

REAP Meeting Minutes February 11, 2013

Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas
Commissioner David Unruh, Chairman

1. Welcome and Introduction

Commissioner David Unruh, Sedgwick County, called the meeting to order; members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

2. News and Announcements

Commissioner Unruh announced that the Mayor Keith DeHaven, City of Sedgwick, is battling a serious illness and noted that the thoughts of members were with him and his family.

3. Consent Agenda and Committee Reports

Chairman Unruh led the review and discussion of the following REAP committee reports. He noted that the full reports can be found on pages 2-19 of the Board Agenda Packet.

A. Review of the REAP Minutes from January 14, 2013

No changes or additions were noted.

B. REAP Committees and Taskforces Reports

The Executive committee addressed the staffing updates for the assistant director position. A committee consisting of Dr. Nancy McCarthy-Snyder and Dr. Ed Flentje of WSU, Commissioner Unruh, and REAP Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Joe Yager interviewed the finalists and hope to have a new hire soon. It was also noted that REAP Water Resources Chair, Mayor Marcey Gregory, Goddard, was also involved in the review.

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, provided a report on behalf of the Legislative Committee and informed the Board that legislative updates are available on the REAP website. The legislative committee will sponsor the South Central Kansas Delegation Luncheon on February 13th. All members are invited to attend and transportation will be provided from Harvey County and WSU.

Councilmember Jeff Longwell, Wichita, provided a report on behalf of the Economic Development Committee and reported that due to scheduling conflicts the Committee did not schedule a meeting in January.

Mayor Gregory reported that the Water Resource Committee met in January. During the meeting the committee discussed staffing updates and possible water conference locations, and themes. The committee suggested approaching Governor Brownback to be the keynote speaker. Mr. Cody Sims, Wellington, informed the committee that the location should be confirmed soon.

C. REAP Sustainable Committees Planning Grant Report

Ms. Paula Downs, Project Director, commented on the success of the grant kick-off event on February 1st, 2013. Additionally she noted that all of the work teams have been formed and are moving forward.

D. Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Joe Yager noted that if any members need a new invoice please let staff know. Staff has added reports and presentations to the website. He mentioned that REAP sent its first tweet last week and members can follow REAP on Twitter @REAPOFSCK. Mr. Yager also noted that the Facebook page is in the final stages of development and will be live soon. He announced that Mr. Tim Chase was named President of the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition.

Mayor Terry Somers, City of Mt. Hope, (Mayor Gregory) motioned to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. REAP 2013 Strategic Planning Update

Mr. Yager provided an update on the discussion of the revised three year strategic plan. He noted that there had been some discussion on what made REAP a unique resource in the region. Commissioner Unruh instructed staff to prepare new vision and mission statements for the next REAP Board Meeting. He would like to have them finalized by the June meeting.

5. Special Program: Economics of Wind Energy

- **The Economic Impact of the Kansas Renewable Portfolio Standard, July 2012**
Kansas Policy Institute and Beacon Hill Institute for Public Policy Research at Suffolk University
Mr. Todd Davidson presented the Kansas Policy Institute's research on the economic impact of wind energy in Kansas. Following the presentation, the members and guests were invited to ask questions. Questions included: how the findings might change when compound taxation is included; if the report took the Environmental Protection Agencies regulations on new coal power plants into account; and if there was an effort in Topeka to change the mandate, among others. Mr. Davidson noted that he would provide additional information to staff in the coming days, including testimony by the author of the study that would be submitted on February 14 and direct responses to the various questions asked.
- **The Economic Benefits of Kansas Wind Energy, November 2012**
Polsinelli Shughart Energy Practice Group and the Kansas Energy Information Network
Dr. Scott White presented Kansas Energy Information Network and Polsinelli Shughart research on the economic benefits of wind energy in Kansas. Following the presentation, Dr. White, answered questions from the board. Questions included: what kind of energy is used as a backup source for wind turbines and some similar questions as to those asked of Mr. Davidson. Dr. White also noted that he could provide additional information to anyone who would like to contact him.

6. Around the Region

Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney, announced that the public can watch the construction of the Wichita Mid-Continent Airport online.

Commissioner Westfall informed the board members that the Sand Creek Golf Course in Newton had been named a finalist for National Golf Course Owners Association's 2013 "course of the year" award.

Mr. Yager announced to the boards that Work Force Development is having its first annual Golf-A-Thon at Sand Creek in April and the flyer has been added to the REAP website.

Ms. Irene Hart, Hutchinson, commented that House Bill 2075 regarding abandoned housing had a hearing on January 30th which should be of interest to local jurisdictions.

Councilmember Longwell informed the board that the City of Wichita is having a workshop to talk about its water needs and that everyone is welcome to attend or at least watch online.

Dr. Nancy McCarthy Snyder announced that the Midwest Public Finance conference is scheduled for February 14-15 2013. The Hugo Wall School's new regent professor, Dr. Ken Kriz will give the keynote address. She noted that Dr. Kriz is only the third regents professor in history for WSU.

Commissioner Chip Westfall informed the committee that the bill to combine elections could place an unnecessary burden on counties. Commissioner Westfall added that in Harvey County, there could be as many as 196 different ballots. He urged members to review the bill.

Mr. Herb Llewellyn mentioned a resolution that would make bonds taxable which would result in cities having to pay taxes to borrow money.

Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope, noted that the taxation costs to small governments would be significant in many of the pieces of legislation being considered, most notably the property tax bills.

Mr. Yager informed the committee that staff can gather any information on legislative issues.

Commissioner Unruh noted that he had just returned from a NACo conference in California that focused on jail issues. He noted that the Sheriff of Los Angeles reported that he ran a \$2.4 Billion operation, with 18,000 officers, 4 facilities with 20,000 inmates in each facility. However, sometimes those facilities hold nearly double that amount. He also noted that the conference also discussed the issue of human trafficking and noted that this has become a real problem in Kansas.

7. Unscheduled Business Items and Updates

No unscheduled items were discussed at this meeting.

8. Adjourn

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

REAP Attendance 2/11/2013

Members/ Alternatives

Chair-Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County
Mayor Kristey Williams, City of Augusta
Ms. Diana Brooks, City of Colwich
Council Member Carl Koster, City of Cheney
Mr. Herb Llewellyn, City of El Dorado
Mayor Marcey Gregory, City of Goddard
Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County
Ms. Irene Hart, City of Hutchinson
Mayor Robert Jackson, City of Kechi
Mr. Daniel Shea, Kingman County
Commissioner Ron Loomis, McPherson County
Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope
Commissioner Willis Heck, City of Newton
Ms. Dana Walden, City of Park City
Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County
Ms. Kathy Raney, City of Rose Hill
Commissioner Jim Skelton, Sedgwick County
Mr. Cody Sims, City of Wellington
Council Member Pete Meitzner, City Of Wichita
Council Member Jeff Longwell, City of Wichita

Guests

Ms. Dorothy Barnett, Climate and Energy Project
Mr. John Waltner, Harvey County
Mr. Anthony Swartzendruber, Harvey County
Mr. Harland Priddle, K-96 Corridor Association Dr.
Scott White, Kansas Energy Info Network
Mr. James Kilpatrick, Kansas for Liberty
Mr. Todd Davidson, Kansas Policy Institute
Mr. Randy Riggs, City of Newton
Mr. Luke Hagedorn, Polsinelli Shughort
Mr. Marv Duncan, Sedgwick County
Mr. John Stevens, Solid Waste Committee
Ms. Martha Webb-Jones, Spirit
Mr. Janis Hellard, Sumner County Economic Development
Mr. Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance

Staff

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