



Legislative Committee

Meeting Agenda

Noon, April 27, 2012

Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Chairman

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements:** *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
2. **Approval of Minutes from March 30, 2012:** *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
Recommended Action: *Approve or modify minutes as needed.*
3. **REAP 2012 Legislative Priorities Report and Update:** *Tom Bruno*
Due to timing of the meeting the veto session of the Kansas Legislature will be in session and there is a lot of discussion on the budget that could affect REAP priorities, therefore, REAP Legislative Liaison Tom Bruno plans to provide an update on REAP priorities and the 2012 session via teleconference.

Recommended Action: *Receive and file.*
4. **REAP June Board Meeting Discussion:** *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
The theme for the June 11 REAP Board meeting is legislative update and the Legislative Committee has been requested to help develop the meeting format and issues for discussion.

Recommended Action: *Provide guidance on format and issues for staff.*
5. **2012 REAP Regional Listening Tour:** *Joe Yager*
One of the items identified in the 2012 Legislative Committee work plan is to “Conduct a Listening Tour to identify issues of importance.” Staff has prepared a draft proposal for engaging in a regional tour that will focus on local assets to help identify potential legislative priorities and increase engagement. Discussion on this issue is requested.

Recommended Action: *Review and provide direction.*
6. **Sustainable Communities Grant Update:** *Mayor Kristey Williams*
The Committee will be provided an update on the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant.

Recommended Action: *Discuss and provide feedback.*
7. **Unscheduled Topics:** *Committee Members*
Committee members are encouraged to provide updates or request discussion on issues that may be relevant to REAP.
8. **Adjourn**

Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes – March 30, 2012
Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Chair

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

Council Member Jeff Longwell, City of Wichita, opened the meeting; members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

2. Review of Minutes from the February 24th, 2012 REAP Legislative Committee Meeting

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

3. Affordable Airfares Update

Mayor Williams stated the agenda packet includes the testimony given at the March 8th Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee on Commerce, and the letters of support provided to the committee members. No difficult questions arose. REAP has officially requested the matching funds from Garden City.

4. REAP 2012 Legislative Priorities Report

Mr. Tom Bruno, REAP Legislative Liaison, provided an update from Topeka on the 2012 Legislative Session. Affordable Airfares was included in the budget bill. NCAT funding was successful at getting \$4.98 million, NIAR was funded, and CIBOR has been added as well. Many water bills were signed by the governor, but there are many continuing to come through to the committees. The oil and gas land spreading bill was passed by the Senate, but the House did not take up the issue. REAP had put out a letter of support for T-Works. The sand and gravel pits water bill gives 60 years to protect water rights, and creates a situation for aggregate producers to have special processes and rights. This would create a situation for a water right in a closed area. This will not be brought back up until they meet at the end of April. Mr. Joe Yager, Chief Executive Officer of REAP, added for the June REAP meeting we are working to secure Congressman Mike Pompeo to be a guest.

5. Review of Recent REAP Outreach

Council Member Jeff Longwell explained some new duties have been added by the Legislative Committee, and they are best described as public relations and marketing. He noted that the Committee does not want to extend its reach, but should continue sponsoring promotion based activities. Mr. Yager added the REAP Bylaws Taskforce is reviewing the bylaws and that if a proposed change to the committee is recommended it could be forwarded to the taskforce. It was noted that continuance for the outreach programs and sponsorship opportunities is recommended, since the outreach maintains our presence in Topeka. The policy summit was mentioned as a large success, and using funds to cover multiple events works best. Committee members were asked to email suggestions to changes in the bylaws to staff for consideration.

6. 2012 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule Listening Tour

Mr. Yager explained REAP's outreach has various common themes. There were two purposes for the Listening Tours and REAP Community presentations. The 2012 version of Listening Tours can include an attempt to increase participation and common issues provided in the handouts. Inclusion of other topics and other communities can promote a broad topic base. Expansion on how the tours went last year will improve the conversation. Plan to have the tours done by September and this will give opportunity to add items to the next year's workplan. The tours will also provide for better understanding of REAP for the public. Utilization of the Area Manager's Conference and other activities the Hugo Wall School is

involved with can also align and connect uninvolved managers. Councilmember Longwell recommended Mr. Yager put together an agenda to provide the committee for this year's tour dates.

7. Unscheduled Topics

It was noted that on Wednesday, April 4, Sedgwick County would be considering their involvement in the Sustainable Communities Grant.

