



**Legislative Committee  
Meeting Agenda  
8:00 am, October 26, 2012**  
Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices  
Commissioner Chip Westfall, Chairman

1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements:** *Commissioner Chip Westfall*
2. **Approval of Minutes from June 22, 2012:** *Commissioner Chip Westfall*  
**Recommended Action:** *Approve or modify minutes as needed.*
3. **Kansas Affordable Airfares Update:** *Joe Yager and Tom Bruno*
4. **2012 Legislative Review:** *Tom Bruno*  
*REAP Legislative Liaison Tom Bruno will provide a review of the 2012 session.*
5. **2012 Legislative Committee Regional Listening Tour:** *Joe Yager*  
*The Committee will be presented with a report from the regional listening tour.*
6. **Potential Legislative Agenda Item Review:** *Joe Yager*
  - A. Visioneering 2013 ULA
  - B. Other Legislative Agendas
7. **Review and Discussion of 2013 Work Plan:** *Commissioner Chip Westfall*  
*The Committee is asked to review the 2012 Work Plan and discuss activities that should be focused on in 2013.*  
**Recommended Action:** *Forward proposed Committee activities for 2013 to the Executive Committee for consideration.*
8. **Identification of Legislative Priorities for 2013:** *Commissioner Chip Westfall*  
*An element of the Committee's 2012 activities is to recommend legislative priorities to REAP for the 2013 legislative session.*  
**Recommended Action:** *Forward proposed legislative priorities to the Executive Committee for consideration.*
9. **2013 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule:** *Joe Yager*  
**Recommended Action:** *Approve meeting schedule.*
10. **2012 REAP Policy Summit:** *Joe Yager*  
*The Committee is asked to discuss and provide input into the agenda and content of the summit which is scheduled for December 13, 2012.*  
**Recommended Action:** *Discuss and identify next steps.*
11. **2013 REAP Legislative Liaison Discussion:** *Commissioner Chip Westfall*  
*The Committee will discuss the position of REAP legislative liaison for 2013.*  
**Recommended Action:** *Discuss and forward recommendation to Executive Committee.*
12. **Unscheduled Topics:** *Committee Members*  
*Committee members are encouraged to provide updates or request discussion on issues that may be relevant.*
13. **Adjourn**

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*Reminder: The Policy Summit is December 13, 2012 and the next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2012.*

**Legislative Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2012**  
Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices  
Commissioner Chip Westfall, Chair

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**1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:**

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, opened the meeting; members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

**2. Review of Minutes from the May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 REAP Legislative Committee Meeting**

Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, moved (Council Member Jeff Longwell, City of Wichita) to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. REAP 2012 Legislative Review**

Mr. Tom Bruno, REAP Legislative Liaison, provided a review from Topeka on the 2012 Legislative Session. Affordable Airfares, NIAR, CIBOR, and NCAT funding were all approved this session. Under this administration there has been a high effort to support business driven technical training and education. There was an \$8 million appropriation for additional funding of technical training.

Mr. Dale Goter, City of Wichita, added there was ASR funding approved and the Sustainable Plan's water priorities will be a positive result taken away when the plan is completed. He noted that the El Dorado water supply plan could be a possible beneficial presentation to this committee.

**4. REAP July Board Meeting Discussion**

Commissioner Westfall explained for the July 9<sup>th</sup> REAP Board meeting the theme will be to provide a legislative update and educate who we are and what we do. The Committee discussed this opportunity and it was noted that it can help educate about REAP issues within the region and can help at the local level. The Committee also concluded that mailing information to all the candidates and giving them REAP contacts and literature will be extremely beneficial. Finally the Committee noted that having a candid discussion with the house and senate candidates to talk about what we do and plans for the future can help educate them on our regional issues. Staff was directed to send out an invitation to candidates for the next board meeting with a list of members and information about REAP.

**5. Remapping Effect on the SCK Legislative Delegation**

Mr. Joe Yager, REAP Chief Executive Officer, explained staff has compiled a listing of the candidates for both Kansas Senate and House for South Central Kansas, located in the agenda packet. The Committee reviewed the information.

