

Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes –January 25, 2013
Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices
Commissioner Chip Westfall, Chair

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, opened the meeting; members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

2. Review of Minutes from November 16th, 2012 REAP Legislative Committee Meetings

Mr. Bob Myers, City of Newton, moved (Mayor Kristey Williams, Augusta) to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously

3. 2012 Annual Legislative Policy Summit Report

Mr. Joe Yager led the committee through the highlights of the 2012 REAP Policy Summit. He noted that the Legislative Policy Summit and luncheon costs were covered by the sponsors. He also noted the attendance by several new legislators and large overall attendance. He added that staff was looking for feedback on what worked with the event and what ideas the Committee had on future events. Commissioner Westfall congratulated REAP staff on a successful summit and great turnout. Councilmember Jeff Longwell, Wichita, commented that Ms. Kathy Sexton's, Derby, presentation on Home Rule helped many legislators understand this important issue. The Committee discussed several aspects of the summit and requested an earlier start on sponsorships and format in 2013.

4. Legislative Priorities Report

a. Mr. Yager presented a report on the REAP 2013 Legislative Priorities and mentioned that this report will continue to be updated throughout the session as necessary.

b. Mr. Tom Bruno submitted a legislative report highlighting key issues. He mentioned that the new legislators are learning as they go which makes the session more unpredictable. He noted that the Governor's budget lays out the ASR project as a priority, but it did not get the level of funding requested. Mr. Bruno discussed Senate adopted pay-as-you-go in joint rules, the governor's tax proposal, and SB 78 on property taxes, there will be some continued questions on these pieces. There is speculation on budget cuts due to revenue shortfalls. He noted that HB 2047 is relevant to cities as they employ public funds for lobbying and that LKM is cautious about the bill and the City of Olathe has come out in opposition of it.

Mr. Dale Goter, discussed a water issue with GMD 5 and 6, which extends into Reno County. He noted that the issues relates to over-irrigation and overall water rights appropriations. He noted that this may be an opportunity for the Water Resource Committee to become involved, however, it is unknown at this time. He also informed the committee of a hearing last week on water rights apportionments; noting that on February 21st 2013 the long term drought plan of the City of Wichita would be discussed in a Council workshop.

Mr. Myers commented on the municipal solids waste industry bill, HB 2639. Mr. Myers informed the committee that if the bill passes, municipalities must put a bid out to the private sector and if the city would like to keep providing the service, they must prove it is cheaper. Municipalities would need a separately audited financial system as well.

c. Mr. Yager gave an update on the affordable airfares program, noting the required financial status report was done and provided to the appropriate individuals on January 14, the 1st day of the legislative session. He also noted that there is a new palm card printed with the most recent facts and figures.

5. South Central Kansas Meeting Sponsorship

REAP is serving as the sponsor for the weekly South Central Delegation Meeting on February 13th. Mr. Bruno asked the Legislative Committee what message they wanted to present to the legislators. Commissioner Westfall noted that some issues relevant to cities and counties would be House Bill 2047, the Kansas Affordable Airfares Programs and water related issues. Mr. Myers suggested that the message should include a reminder that cuts at the state level put pressure on local government. Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, suggested the focus on a regional approach. Commissioner Unruh complemented Commissioner Westfall for his messaging at the Delegation meeting in January and noted that a similar message should be carried forward at this lunch. Mr. Yager asked for members to volunteer to attend and noted that an email request would be forthcoming as well.

6. “Town Hall” Discussion

Commissioner Westfall asked the Committee to discuss the potential for legislative “town hall” discussions. Mr. Bruno offered to schedule in advance to ease the planning process as last minute calls would be more difficult to schedule. He also suggested that individual phone calls may be best as the legislators are all very busy. Mr. Goter commented that legislators would be willing to engage in discussions with local elected officials. Mr. Yager noted that the committee would need to locate the technical ability for large conference call and suggested the conference calls be scheduled around the lunch hour. The Committee directed staff to work on this issue and report back.

7. Upcoming Events

Commissioner Westfall reminded the committee of upcoming events including the Sustainable Communities Grant Kick-off event, the South Central Kansas Delegation meeting, the REAP Board meeting, and the South Central Kansas Delegation Forums as noted on the agenda.

It was also noted that on February 9 and April 13 the Harvey County delegation will hold town hall meetings as well.

8. Unscheduled Topics

No unscheduled topics were brought up for discussion.

9. Adjourn

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

REAP Legislative Committee

Attendance – 01/25/2013

Committee Members

Chair- Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County
Mayor Kristey Williams, City of Augusta
Ms. Stephanie Knebel, City of Derby
Mayor Marcey Gregory, City of Goddard
Mr. Bob Myers, City of Newton
Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County
Mr. Marv Duncan, Sedgwick County
Mr. Dale Goter, City of Wichita

Mr. Tom Bruno, Bruno and Associates—via phone
Mr. Bill Bolin, SCKEDD
Mr. Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance
Ms. Kelly Bergeron, Workforce Alliance
Dr. Nancy McCarthy Snyder, WSU
Mr. Joe Yager, WSU
Ms. Rebecca Likiardopoulos, WSU
Mr. Brandon Mills, WSU

Guests/Staff