8. Adjourn

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

REAP Legislative Committee

Attendance – 3/30/2012

Committee Members

Chair- Council Member Jeff Longwell, City of Wichita
Mayor Kristey Williams, City of Augusta
Ms. Stephanie Knebel, City of Derby
Mr. Bob Myers, City of Newton
Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County

Guests/Staff

Mr. Tom Bruno, Bruno & Associates (Via Phone)
Mr. Bill Bolin, SCKEDD
Ms. Kelly Bergeron, Workforce Alliance
Ms. Renee Anderson, Visioneering
Dr. Ed Flentje, WSU
Mr. Joe Yager, WSU
Mr. Dane Baxa, WSU
Mr. Taylour Tedder, WSU

Item

REAP Legislative Committee 2012 Legislative Priorities Update

Background

The REAP Legislative Committee identifies legislative issues of regional concern and recommends to REAP legislative action at the state or federal level. In particular the LC monitors the progress on the annual legislative priorities. On December 8, 2011 REAP adopted its 2012 Legislative Priorities. An update on these priorities follows:

Maintain Kansas Affordable Airfares Program to assure more flight options, more competition for air travel, and affordable airfares for Kansas.

- Airfares was included in the Governor's budget at the full amount of \$5 million which has been placed in the Omnibus by both House and Senate.

Advance legislative and administrative action to secure state financial participation in:

The Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project to preserve the aquifer for agricultural, industrial, and municipal use that is essential to the regional economy.

- The Legislative Research Report noted that the House Appropriations Committee had asked that the Equus Beds funding be revisited during the veto session.
- Both Houses have recommended \$500,000 from the state water fund, consistent with the recommendations of the Kansas Water Authority and the Governor. The Water Authority had also recommended an additional \$600,000 that would come from expanded gaming revenue. The Governor declined that offer and dedicated the expanded gaming revenue to debt reduction.
- The Legislative Research Report noted that gaming revenue has exceeded expectations by about \$7 million. Since the Governor's budget only dealt with the previous estimate, the \$7 million is available for other purposes. The Equus Beds allocation may benefit from the endorsement of the Kansas Water Authority, whose recommendation was the product of summer budget hearings and the testimony of the City of Wichita and the REAP Water Resources Committee.

Sediment and nutrient reduction programs that protect and sustain the region's public water supplies.

- No funding was identified in the Governor's budget to utilize the six million dollar general fund demand transfer to support a sediment and nutrient reduction program.

Aviation research at the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University.

- The Governor included funding for the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) in his recommended budget under the Department of Commerce at \$5,000,000, which has been placed in Omnibus by both the House and Senate.

Orthopedic research at the Center of Innovation for Bio Orthopedic Research (CIBOR).

- \$1,000,000 was awarded to CIBOR related to fiscal year 2012, running from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. This award is inclusive of the modification of the State of Kansas House Bill 2383,

which allocates \$1,000,000 of KBA funds to CIBOR through Wichita State University. There is no indication that the recent audit findings will have an impact on CIBOR funding, however, the Governor has imposed a moratorium on funding from the KBA. The audit will continue to be a focal point while there are unresolved legal issues.

Support a reevaluation of current state water policy including Kansas Water Authority representation; revenue sources and distribution for the state water plan fund; and, the process for adopting the annual state water plan fund budget.

- John Bailey was appointed as a public member of the Kansas Water Authority; he currently serves as the Director of Public Utilities for the City of Pittsburg, and provides engineering expertise in water supply to communities.
- At the January Water Authority Meeting, Kansas Water Office staff announced they will begin a process to update the state water plan, aiming to align regional and state priorities and funding.
- An update for the state water plan and its development will be discussed during the upcoming Lower Arkansas Basin Advisory Committee Meeting on April 11 at 9:00am at the Hutchinson Water Treatment Plant and the Upper Walnut Basin Advisory Committee Meeting on April 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Beijing Restaurant in El Dorado.
- The next discussion on the state water plan update will be at the next Kansas Water Authority Meeting on May 17, 2012, at the Scout House, 802 S. Birch, Hillsboro, KS

Promote science-based, common sense policies that protect the safety of the region's water supply; recognizing that the region's job creation potential should not be unnecessarily jeopardized.

