

## **REAP Meeting Minutes July 8, 2013**

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Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas  
Mayor Marcey Gregory, Chair

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### **1. Welcome and Introductions:**

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

### **2. Approval of Minutes from the March 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

Mr. Cody Sims, City of Wellington, motioned (Kurt Bookout, City of El Dorado) to amend the minutes from the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to change Ms. Cody Sims to Mr. Cody Sims. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope, motioned (Mr. Willis Heck, City of Newton) to approve the amended minutes from the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. 2013 REAP Regional Water Conference Wrap Up**

Ms. Rebecca Likiardopoulos, Wichita State University, presented the water conference wrap up materials. She announced that 87 members and guests attended the conference at Wellington High School. She thanked the speakers and support staff from the Hugo Wall School. Ms. Likiardopoulos noted that the conference did not receive any corporate sponsorship. Mayor Gregory thanked staff for their hard work and commended them on a well-planned conference.

### **4. Water Work Team Update**

Mr. Dana Baxa informed the committee that the Water Work Team has met several times this year. He noted that the conversations are focused on upcoming regional water issues. He announced that the Water Work Team will meet on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. and encouraged all committee members to attend. Ms. Paula Downs, Wichita State, added that staff is gathering data to drive the regional conversation about the region's water source. Mayor Gregory announced that Wichita has seen a decline in its water use from last year. Water usage for June is estimated to be down 20% from last year.

### **5. Organizational Assessment**

Mr. Jim Heinicke announced that REAP has contracted with the Management Partners to conduct an organizational assessment. He noted that the consultants had conducted 45 interviews with elected officials and professional staff. Mr. Jim Heinicke informed the committee that the strength of REAP comes from its membership. He noted that in the past, REAP has been a successful advocate for the region and many members believe the information exchange about common issues, with a regional focus is the primary value of REAP. He added that interviewees described the recent Water Conferences as an example of a meaningful regional policy discussion. The assessment found that there is a prevailing feeling that REAP has suffered from a lack of effective leadership for several years. Mr. Jim Heinicke continued by stating that the organization is perceived as a forum for elected officials, who could bring strength to the organization. Mr. Jim Heinicke noted that the purpose of the Water Resource Committee needs to be addressed in the near future. Mr. Jim Heinicke added that REAP has not responded effectively to public policy initiatives that weaken its operating base and challenge its political legitimacy. He noted that many water committee members were disappointed with that water position has remained unfilled for over a year.

Mr. Jim Heinicke announced the proposed meeting structure. Management Partners suggested that REAP create a technical advisory committee composed of city/ county managers or staff persons that would focus on regional issues and provide recommendations to the REAP Board. He added that special task forces should be created on an as needed basis to address specific policy issues related to the region. He also noted that REAP board meetings would occur over the lunch hour on a bimonthly basis.

Ms. Misty Bruckner, Wichita State University, challenged the water committee to define a purpose and vision for the committee. Mr. Jim Heinicke noted that there is a difference between advocacy and policy. He suggested that the committee take on an advocacy role. Mr. Bob Congers, City of Kechi, noted that the committee has lacked focus and suggested that the committee approach rural water districts and agricultural water uses. Mr. Dane Baxa noted that the region could benefit from good representation on the state plan and Kansas Water Authority. Mr. Jim Heinicke asked if the region has good representation at the Kansas Water Plan. Ms. Sue Schlapp, Kansas Department of Commerce, announced that she sits on the Kansas Water Plan Board. She noted that historically, the board is weighted toward agriculture. She added that the committee could influence the state water plan by meeting with Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Authority. Mayor Marcey Gregory noted that the committee could focus on advocating on behalf of municipal water users. Mr. Bob Congers suggested the committee partner with agricultural water users. Mr. Willis Heck, City of Newton, asked if the region has a water problem. He cited the City of Hays's water plan as a possible model for the region. Mayor Marcey Gregory noted that a speaker from Hays was present at the Water Conference. Information on Hays's water plans can be found on the REAP website. Mr. Bob Congers suggested the region come together to discuss a reasonable, sustainable, regional water policy. Mr. John Stevens, Wichita SCORE, asked if the region needs a new reservoir to offset the region's water needs. Mr. Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance, noted that advocacy can be focused on awareness. He suggested that the region market water as an economic development tool and adopt a regional best practice manual for drought management. Mr. Kurt Bookout, City of El Dorado announced that the last drought of record occurred over 50 years ago. He added that region needs to be prepared for droughts and reexamine base water usage.

