



**REAP WRC Technical Sub-Committee  
Meeting Agenda  
3:00 p.m., October 18, 2012  
Goddard City Council Chambers  
118 N. Main, Goddard, KS 67052  
Mayor Marcey Gregory, Chair**

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Mayor Marcey Gregory

**2. Water Resources Committee Staffing Update:** Joe Yager  
*Members will be provided a brief update on staffing.*

**3. 2012 Work Plan Review and Highlights:** Joe Yager  
*Review and Discuss 2012 Work Plan and Achievements.*

**4. Presentation and Discussion of 2012 WRC Survey Results:** Joe Yager  
*Annually the Committee utilizes a survey and membership discussion that is designed to assist members in guiding activities in the upcoming year. Staff will present 2012 WRC Survey Results.*

**5. Identification of Objectives for 2013 Work Plan:** Mayor Marcey Gregory  
*Discussion of potential work plan objectives and action steps for 2013.  
Recommended Action: Discuss and provide direction.*

**6. REAP WRC Sponsorship of the Governor's Water Conference Update:** Joe Yager  
*The REAP WRC is a sponsor for the Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas and the Committee is requested to identify information and potential sponsorship materials to be utilized.  
Recommended Action: Discuss and provide direction.*

**7. 2013 WRC Meeting Schedule:** Joe Yager  
*Staff has prepared dates and times for Committee meetings in 2013.  
Recommended Action: Approve meeting schedule.*

**8. Unscheduled Business Items and Updates:** Committee Members  
*Committee members are encouraged to provide updates or request discussion on issues that may be relevant to REAP.*

**9. Adjourn**

*The next REAP Water Resources Committee meeting is **Monday, November 5, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.** following the full REAP Board Meeting at the **Hughes Metropolitan Complex** (29th and Oliver)*

---

WRC Mission Statement: *"To serve as a regional voice to assist committees in their efforts to influence state and national policy to obtain a sustainable water supply to meet future demand."*

---

## **REAP Water Resources Committee 2012 Overview**

### **Brief History**

REAP has made water resource issues a high priority since its inception, and in 2000, a working group was established that led to the creation of the South Central Kansas Water Coalition (SCKWC). In 2007 REAP and SCKWC members determined the region would be best served by establishing the Water Resources Committee (WRC) under REAP. The Committee was designated as self-sufficient with independent assessment and membership; and directed to provide a vehicle for cities and counties to work collaboratively on common issues, concerns and challenges relating to water supply and water quality. Today, the Water Resources Committee is comprised of twenty-seven (27) city and county governments in the region.

### **2012 Highlights**

*Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Surveys* were completed for all REAP member municipalities in an effort to compare rate structures for utilities and promote dialogue among communities as to the true cost of water and wastewater service. Surveys will be continually updated on an annual basis every January.

The *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Water Conference titled “Hang Together or Hang Separately: Discussing the importance of regional water planning.”* was held on May 24<sup>th</sup> in Newton. The conference was a success with more than 100 people in attendance and positive feedback about the featured speakers, including keynote, Carolyn Brittin, Deputy Executive Administrator for the Texas Water Development Board who kicked off the conference with a presentation on the Texas water plan and the strategies they deployed. In addition Charles Jones, Director of KU Public Management Center spoke about collaboration and the challenges we face with working across boundaries, and Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office closed the conference with a legislative and policy update regarding Kansas water issues. In addition a panel discussion that included four individuals from four different state and federal agencies discussed collaborative solutions for regional water planning.

The REAP WRC agreed to serve as a sponsor of the *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Governor’s Water Conference” The Future of Water in Kansas,*” in Manhattan, October 30-31. This exciting conference will highlight the latest policy and research developments of water issues in Kansas. Points of interest include; evaluating Kansas’ water infrastructure, opportunities to improve water infrastructure and meeting water demands for energy and agriculture. Attendees will include state and Congressional legislators, state and federal officials, organizations and citizens who share an avid interest in our state’s water resources.

The committee took on the hot topic of *Hydraulic Fracturing* and other contentious water related issues by evaluating and engaging in the legislative session. Issues such as ASR, drilling over the Equus beds and protecting the public water supply while not hindering local economic development were weighed in on.