- The following bills were identified by the Water Resources Committee for evaluation:
 - House Bill 2678 / Substitute Senate Bill 148 would allow sand and gravel pit operators to bypass current water regulations, as well as allow water rights to be divided without losing seniority. The House Bill 2678 original language was to allow operators to obtain a long term water right without accountability for evaporation from the mining pits. Ground Water Management District (GMD) 2, which oversees the Equus Beds, filed opposition testimony. New "compromising," language was added in the House Substitute for Substituted Senate Bill 148 that would not allow exemption in closed areas of appropriations, and is back waiting for a hearing in the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. The bill was combined with language that would allow water rights to be divided without losing seniority, and not sits in the house sub-committee on natural resources.
 - Senate Bill 272 flew through the House and Senate and was signed into law by the Governor on March 5, bringing important changes that will allow multi-year flex accounts for water rights. A side product of that debate is an ongoing concern over the water rights associated with the Equus Beds ASR project. The Division of Water Resources in the Department of Agriculture is working with the City of Wichita and other parties to identify a possible resolution.
 - Senate Bill 310 provides for the establishment of local enhanced management areas (LEMAs), was passed by the Senate on March 15 and then by the House on March 20. The bill will go directly to the Governor for his consideration.
 - House Bill 2451 Eliminates "use it or lose it," for groundwater rights in areas closed for new water rights development was signed into law by the governor on March 5th.

- Senate Bill 375* allows the disposal of drill cuttings to be spread on land. This bill, introduced by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, raised concern for the Equus Beds as it sought to allow solid waste permits for the oil and gas drilling shavings that may contain high levels of chlorides to be spread on the ground. An amendment was added February 16th to address some concerns and was passed from the Senate Agriculture Committee. The amendments included:
 1. Limitation of the practice in areas where the water table is 10 feet or less.
 2. Limitation of the practice in areas with 25 inches or more rainfall each year.
- ✓ *Concerns from WRC members about Senate Bill 375 were forwarded to the REAP Legislative Committee and REAP staff researched the issue with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Corporation Commission, to determine the origins of the bill. Chesapeake Oil representatives gave a presentation to the REAP Legislative Committee on the land application process of oil and gas drill shavings. The legislative committee decided that Senate Bill 375, as being introduced by KDHE with the added amendments by the legislators, was a reasonable alternative for the disposal of drill cuttings. Senate Bill 375 is currently awaiting hearings in the Senate Agriculture Committee.
- Senate Substitute for HB 2526 Senate Sub. for HB 2526 amends several statutes regarding energy and the powers and duties of the Kansas Corporation Commission.
 1. The bill provides explicit authority for the KCC to regulate hydraulic fracturing, imposes a time limit of 180 days for the KCC to act on applications for certificates of public convenience, broadens the definition of renewable energy resources in the Renewable Energy Standards Act to include storage connected to any renewable generation by means of energy storage equipment, and requires the KCC to annually determine and report the statewide retail rate impact of compliance with the Renewable Energy Standards Act.
 2. The bill also amends KSA 55-152 to allow the KCC to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the supervision and disclosure of any hydraulically fractured well. (Existing law authorizes the KCC to promulgate rules and regulations for the construction, operation, and abandonment of any well and the protection of the usable water in this state from any well.) This bill gives the KCC explicit authority to regulate wells that have been hydraulically fractured.

Support research and development efforts regarding renewable energy sources.

- There were several bills regarding specific renewable energy types, most in the form of tax bills.

Support a stronger system of business-driven technical training and education in Kansas including enhanced funding support, better alignment and articulation of education and training programs, and transition programs to better serve adult learners.

- The Governor has included funding for the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT) in his recommended budget under the budget for WSU at \$4.9 million which has been placed in the Omnibus by both House and Senate.

Support federal reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to include maintaining local control through private sector and employer driven Local Workforce Investment Boards.

- There is no legislation for reauthorization expected.



Posted on Wed, Apr. 25, 2012

Kansas legislators face daunting agenda in wrap-up session

BY BRENT D. WISTROM
Eagle Topeka bureau

The Legislature spent most of its regular session passing relatively minor bills while shoving major issues back and forth without definitive action.

Now lawmakers have no choice but to complete redistricting maps and the state budget, and they'll feel significant pressure to do something meaningful to the tax code, school finance, state employee pensions and Medicaid reform.

"We really don't have much to show for ourselves in the regular session," said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka. "We've got a lot of heavy lifting to do now in the wrap-up session. And when you look at the agenda that's in front of us, it's pretty daunting."

Republican infighting over new boundaries for Senate districts promises to overshadow the beginning of the wrap-up session, which starts today.

Those maps are at the heart of a fierce battle between Gov. Sam Brownback's conservative Republican factions and moderate senators who have greeted many of Brownback's top priorities with skepticism and, occasionally, disdain.

