

REAP Water Resource Committee Meeting Minutes January 14, 2013
Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas
Mayor Marcey Gregory, Chair

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mayor Marcey Gregory, City of Goddard, called the meeting to order; members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the Minutes from September 10, Meeting

Ms. Kathey Raney, City of Rose Hill (Mr. Kent Brown, City of Clearwater) moved to approve the minutes, motion passed unanimously.

3. Water Resources Committee Staffing Update

Mr. Joe Yager, REAP Chief Executive Officer, gave an update on the REAP staffing, noting that the interview committee was considering the interviewees and hoped to have a decision soon. It was also noted that Mayor Gregory was involved in the selection process.

4. Review and Discussion of 2013 Work Plan

Mr. Yager presented the 2013 Work Plan for review of the committee. Ms. Kathy Sexton asked if there was a timeline of priorities that the committee would be tackling over the next few months. It was noted that was up to the Committee to decide priorities and that staff would reference items of the work plan with agenda items as they arose as well.

5. REAP Annual Water Conference Discussion

Mayor Gregory led the discussion in determining the time and dates for the annual water conference. There were suggestions to hold it in the south part of the region to rotate the conference so that it would better encompass the region. Mayor Gregory noted that Sumner County would be a good location to evaluate and Mr. Cody Sims, Wellington, asked for the specifications for a location as he offered to take the lead on finding a suitable location. Mr. Joe Pajor, City of Wichita mentioned that the theme of the conference should be the drought and that the governor should be the keynote as he is leading the drought taskforce in the state. Mr. Yager noted that staff would work to infuse the direction of the conference from the workplan and asked for input into additional speakers.

6. Key Issues in Water Legislation for 2013 Session

Mr. Yager presented a report that highlighted some items of importance in water related legislation on page 6-8 of the agenda packet. He added that these were items the committee would continue to track as the session continues.

7. Governor's Request for Drought Preparedness Discussion

Ms. Margaret Fast and Mr. Rob Reschke, both of the Kansas Water Office, shared information regarding Governor Brownback's recent meeting to discuss the toll the drought is taking on Kansas. Ms. Fast noted that the Kansas Water Office sent out letters to public water suppliers on the drought and have had about a 30% response rate to this letter from those in the REAP region. KWO is recommending that conservation plans approved before 2007 need to be reworked to fit the new guidelines, which would include about 70% of the REAP region. There is also the review of the differences between the KDHE Emergency Plan versus the Drought Supply Plan. KDHE will be doing training on the Emergency Plan and helping to identify drought triggers. KWO is also working to reach out to those suppliers and communities that are determined as "high risk." Ms. Fast mentioned that there needs to be a recovery of the federal reservoirs with about two thirds of Kansas dependent on El Dorado and Cheney Lake.

Mayor Gregory asked how the WRC could assist KWO in their efforts. Ms. Fast responded that as a locally driven group, REAP can encourage its members to see the seriousness of the issues and help the smaller communities.

Councilmember Lavonta Williams, Wichita, asked when the appropriate time to tell the community of drought conditions is. Ms. Fast recommends that when you trigger a watch is a good time to have public service announcements.

Mr. Robert Mendoza, Derby, asked how KWO could assist communities. Ms. Fast explained that KWO can help draft a plan that includes guidelines for five year water use, management practices and KRWA will be available to provide technical assistance.

8. Role of the WRC and Sustainable Communities Water Work Team

Ms. Paula Downs noted that the water resource discussion portion of the grant was already happening in the Water Resource Committee. The WRC will continue to avoid a duplication of services and while the WRC will meet bi-monthly, during the off months the work team will meet. Mr. Yager noted that the WRC forms the base and that the work team will add additional voices. Ms. Kathy Sexton, City of Derby (Mr. Mike Jacobs, City of Wichita), moved to approve this role of the Water Resource Committee, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Downs also mentioned that the co-chairs of the Water Work Team are not determined, but Dr. Ed Flentje, WSU and Mr. Joe Palacios, formerly of Hutchinson are being considered. Dr. Flentje noted that he believed that the water work group could have the most potential for impact. The focus is how to preserve low cost of living with long term economic development.

9. 2013 WRC Meeting Discussion

Mr. Yager said that the survey that was presented to members concerning possible meeting times showed that the majority favored leaving the Water Resource Committee meetings at their current time slot. Staff will work to lessen the workload of the REAP meeting to ensure that it does not run over and that the WRC meeting can begin promptly. The technical subcommittee would only meet as necessary.

10. Partners Reports

GMD 2 mentioned that Dan Koci has come off the board after years of service.

11. 2013 Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Rate Survey update

Mr. Yager noted that staff was sending out the annual rate survey and that responses would be gathered and presented at the March meeting. It was requested that staff look at reuse rates if possible.

12. Unscheduled Business Items and Updates

No unscheduled items were discussed at this meeting.

13. Adjourn

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

REAP WRC Attendance 1/14/2013

Members/Alternatives

Chair-Mayor Marcey Gregory, City of Goddard
Mr. Randall Oliver, City of Cheney
Mr. Kent Brown, City of Clearwater
Ms. Kathy Sexton, City of Derby
Mr. Robert Mendoza, City of Derby
Mr. Kurt Bookout, City of El Dorado
Ms. Gina Bell, Harvey County
Mr. John Carder, City of Hesston
Mr. Dan Koci, City of Hutchinson, LABAC
Mr. Daniel Shea, Kingman County
Mayor Terry Somers, City of Mt. Hope
Ms. Dana Walden, City of Park City
Mr. Kirk Hayden, City of Rose Hill
Ms. Kathy Raney, City of Rose Hill
Mr. Cody Sims, City of Wellington
Council Member Lavonta Williams, City of
Wichita
Mr. Mike Jacobs, City of Wichita
Mr. Joe Pajor, City of Wichita
Ms. Debra Ary, City of Wichita

Guests

Mr. Brian Meier, BMD/LABAC
Mr. Byron Sarta, LABAC
Mr. Rob Reschke, Kansas Water Office
Ms. Margaret Fast, Kansas Water Office
Ms. Jo Oliver, Sedgwick County
Mr. Hoyt Hillman, SWAB
Mr. John Todd, Citizen
Dr. Ed Flentje, WSU

Staff

Dr. Nancy McCarthy-Snyder, WSU
Mr. Joe Yager, WSU
Mr. Dane Baxa, WSU
Ms. Paula Downs, WSU
Ms. Rebecca Likiardopoulos, WSU
Mr. Brandon Mills, WSU