*WaterWise* continues to be a well-received informational resource for both members and outside officials. The newsletter has been in existence for over two years now.

## 2011-2014 REAP Strategic Plan

**Mission:** *To guide state and national actions that affect economic development in the region, and to adopt joint actions among member governments that enhance the regional economy.*

---

**Provide a unified voice** to promote regional economic development.

- 1) Collaborate with business, nonprofit, and public sector stakeholders on regional economic issues.
- 2) Strengthen relationships with existing partners.
- 3) Encourage dialogue on regional economic development.

---

**Guide state and national policies** that impact the regional economy.

- 1) Engage local leadership to represent the region at the state and national level.

## 2012 REAP Water Resources Committee Work Plan Review and Highlights

**Mission:** *To serve as a regional voice and assist communities in efforts to influence local, state, and national policy in obtaining safe, affordable, and sustainable water resources.*

---

**Provide a unified voice** on policy issues concerned with water quality and quantity before federal, state, and local agencies.

- 1.1) Partnered with business, nonprofit, and public sector on water quality and quantity issues that are supported or that could potentially be supported by the WRC.
  - a) Partner with Kansas Biological Survey to further develop the REAP Water Resources Planner.
    - The committee did not commit resources to further develop this item.
- 2.1) Disseminated the mission of the WRC to state and national partners by attending and presenting information at special meetings.
  - a) Presented REAP Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies at the LKM Mayor and Leadership conference.
  - b) Provided REAP WRC representation at the meeting of 7 different organizations and attended 5 conferences.
  - c) The chair of the REAP WRC has a seat on the Wichita Water Utilities Advisory Committee.
- 3.1) Facilitate discussion on the value of water resources in a regional economy.
  - a) Assisted in coordinating the 2012 Regional Listening Tour with eight location stops.

---

**Guide state and national policies** that impact regional water quality and supply.

- 1.1) Identify and advocate for REAP legislative priorities relating to water issues when appropriate.
  - a) Secure state financial participation in:
    - i) The Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recover (ASR) Project to preserve the aquifer for agricultural, industrial, and municipal use that is essential to the regional economy.
    - ii) Sediment and nutrient reduction programs that protect and sustain the region's public water supplies.
- b) Promote science-based, common sense policies that protect the safety of the region's water supply while recognizing that the region's job creation potential should not be unnecessarily jeopardized.

- Kansas Corporation Commission passed laws regarding hydraulic fracturing over the Equus Beds.
- Six Senate and House bills were identified by the Water Resources Committee for evaluation.

c) Encourage a reevaluation of state water policy and governance, including the collection and distribution of Water Fund revenue and the legislative process for adoption of the annual Kansas Water Authority 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.

1.2) Coordinated REAP membership when appropriate to engage in the state legislation process on WRC supported issues.

a) Developed legislative priorities and weighed in on issues.

- 2) Develop relationships with, local, state and federal governmental officials.

2) Develop relationships with, local, state and federal governmental officials.

2.1) Monitored activities of federal, state, and local agencies affecting water supply and quality in the region and advise members of relevant issues and partnership opportunities.

a) Report on regional, state, and national water meetings:

- i) Basin Advisory Committees.
- ii) Groundwater Management Districts.
- iii) Kansas Water Authority.
- iv) Division of Water Resources.
- v) State and national conferences.

- WaterWise and Water Wednesday are used to distribute the meeting dates, summaries and agendas for these organizations.

**Engage stakeholders** on issues shaping our regional economy.

1) Provide regional forums that connect REAP membership with private, non-profit, and public sector stakeholders.

**Engage stakeholders** on issues of water quality and supply by providing a regional forum for discussion, communication, and information sharing opportunities.

1.1) Conduct Water Resources Committee meetings to discuss regional water issues and invite relevant stakeholders from the business, nonprofit, and public sector to sponsor or present information.

- Have held 2 meetings and held the 2012 Water Conference with 102 persons in attendance.