Some lawmakers are confident the Senate will approve a map that excludes several conservative Republican candidates from districts held by incumbent moderate Republican senators, including Jean Schodorf and Carolyn McGinn in the Wichita area.

Meanwhile, state revenues have exceeded projections, giving lawmakers about \$500 million more to spend – or save. But that comes amid a Department of Justice investigation of the state's growing list of people with disabilities waiting for state services and widespread calls for the state to restore some of the funding that has been cut from K-12 education over the past five years.

Republican leaders in the House refused to sign a budget deal with the Senate before the regular session ended, and many expect budget battles to continue to instigate political spats.

Senate Majority Leader Jay Emler, R-Lindsborg, said he expects conservative Republicans in the House to try to take advantage of the hectic pace and try to cram bills through the Senate that weren't considered during the regular session.

"We'll have to stand firm or decide that they're not as important as they were earlier in the session," he said.

With all that brewing, negotiators from the House and Senate plan to hash out differences on how to reduce state income taxes without deflating important state services – a top Brownback priority. Meanwhile, moderate Republicans and Democrats will push for the property tax relief they believe most Kansans would prefer.

"We hear across the whole state people dislike property tax," said Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton.

Brownback, meanwhile, remains committed to seeing income tax cuts passed this session as a means of creating jobs and reviving an economy that has a 6.2 percent unemployment rate.

“We need to get to a pro-growth tax position. We’ve got the proposal there. It’s queued up. It’s paid for,” he said. “We need to do it, and then we need to get a budget through that takes care of the needs of the state.”

With Brownback’s school finance plan cast aside, Senate leaders say they hope to increase school funding. But any increase is likely to face resistance in the House.

Meanwhile, a school finance lawsuit is slated to go to trial in June. That has the potential to force lawmakers to spend more on education.

Morris said lawmakers could stick with the status quo on state employee pensions. But many lawmakers hope to see meaningful changes to begin offsetting the \$2.8 billion gap between what the state will owe to retired workers and what is projected to come in through investments and contributions.

The pile-up of major issues – as well as others likely to crop up, such as abortion, immigration and proof of citizenship for new voters – has many lawmakers guessing that the session could run beyond its allotted 90 days.

“We have a tendency to sort of procrastinate until we run out of days – the 90-day limit,” House Minority Leader Paul Davis, D-Lawrence, said. “And I hope that’s not the case.”

Contributing: Associated Press

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Item

REAP June Board Meeting Discussion

Background

In an effort to increase participation and dialogue at full REAP Board meetings, REAP Chair, Mayor Kristey Williams (Augusta) initiated theme-based meetings. Each of these meeting topics are determined by the REAP Chair in consultation with the REAP Executive Committee. In addition, the REAP Chair has asked that each Committee work to help develop the meeting that their committee most aligns with.

For the June 11 REAP Board meeting the theme chosen was “Legislative Engagement” and the Legislative Committee has been asked to help develop the meeting format and issues for discussion.

2011 “Legislative Engagement” Theme Meeting

The LC coordinated the March 2011 REAP Board meeting that included Mayor Williams and Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita, leading a discussion that focused on how legislative engagement throughout REAP can be improved. The following are the minutes that reflect that meeting:

A. 2011 Legislative Priorities

Council Member Longwell discussed the importance of regionalism and noted that we must make sure all communities are represented. He asked for discussion on the Legislative Priorities that were identified by the Legislative Committee that are most significant for their community. Some ideas that were noted include: discussing other suppliers of water, such as Cheney, that are more regional in nature; the idea of building another reservoir to answer the water problem; and working on the legislative agenda by coming up with a mechanism that can responsive and light on its feet when responding to issues of public safety.

B. Legislative Priority Process

Mayor Williams noted that the legislative issues were decided through a process where they were drawn up, included in a survey, and then discussed at the REAP retreat. The Legislative Committee had a final review of them before they became priorities.

Mayor Williams discussed the importance of having more people involved in the Legislative Committee and not just elected officials. The meetings are once a month at 12:00 on a Friday and members were asked to submit names of others in their community that might be interested in getting involved with the Legislative Committee. It was noted that adding another meeting with travel time was very difficult for people to take on and ideas such as rotating the meeting location or time, teleconferencing or video conferencing should be considered to garner more involvement.