**6. Rail Issues in the Region**

Council Member Pete Meitzner, City of Wichita, provided an update on the recent NFA 2012 Symposium. The purpose of the Symposium was to create a venue for public officials, business owners, community leaders, the medical community, Board of Regents, railroad interests and elected officials from several Midwest states to come together to discuss the strategic development of passenger rail expansion. The service gap opportunity could be lost if our region does not pay attention. The landscape of Wichita is changing with the downtown plan accelerating, the new arena, and union station could be a nice complement to our region. A study being completed for Oklahoma and Texas to look at rail plans could reduce our cost of the study if we joined with them.

Mr. Randy Riggs, City of Newton, provided an update on the recent summit held in Garden City. The purpose of the summit was to evaluate funding solutions to keep the Southwest Chief running through

Western Kansas and not diverting to the south. The track of this route is in disrepair. Funding from Amtrak, Burlington Northern, and multistate sources could help repair the track to keep the speed limit up at an acceptable level.

Staff was directed to draft a letter of support to be considered at the next REAP Board Meeting.

#### **7. REAP Regional Listening Tour**

Mr. Yager provided an update on the Listening Tour planning for 2012, with tentative dates and locations listed in the agenda packet. The proposal engages the regional tour through focusing on local assets to help identify potential legislative priorities and increased engagement.

#### **8. Unscheduled Topics**

No unscheduled topics were brought up for discussion.

#### **9. Adjourn**

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

### **REAP Legislative Committee**

*Attendance – 6/22/2012*

#### **Committee Members**

Chair- Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County

Mayor Kristey Williams, City of Augusta

Ms. Stephanie Knebel, City of Derby

Mayor Marcey Gregory, City of Goddard

Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County

Mr. Marv Duncan, Sedgwick County

Council Member Jeff Longwell, City of Wichita

Mr. Dale Goter, City of Wichita (Via Phone)

#### **Guests/Staff**

Mr. Tom Bruno, Bruno & Associates (Via Phone)

Council Member Pete Meitzner, City of Wichita

Council Member James Clendenin, City of Wichita

Dr. Ed Flentje, WSU

Mr. Randy Riggs, City of Newton

Ms. Paula Downs, WSU

Mr. Joe Yager, WSU

Mr. Dane Baxa, WSU

Mr. Tom Scanlon, WSU

Mr. Taylour Tedder, WSU

**Item**

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.

**REAP Legislative Priorities Report**

The following is an update of the REAP adopted 2012 Legislative Priorities:

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

- The Governor recommended funding the program at \$5 million and the legislature concurred.

**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 Governor recommended \$500,000 in his budget and the legislature included an additional \$500,000. The Governor line item vetoed the additional funding, with the following explanation:
  - “The additional appropriation of \$500,000 from the Expanded Lottery Act Revenues Fund (ELARF) for the Wichita Aquifer Recharge Project would increase funding beyond my budget recommendations for FY 2013. My FY 2013 budget recommendations included a \$500,000 appropriation from the State Water Plan Fund for the project that demonstrates an effective method to provide for long-term planning related to future water supplies. Furthermore, the use of the ELARF will have to be leveraged as part of a specific debt reduction and budget balancing strategy. Therefore, I hereby line-item veto this provision.”

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

- No funding was identified 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 recommended \$5 million for NIAR at Wichita State and the legislature concurred.

*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.

- It was announced that CIBOR is being restructured and moving to the WSU campus. CIBOR will remain a joint venture of Wichita State and Via Christi Health, but will be managed by NIAR. The scientific staff will be retained and continue to work on current research projects.

**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.

**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:
  - Senate Bill 272 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 was 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 signed by the Governor.
  - 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.
  - 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. “Compromising” language was added in the House Substitute for Substituted Senate Bill 148 that would not allow exemption in closed areas of appropriations. The bill was combined with language that would allow water rights to be divided without losing seniority.
  - 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.
  - 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. 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 was not any significant legislation passed either for or against renewable energy this past session. The Governor has expressed significant support for wind generation, as a speaker at a national wind conference this month in Atlanta and publicly supporting the extension of the Federal Production Tax Credit for renewables. His support of renewables has lead significant investment in Kansas for future wind projects, most of which are not announced at this point. One project that was announced, the BP Wind Farm in Harper County, was made public in April.