Ms. Kathy Axelson, Rose Hill, suggested the committee encourage elected officials to attend the Governor's Water Conference. Mr. Kent Brown, City of Clearwater, noted that the committee should create a best practice for water conservation. He noted that the city of Clearwater has adopted a graduated tier system. Mayor Terry Somers stated that water is a key tool of economic development. Mr. Cody Sims announced that oil and gas companies are requiring massive amounts of water for fracking. He suggested that the committee review key legislation. Mr. Kurt Bookout noted that El Dorado Lake is able to supply the region with water without drastically depleting El Dorado Lake. Mayor Marcey Gregory thanked the committee members for their input and informed the committee that she would take the committees concerns to the Transition Team meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. Transition team:**

Mr. Jim Heinicke announced that the REAP Transition Team will meet at 1 p.m. on July 11<sup>th</sup> at the Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices.

**7. Upcoming Meeting Topics:**

Mr. Jim Heinicke announced that a representative from the Kansas Water Authority will be presenting at our next Water Resource Committee on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Unscheduled Topics:** *REAP Members and Partners*

Ms. Rebecca Likiardopoulos noted that registration for Governor's Water Conference opens up on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The conference is scheduled for October 24-25<sup>th</sup> in Manhattan Kansas.

**9. Adjourn**

Having no other Business the meeting was adjourned

## **REAP Attendance 7/8/2013**

### Members/ Alternates

Mayor Marcey Gregory, City of Goddard  
Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope  
Councilmember Pete Meitzner, City of Wichita  
Mayor Rex Satterthwaite, City of Bentley  
Mr. Carl Koster, City of Cheney  
Ms. Irene Hart, City of Hutchinson  
  
Mr. Cody Sims, City of Wellington  
Mr. Daniel Shea, Kingman County  
Mr. Robert Conger, City of Kechi  
Mr. Rick Rekoske, City of Bel-Aire  
Mr. Thom Noone, City of Sedgwick  
Ms. Kathy Axelson, City of Rose Hill  
Mr. Ron Loomis, McPherson County  
Mr. Herb Llewellyn, City of El Dorado  
Councilmember Lavota Williams, City of Wichita  
Mr. Dale Shaffer, City of Benton  
Mr. Bob Myers, City of Newton  
Mr. Randy Riggs, City of Newton  
Mr. Jim Nickel, City of Newton  
Mr. John Waltner, Harvey County  
Mr. Anthony Swartzendruber, Harvey County

### *Guests*

Mr. Harland Priddle, K-96 Corridor Association  
Mr. Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance  
Ms. Sue Schlapp, Kansas Department of Commerce  
Mr. Dale Goter, City of Wichita  
Ms. Kaylene Haug, K-96 Corridor Development Association  
Ms. Debra Miller Stevens, City of Wichita  
Mr. John Stevens, Wichita Score  
Mr. Willis Heck, City of Newton  
Mr. Hoyt Hillman, City of Wichita  
Mr. Kirk Haydon, Rose Hill  
  
Staff  
Dr. Nancy McCarthy Snyder, WSU  
Ms. Rebecca Likiardopoulos, WSU  
Mr. Brandon Mills, WSU  
Mr. Zack Daniel, WSU  
Ms. Misty Bruckner, WSU  
Mr. Dane Baxa, WSU  
Ms. Paula Downs, WSU  
Mr. Jim Heinicke, WSU  
Ms. Jessica Morton, WSU