C. Current Engagement

Mayor Williams asked for ideas on how REAP can do a better job of engaging all members of REAP to become more involved. Mr. Joe Yager noted that he is working on a calendar for visits to communities in the region to reach out to them and get them engaged. Other ideas such as communities having more opportunity to engage in advocacy and ways to allow more access to meetings such as teleconferencing were also discussed.

In addition, the LC also coordinated the June 2011 REAP Board meeting that included Mayor Williams and Council Member Longwell discussing REAP priorities and led a discussion on how we can build and improve upon these successes. Also, Dr. Ed Flentje, Wichita State University, moderated a panel made up of Mr. Tom Bruno, REAP Legislative Liaison; Mr. Andy Schlapp, Government Relations Wichita State University and Mr. Dale Goter, Government Relations Director City of Wichita. The panelists discussed topics such as their view of how the last legislative session went, the Post-Audit and political support of the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program and where to go from here. They also discussed the ongoing need for communication during the off-session when legislators are back home. They also noted the strength of community and business leaders lending vocal support to issues and not always criticizing but offering solutions.

Legislative Committee Request

This year Mayor Williams has secured a commitment from Congressman Mike Pompeo to speak and field questions at the June meeting. The Legislative Committee is requested to discuss the potential format and desired outcomes of the Legislative Engagement theme in order to complement this engagement opportunity.

Item

2012 REAP Regional Listening Tour

Background

The Legislative Committee directed staff to develop a proposal for the 2012 Regional Listening Tour for this summer to help connect REAP with the communities in the region. The tour will allow REAP members to identify issues that are important to individual communities that could be beneficial to the region. The Committee has noted that although many issues may not be of regional importance, if they are important to that community REAP should be aware and supportive as long as the issue does not hurt any other community in the region.

The Committee identified two goals for the tour:

- 1) Value and purpose for REAP membership by connection of REAP to our member communities with identification of issues and methods for how REAP can support.
- 2) Encourage discussions in our communities about our communities.

Draft Agenda

Staff has prepared the following agenda for consideration:

1. *Welcome and Introductions* (5 minutes)
2. *About REAP Presentation and Purpose of Listening Tour* (20 minutes)
3. *Around the Room Discussion* (30 minutes)
 1. What issues do you feel are important to your community?
 2. How do you see REAP helping move your community issues forward?
4. *Wrap-up* (5 minutes)
5. *Adjourn*

Draft Meeting Schedule

The following meeting schedule provides a look at a Friday-only schedule to minimize conflicts, however, staff can be flexible as we discuss with each host location for day and time:

- June 22 – REAP LC Meeting
- July 13 – Hutchinson/Kingman (Reno and Kingman Counties)
- July 27 – Hesston (Harvey and McPherson Counties)
- August 10 – El Dorado/Andover (Butler County)
- August 24 – Winfield/Arkansas City (Harper, Sumner, and Cowley Counties)
- September 7 – Derby/Maize (Sedgwick County)

Recommended Action

Discuss and provide direction to staff.

2011 Legislative Committee Regional Listening Tour Information

The REAP Legislative Committee kicked off its listening tour in Newton on **August 11**. The tour is intended to help the Committee connect REAP with the communities in the region while allowing REAP members to identify issues that are important to individual communities and could be beneficial to the region. The Committee has noted that although many issues may not be of regional importance, if they are important to that community REAP should be aware and supportive as long as the issue does not hurt any other community in the region. The first stop focused on communities in Harvey and McPherson counties and followed it up with a stop in Hutchinson on **August 26** that focused on communities in Kingman and Reno counties. The third stop was in El Dorado on **September 23**. The fourth stop was held in Wellington and focused on Cowley, Harper and Sumner counties on **October 27**. The final stop was held in conjunction with the Sedgwick County Association of Cities monthly meeting in Kechi on **November 12** and focused on Sedgwick County.

Estimated Attendance

Harvey County and McPherson County (Newton, August 11)	18
Reno County and Kingman County (Hutchinson, August 26)	15
Butler County (El Dorado, September 23)	14
Harper, Cowley, and Sumner County (Wellington, October 27)	19
Sedgwick County (Kechi, November 12)	35
Total	101

Common Issues

- Affordable Housing
- Wind Energy
- Workforce Development
- Fracking
- Tax Policy
- Local Government – State Government Funding



Posted on Sun, Apr. 22, 2012

Grant work will help region grow, compete

By Kristey Williams and Dave Unruh

The Regional Economic Area Partnership was formed in 1997 as a voluntary alliance of cities and counties in south-central Kansas and now includes 36 participating jurisdictions. Its mission is to guide state and national actions that affect economic development in the region and adopt joint actions among member governments that enhance the regional economy. REAP is governed by a board, which meets monthly, composed of the elected representatives of participating jurisdictions.