**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 recommended \$4.9 million for aviation training through Wichita State and the Legislature approved.
- In addition, the Governor proposed significant changes to the current technical education structure in Kansas, as follows:
  - The Kansas Board of Regents is required to establish a career technical education incentive program, which would award \$1,000, subject to appropriation, to a school district for each high school graduate who graduates from that district with an industry-recognized credential in a high-need occupation.
  - Allows the governing board of a community college, technical college, or institute of technology to apply to the Kansas Board of Regents for permission to establish a career technical education program outside of the institution's service area if the program is not currently being offered in that service area. This would go into effect on July 1, 2013.
- The legislature also included additional funding for the reforms and the “tiered” funding formula that was adopted last year for technical education.

**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.

**Additional Issues Identified**

*Hydraulic Fracturing Regulation*

Senate Sub. for HB 2526 provides explicit authority for the Kansas Corporation Commission to regulate hydraulic fracturing, sets 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 certain energy storage, and requires the KCC to annually determine and report the statewide retail rate impact of compliance with the Renewable Energy Standards Act.

**Item**

2012 Legislative Committee Regional Listening Tour

**Background**

In an effort to connect REAP with the communities in the region while allowing members to identify issues that are important to individual communities and could be beneficial to the region the Committee had 8 Listening Tour stops for 2012. Many issues may not be of regional importance, but could be important to individual communities, and REAP should be aware and supportive as long as the issue does not hurt any other community in the region.

**2012 Listening Tour Stops:**

The following are highlights and topics from the 2012 stops.

- *Common Issues Across the Region*
  - **Housing**
  - **Transportation**
  - **Water**
  - **Regionalism**
  - **Energy**
  - **Air Quality**
  - **Economic Development**
- *Events and Attendance*
  - **7** Listening Stops
  - More than **120** attendees
  - **27** different jurisdictions
  - **20** different partners
  - More than **15** partners at the KDOC Resource Fair

**Individual Stops:**

**Andover- Thursday, July 12, 2012:** *Representation from: City of Andover, City of Augusta, City of El Dorado, City of Rose Hill, City of Derby, and City of Wichita. In addition we had partners from the Workforce Alliance, Kansas Leadership Center, CEDBR, SCKEDD, KDOT, Kansas World Trade Center, and SBDC-Butler County. (21 people in attendance)*

- Housing
- Transportation
- Economic diversity
- Water

**South Hutchinson- Thursday, August 9, 2012:** *Representation from: Reno County, Valley Center, City of Hutchinson, McPherson County, and City of South Hutchinson. Partners from KDOC, Local Area One, SCKEDD, KDOT, and K-96 Corridor Association. (23 people in attendance)*

- Housing
- Production tax credits
- Income taxes
- Bus systems
- Rail
- Workforce
- State fair
- Agri-tourism
- Water treatment systems
- Air travel

**South Central Kansas Community & Municipal Resource Fair- August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012:**

*Representation from: The Building Economic Stability Together Coalition, KDOT, Kansas Main Street program, Kansas PRIDE, Department of Commerce Trade Development Division, Department of Commerce Workforce Development Division, Department of Commerce Business and Community Development Division, Sedgwick County, SCKEDD, CEDBR, Heartland Procurement Technical Assistance Center, KDHE, Kansas Small Business Development Center-WSU, LKM, and NetWork Kansas.*

- Event hosted by the Kansas Department of Commerce at Derby City Hall and was meant to be a chance for smaller communities to understand the resources available to them.

**Strother Field, Winfield- August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** *Representation from: Cowley First, Kansas Global Trading Services, Southern Kansas Telephone Company, KDOT, SCKEDD, USD 465 (Winfield), City of Winfield, KDOC and City of Wellington. (14 people in attendance)*

- Rural telephone subsidies
- Transportation
- Rural passenger rail
- Marketing of job skill resources
- On the job training
- Water, Waste-water infrastructure
- Housing
- Education for local government employees

**Cheney- September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** *Representation from: City of Cheney, Kingman County, City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, City of Clearwater and GWEDC. (13 people in attendance)*

- Affordable housing
- Variety of housing
- Electric grid capacity
- Reliable energy solutions
- Water usage and quality issues
- Economic development for small communities
- Attracting companies to rural communities
- Air quality in the region

**Harvey County Council of Governments- September,12<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** *Representation from: City of Hesston, City of Sedgwick, Harvey County, City of Newton, City of North Newton and Sedgwick County. (18 people in attendance)*

- Regionalism
- Marketing the region
- Economic development
- Water quality
- Trained workforce
- Energy needs
- Need for citizen engagement in regionalism and transportation

**McPherson- September 13, 2012:** *Representation from: City of McPherson, City of Marquette, McPherson County Community Foundation, McPherson Chamber of Commerce and local media. (13 people in attendance)*

- Affordable housing
- Transportation
- Need to draw younger demographic
- Wind energy
- Oil refining
- Promotion of composites
- Regionalism
- Main street revitalization
- Bike paths
- Leadership training
- Forum to improve communities with adaptive change
- Legislative issues about home rule.