1.2) Conduct meetings with the Technical Sub-Committee to review and develop:

- a) Regional water planning research guide.
  - b) Other technical or research requests from WRC members.
    - Have held 3 technical subcommittee meetings.
- 1.3) Coordinate the 2012 REAP regional water conference.
- Completed the 2012 Water Conference at the Meridian Center in Newton.
  - Carolyn Brittin delivered the keynote presentation on “Hang Together or Hang Separately: Discussing the importance of regional water planning.”
  - The conference was a success with more than 100 people in attendance .
  - Speaking included Charles Jones, Director of KU Public Management Center and Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office.
  - In addition a panel discussion that included four individuals from four different state and federal agencies discussed collaborative solutions for regional water planning.
- 1.4) Develop communication with media contacts to attend WRC meetings.
- Added newspaper and radio contacts to distribution lists
- 1.5) Assemble and disseminate informational resources related to water quality and supply issues.
- a) Water, wastewater, and storm water rate survey
  - b) Hydraulic fracturing information relating to water resources
    - Promulgate information through WaterWise and Water Wednesday publications
- 1.6) Visit 14 REAP WRC member communities in 2012.
- To date have visited with El Dorado, Goddard, Hutchinson, Newton and Wichita.

---

**Support inter-jurisdictional planning** on issues affecting economic development.

- 1) Promote the benefits of a sustainable regional economy.

---

**Support inter-jurisdictional planning** on issues affecting regional water quality and supply.

- 1.1) Align goals and strategies of the WRC with the outcomes and opportunities available with the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant.
  - Developed Water Service Community Survey to be used for the purposes of the grant.

## **2012 REAP WRC Survey**

The survey was designed to assist REAP WRC members in guiding REAP WRC activities in the upcoming year. The issues identified in the survey represent the opinions of the respondents on what issues they feel are important and what investments REAP WRC should make. There were seven (7) questions. Staff received feedback from 18 individuals (*all individual responses were kept confidential*).

### Organizational Understanding

- 100% have been able to develop professional relationships with members and partners.
- 94% agree interpersonal communication and relationships contribute to the WRC's effectiveness.
- 93% believe the WRC has effective staff support.
- 93% believe the WRC is headed in the right direction
- 93% believe the WRC provides adequate value to all communities in the region.
- 87% think the current WRC membership assessment structure is adequate.
- 87% agree committee meetings are productive.
- 76% have a clear understanding of the WRC's goals and objectives.
- 69% agree other members have a shared understanding of the WRC's goals and objectives.
- 69% participate in committee meetings.

### Program Objectives

- 100% agree the WRC engages stakeholders on water issues by providing regional forums.
- 93% agree the WRC supports inter-jurisdictional planning on water issues.
- 87% agree the WRC is providing a unified voice on water policy issues.
- 67% agree the WRC guides state and national policies that impact regional water quality/supply.

### Commitments and Activities

- 100% agree that the WRC should lead long-range regional water planning.
- 100% agree that the WRC should continue to identify water related legislative issues.
- 94% believe the WRC should continue to coordinate the annual regional water conference.
- 94% think the WRC should continue to produce communication publications.
- 94% believe the WRC should advise officials on the State Water Plan.
- 88% believe that the WRC should continue the water rate survey.
- 88% agree that the WRC should continue engagement at the regional, state and local level.
- 82% believe the WRC should develop outreach/marketing to engage potential communities.
- 75% think the WRC should continue to support the ASR project.
- 69% agree the WRC should continue the REAP Water Resources Planner.
- The top four additional workplan activities REAP WRC should explore included:
  - Agriculture and Municipal Water Needs
  - Stormwater Management
  - Asset Management
  - Hot Topic Sessions

### Raw data open ended responses

#### **What REAP WRC functions currently provide the most value to your community? Responses**

- rate information
- collaborating with state agencies
- working with our neighbors on issues    WRC functions have successfully put water issues and their importance into the mindsets of our elected officials, including creating the awareness that this is a regional issue (not just local) and that it is also an economic development issue. It has helped give them a larger perspective when dealing with local water issues. I think this has been invaluable. Having data readily available from others in the region is also a great resource.
- Rate survey
- Tracking and explaining bills before the legislature and policies before state agencies.    Water and wastewater rates    Planning Legislative updates and representation on water issues.
- Communications on pertinent water issues in our area.
- The continued update of water and wastewater rates in the area.

