).

Also note that the REAP meeting for November is scheduled for **Monday, November 1, 2010** at 8:30 AM. Please note that this is the first Monday and that it will be the annual retreat, so the meeting is scheduled to begin at **8:30 a.m.** and will last until 11:00 a.m.

In conjunction with this staff will forward out the annual survey via email. All members, alternates, and participants are encouraged to respond on the survey. *Surveys will be forwarded on Monday, October 4 following the regularly scheduled REAP meeting and will be asked to be returned by Monday, October 18.*

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

Submitted by: Mr. Joe Yager, REAP Chief Executive Officer

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