

REAP Water Resource Committee Meeting Minutes March 11, 2013
Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas
Mayor Marcey Gregory, Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Approval of the Minutes from January 14, 2013 Meeting

Mayor Marcey Gregory, City of Goddard, motioned (Mr. John Waltner, Harvey County) to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Water Resources Committee Staffing Update

Mr. Yager, Wichita State, informed the committee that REAP is reviewing applications for the Assistant Director position. He announced the board members will be informed as soon as the new position is filled.

4. Update on Wichita's Long-term Drought Plan

Mr. Ben Nelson, City of Wichita, led the committee through Wichita's Long-Term Drought Plan. He informed the committee that the water levels at the Cheney Reservoir had dropped and experts are uncertain when the reservoir will return to normal levels. Mr. Nelson stressed that Wichita has developed a long-term drought plan to ensure the city has a sustainable water source. Mr. Nelson noted that the city is monitoring its water levels. Mr. Nelson announced that if the drought continues and the city does not take action, the Cheney Reservoir will be exhausted by 2015. Mr. Nelson discussed the city's current water usages and possible plans to use gray water to maintain the cities golf courses. He announced that Wichita is looking at purchasing water from other sources and is reviewing desalination plans. Mr. Nelson informed the committee of Wichita's proposed water restrictions for outdoor usage. This plan includes a ban on residential lawn watering. Mr. Nelson noted that Governor Sam Brownback has encouraged Wichita to share the plan with other communities in the state. Mr. Dana Baxa, Wichita State University, asked Mr. Nelson if Wichita is seeking new water rights. Mr. Nelson replied that Wichita is in the conceptual stages of the plan and has not identified any specific water rights. Mr. Koci asked Mr. Nelson if he believed Wichita's plan would work for the Barton County water fields. Mr. Nelson replied that Wichita is looking to reviews sights with roughly 50,000 acre feet and the water fields are used mostly for agricultural purposes. Mr. Nelson added that the plan has not been approved by the city council and would likely only affect the residents of Wichita. He stressed that the proposed plan could change if the area sees more rain. He asked the committee members to distribute this information to their elected officials.

5. REAP Annual Water Conference Update

Mayor Gregory thanked Ms. Cody Sims, City of Wellington for recommending Wellington High School for the site of the 2013 REAP Regional Water Conference. Mr. Yager announced that the conference would focus on drought management and discussed the layout of Wellington High School and noted that it is ideal for the conference. Mayor Gregory instructed Mr. Yager to secure a keynote speaker. Mayor Gregory noted that she was impressed with Shell's presentation at the Governors Water Conference. Mr. Dane Baxa, suggested the conference seek out an expert in groundwater extraction. Mr. Yager identified Salina and Hays as other cities conducting draught management plans.

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

Ms. Paula Downs, Wichita State University, announced that the Prosperity Initiative is seeking co-chairs for the water Work Team. Mr. Dane Baxa noted the Natural Resources Work Team has been created but suffers from low attendance. He announced that members will receive follow-up emails and phone calls in the near future to help boost attendance. Mr. Yager encouraged committee members to attend the Water Work Team meetings.

7. Key Issues in Water Legislation for 2013 Session

Mr. Yager led the committee through an update of water related legislation in the Kansas House and Senate. Mr. Yager invited all committee members to attend the Legislative Committee meetings. He noted that our legislative updates are posted on the REAP website. He invited the committee members to contact staff if they have any questions on pending legislation. Mr. Dan Koci, asked Mr. Yager if there was a better way to distribute the legislative updates. Mr. Yager responded that the report could be emailed out to committee members.

8. Partners Reports

Mr. Joe Yager reminded the committee of several Basin Advisory Committee Board meetings throughout the region. He recommended that committee members attend these meetings and bring the information back to their communities and elected officials.

9. 2013 Water, Wastewater, and Storm Water Rate Survey Report

Ms. Rebecca Likiardopoulos, led the committee through the 2013 Water Survey. She noted that most communities saw no change in water rates between 2012- 2013. Mr. Mike Jacobs, City of Wichita asked why REAP had not collected gray water rates for communities. Mr. Yager noted that the committee had not expressed interest in gray water rates. He added that they would be included in the next survey.

10. Water Conservation Tips

Mr. Yager announced that staff had created a water conservation tip sheet for the region. He asked that committee members pass the information on to their peers.

11. Unscheduled Business Items and Updates

Mr. Yager presented the committees financial assessment. Mr. Yager noted that Wichita State University has changed its accounting methods. He announced that the Executive Committee had voted to merge the water resource committee and REAP bank accounts into one general fund. Mr. Yager announced that REAP has created a Facebook and Twitter page. He encouraged all members to like REAP on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

12. Adjourn

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

REAP WRC Attendance 3/11/2013

Members/Alternatives

Chair-Mayor Marcey Gregory, City of Goddard

Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope

Ms. Susan Erlenwein, Sedgwick County

Mr. Randall Oliver, City of Cheney

Mr. Kurt Bookout, City of El Dorado

Mr. Rick Lonzrath, City of Andover

Mr. Dan Koci, City of Hutchinson, LABAC

Mr. Daniel Shea, Kingman County

Mr. Cody Sims, City of Wellington

Mr. Mike Jacobs, City of Wichita

Mr. Joe Pajor, City of Wichita

Guests

Ms. Sue Schlapp, Department of Commerce

Mr. Brian Meier, BMD/LABAC

Ms. Lisa French, Cheney Lake Watershed

Mr. Byron Sarta, LABAC

Mr. Rob Reschke, Kansas Water Office

Mr. Hoyt Hillman, SWAB

Mr. Charlie Brown, PEC

Ms. Debra Ary, City of Wichita

Mr. Ben Nelson, City of Wichita

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