- I am not aware of the value of REAP WRC to my community. As a purchaser of water we sometimes are left out of the water conversation until the outcome is sprung upon us. The networking that is made available helps open doors of conversation that were previously shut.
- The Regional Water Conference is a great opportunity for providing local decision makers to get a feel as to how and what it takes to produce and provide adequate, safe, affordable water.
- Rate study and conference. Monthly updates to board. Education and legislative information. Forum approach for regional entities.

**What challenges are facing REAP WRC in obtaining safe, affordable and sustainable water resources? *Responses***

- Decisions about conversation and membership dues
- Building positive working relationships and joint initiatives with agricultural water users.
- REAP Water requires significant and sustained participation and LEADERSHIP from Wichita and El Dorado to be successful. They are the water producers; the rest of us are mostly consumers.
- Individual communities just wanting to take care of themselves .
- Communities unwilling to give up total control over water.
- Reservoir depletion. Source water quality contamination issues. Overdevelopment of groundwater resources limiting new development and growth.
- The current legislative body, which will probably not support anything relating to regional planning, government spending for infrastructure, or anything else positive.
- Infrastructure to transport existing supplies to the areas of need.
- Costs to local government for maintaining Local Environmental Protection Programs, particularly in rural areas. Inability of members to look beyond individual jurisdictional interests to broader regional interests.

**What is the role of REAP WRC to address these challenges? *Responses***

- Continue the planning and discussion around these issues.
- We have to demonstrate that local governments are sensitive to the needs of agriculture, and don't just see them as a competitor for water or as an adversary in relation to environmental issues. We have to own our own contributions to these problems. We are truly all in this together. We need to see agriculture as a critical, invaluable industry for our region, and communicate to them that we have this vision and want to partner with agriculture so that we can all thrive.
- The committee should be laser focused on understanding the issues, constraints and timelines facing Wichita and El Dorado, as well those of other REAP members to ensure that regional planning occurs on a useful timeline.
- Keep emphasizing the big picture.
- Facilitate.
- Provide leadership and representation at a State and local level. REAP WRC provides a voice for municipal water users in a primarily agricultural weighted process.
- The WRC also has technical members that are available to share their expertise with those communities that are lacking experienced personnel.
- Education and strength in numbers. Good luck.
- Look to projects outside the REAP boundaries such as the H2O project in Barber County. Establishing need, plan for implementation and funding for such projects.
- Expansion of rural water districts and implementing policy to encourage working together and expanding their service area.
- Provide information to general public on effect of uses of pesticides and herbicides on public well water supply.
- Stay in tune to all parties that are willing to engage in discussion and provide a means to facilitate further future discussion.

**2011-2014 REAP Strategic Plan**

**2012 REAP Water Resources Committee  
Work Plan**

*Mission: To guide state and national actions that affect economic development in the region, and to adopt joint actions among member governments that enhance the regional economy.*

*Mission: To serve as a regional voice and assist communities in efforts to influence local, state, and national policy in obtaining safe, affordable, and sustainable water resources.*

---

**Provide a unified voice** to promote regional economic development.

- 1) Collaborate with business, nonprofit, and public sector stakeholders on regional economic issues.
- 2) Strengthen relationships with existing partners.
- 3) Encourage dialogue on regional economic development.

**Provide a unified voice** on policy issues concerned with water quality and quantity before federal, state, and local agencies.

- 1.1) Partner with business, nonprofit, and public sector on water quality and quantity issues that are or could be supported by the WRC.
  - a) Partner with Kansas Biological Survey to further develop REAP Water Resources Planner.
- 2.1) Disseminate the mission of the WRC to state and national partners by attending and presenting information at special meetings.
  - a) Provide REAP WRC technical assistance or representation at water related meetings, conferences, and workshops.
- 3.1) Facilitate discussion on the value of water resources in a regional economy.
  - a) Assist REAP in coordinating the 2012 Regional Listening Tour

---

**Guide state and national policies** that impact the regional economy.

- 1) Engage local leadership to represent the region at the state and national level.