REAP has worked diligently on behalf of south-central Kansans on issues such as affordable airfares, workforce development, water supply and highway funding. It places special emphasis on assuring that our region receives a fair share of tax dollars that area residents send to the state and national governments. A full description of REAP's activities and accomplishments is available at reap-ks.org.

REAP applied for and was recently awarded a federal planning grant on "sustainability." In response, some area residents have expressed concerns that acceptance of this grant will force us to relinquish control of local decision making. We strongly disagree.

We believe sustainability in south-central Kansas ultimately will be defined by the citizens of our region and their elected representatives. As a first step in assuring local control, we will propose to the REAP governing body at its May meeting a definition of sustainability for our region to guide all work conducted under the grant. That definition is as follows:

"Consistent with its mission, REAP will focus all work relative to the sustainability grant on enhancing the capacity of south-central Kansas to grow economically and compete both nationally and globally. Activity conducted through the grant will address, as highest priority, the cost of living of residents in south-central Kansas. Specific plans that lower our cost of living and result in greater competitiveness for our region will be identified. This focus will include community engagement to address housing, transportation, economic development, water resources, workforce development and natural resource conservation. In addressing the cost of living, grant funds will also be applied to understanding the fiscal impact of government on area residents within our region in comparison to other regions. The impact of taxing, spending and borrowing by government – national, state and local – will be analyzed in conjunction with all grant work."

We believe this definition of sustainability provides a good starting point for work conducted under the grant. This definition aligns with REAP's stated mission and with the alliance's work and accomplishments over the past 14 years.

We also invite area residents, particularly those concerned that sustainability will be defined by forces outside the region, to engage in the planning process and join with REAP in "enhancing the capacity of south-central Kansas to grow economically and compete both nationally and globally."

Kristey Williams is mayor of Augusta and chairwoman of REAP. Dave Unruh is a Sedgwick County commissioner and vice chairman of REAP.

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Regional Economic Area Partnership of South Central Kansas
“South Central Kansas Regional Plan for Sustainable Communities”
Work Plan Summary (Draft)

Mission Statement

The South Central Kansas Regional Plan for Sustainable Communities (RPSC) will help transform the region from “talking about regional approaches to economic partnerships,” to “thinking, behaving, and valuing regional solutions for economic prosperity.”

Specific Grant Objectives

REAP, working with its partners through the Consortium Leadership Team, and five working teams to develop a toolbox of strategies and techniques to support existing communities, provide more transportation choices, promote equitable, affordable housing, coordinate infrastructure investments, and strengthen the regional economy.

Local jurisdictions in South-central Kansas must work cooperatively to be economically competitive in a world marketplace. The RPSC will include a coordinated plan to foster long-term job creation with adequate infrastructure to affordably access employment and services. The RPSC will develop ten activities as part of a framework to ensure our region’s economic competitiveness.

1. **Governance:** Create a structure that is inclusive, responsible, and accountable for carrying out the grant activities and monitoring program accomplishments.
2. **Community Engagement Plan:** Build capacity for under-represented populations and provide education and outreach on sustainable infrastructure investments for the region.
3. **Needs Assessment:** Research regional and local plans, statistics, and policies that will serve as a baseline of information for planning activities.
4. **Vision for Healthy Community Design:** Use the information from the needs assessment to facilitate engagement opportunities and develop a healthy community design framework to serve as a guideline for developing the South-central plan for sustainable communities.
5. **Regional Water Plan:** Provide a framework for cooperation and an understanding of the capability meeting future water quantity and quality demands affordably that integrates efficient delivery of potable water throughout the region.
6. **Regional Transportation Plan:** Develop multi-modal transportation options/programs for the region and connects housing options to emerging employment clusters.
7. **Regional Housing Plan** Support robust housing options that address affordability, freedom from discrimination, access to economic opportunities, and integration with transportation options, healthy community design, and energy efficiency.
8. **Regional Identity for Workforce and Business Development:** Create a regional brand that will support existing communities, businesses, and workforce development opportunities as well as identify and support emerging business and industry clusters.
9. **Regional Natural Resources Plan:** Provide a framework for cooperation and an understanding of the capability of meeting future natural resource requirements affordably and integrates the protection of property rights with access to safe natural resources.
10. **Integration:** Measure the success of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Communities by developing indicators or measurements that show the region is progressing toward a sustainable future.