**Guide state and national policies** that impact regional water quality and supply.

- 1.1) Identify and advocate for REAP legislative priorities relating to water issues when appropriate.
  - a) Secure state financial participation in:
    - i) The Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recover (ASR) Project to preserve the aquifer for agricultural, industrial, and municipal use that is essential to the regional economy.
    - ii) Sediment and nutrient reduction programs that protect and sustain the region's public water supplies.
  - b) Promote science-based, common sense policies that protect the safety of the region's water supply while recognizing that the region's job creation potential should not be unnecessarily jeopardized.
  - c) Encourage a reevaluation of state water policy and governance, including the collection and distribution of Water Fund revenue and the legislative process for adoption of the annual Kansas Water Authority budget.
- 1.2) Coordinate REAP WRC membership when appropriate to engage in the state legislation process on WRC supported issues.

- 2) Develop relationships with, local, state and federal governmental officials.
- 2.1) Monitor activities of federal, state, and local agencies affecting water supply and quality in the region and advise members of relevant issues and partnership opportunities.
  - a) Report on regional, state, and national water meetings:
    - i) Basin Advisory Committees.
    - ii) Groundwater Management Districts.
    - iii) Kansas Water Authority.
    - iv) Division of Water Resources.
    - v) State and national conferences.

**Engage stakeholders** on issues shaping our regional economy.

- 1) Provide regional forums that connect REAP membership with private, non-profit, and public sector stakeholders.

**Engage stakeholders** on issues of water quality and supply by providing a regional forum for discussion, communication, and information sharing opportunities.

- 1.1) Conduct Water Resources Committee meetings to discuss regional water issues and invite relevant stakeholders from the business, nonprofit, and public sector to sponsor or present information.
- 1.2) Conduct meetings with the Technical Sub-Committee to review and develop:
  - a) Regional water planning research guide.
  - b) Other technical or research requests from WRC members.
- 1.3) Coordinate the 2012 REAP regional water conference.
- 1.4) Develop communication with media contacts to attend WRC meetings.
- 1.5) Assemble and disseminate informational resources related to water quality and supply issues.
  - a) Water, wastewater, and storm water rate survey
  - b) Hydraulic fracturing information relating to water resources
- 1.6) Visit 14 REAP WRC member communities in 2012.

**Support inter-jurisdictional planning** on issues affecting economic development.

- 1) Create a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development.

**Support inter-jurisdictional planning** on issues affecting regional water quality and supply.

- 1.1) Align goals and strategies of the WRC with the outcomes and opportunities available with the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant.

**Item**

2013 WRC Meeting Schedule

**Background**

In 2012, the Water Resources Committee took action to schedule regular bi-monthly full Committee meetings on the second Monday of the month, following the REAP meeting, at 9:30 a.m. Meetings were scheduled to be held in the Sudermann Room at the Wichita State Hughes Metropolitan Complex located at 5015. E. 29<sup>th</sup> St. North, unless otherwise noted.

Also in 2012, the Water Resources Technical Sub-Committee scheduled bi-monthly meetings on the off months of the full Water Resources Committee meetings and generally on the second Thursday of the month, at 3:00 p.m. Meetings were scheduled to be held at the Wichita State Hughes Metropolitan Complex located at 5015. E. 29<sup>th</sup> St. North unless otherwise noted.

In addition, the WRC holds an annual water conference, generally the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of May. The annual conference was held on May 24, 2012 at the Meridian Center in Newton, KS.

**2013 Proposed Schedule**

*Water Resources Committee:* Continuation of the regular bi-monthly full Committee meetings on the second Monday of the month, unless otherwise noted is as follows:

- **January 14**
- **March 11**
- **May 23** REAP Regional Water Conference (tentative)
- **July 8**
- **September 9**
- **November 4**

*Water Resources Technical Sub-Committee:* Continuation of the bi-monthly meetings on the off months of the full WRC meetings and generally on the second Thursday of the month, unless otherwise noted is as follows:

- **February 14**
- **April 11**
- **June 13**
- **August 8**
- **October 10**
- **December 12**

Meetings are not held if there is no business before the committee.

**Recommended Action**

Discussion of meeting schedules.