**Sedgwick County Association of Cities- October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** *Representation from: Park City, Sedgwick County, City of Wichita, City of Mount Hope, City of Derby, City of Sedgwick, City of Goddard, WAMPO and SCAC. (20 people in attendance)*

- Regionalism
- Transportation
- Quality of roads
- Affordable airfares program
- Development of passenger rail
- Current tax legislation
- ASR project
- Municipal water needs
- Air quality requirements
- REAP region's water supply should be supported some by the state

**Item**

2012 Work Plan Review

**Background**

The REAP Legislative Committee (LC) 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 and since 2000 has provided guidance to the legislative liaison as issues arise. The LC also develops and recommends legislative priorities to REAP for the following year. The following are the adopted work plan items identified for the LC for 2012 and action on those items during the year.

**Legislative Committee 2012 Work Items**

*Expand the composition of the Legislative Committee to include representation from various industries and groups.*

- Although the Committee has discussed this item no action was taken in 2012. Note: The composition was expanded through invites at the end of 2011.

*Evaluate process for determining legislative priorities to increase participation.*

- The Committee discussed methods for identifying and engaging REAP member jurisdictions to increase engagement. The Committee discussed that the REAP Legislative Committee is comprised of delegates from member jurisdictions that are self-appointed. There are no qualifications or restrictions included in the REAP bylaws for committee composition and a request for increased membership was made at the February Board Meeting.
- The Committee utilized increased awareness at the REAP Board meetings, the annual membership survey, Listening Tours, and a new mini-survey designed for legislative priorities only to increase participation in determining priorities.

*Conduct annual regional legislative policy summit that includes relevant speakers and topics.*

- REAP served as the host of the 2011 South Central Kansas Legislative Policy Summit, held on December 8, 2011 in Wichita at the Drury Broadview. More than 90 people attended the half-day event, including 18 state legislators. 17 sponsors joined REAP in providing an educational forum where various partners could come together to discuss key issues that cross traditional political boundaries or ideologies.
- The Committee is planning to host the 2012 South Central Kansas Legislative Policy Summit on December 13, 2012 in Wichita at the Drury Broadview.

*Conduct a “Listening” Tour to identify issues of importance.*

- In an effort to connect REAP with the communities in the region while allowing members to identify issues that are important to individual communities and could be beneficial to the region the Committee held 8 Listening Tour stops during July-October for 2012. The stops had more than 120 attendees from 27 different jurisdictions and 20 different partners.

***Conduct on-going community visitations to provide updates to councils and commissions on the purpose, goals, and status of REAP.***

- Community presentations to members and other organizations were organized. For 2012 official presentations included the City of Augusta, Park City Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Derby.

***Identify and make REAP members aware of legislative issues of significance to South Central Kansas and promote engagement.***

- REAP was invited to present its 2012 legislative priorities to area legislators at the annual delegation meeting scheduled for January 5, 2012 at the Marcus Welcome Center at Wichita State University. REAP Chair, Mayor Kristey Williams (Augusta) and REAP Legislative Chair, Council Member Jeff Longwell (Wichita) were scheduled to present at approximately 3:10. In addition, REAP again served as a co-host of a reception for elected officials in the region at the conclusion of the delegation meeting.
- REAP served as the sponsor of the weekly South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation luncheon on February 8, 2012. Twenty (20) legislators attended as REAP Chair Mayor Kristey Williams (Augusta), Commissioner Chip Westfall (Harvey County) and Council Member Jeff Longwell (Wichita) presented information about REAP, including: background on the history of REAP; the roles, work items and purpose of REAP; and overview of several REAP legislative priorities. Joe Yager, Dane Baxa, Tom Bruno, Dale Goter (Wichita) and Marv Duncan (Sedgwick) also attended.
- REAP Chair Mayor Kristey Williams (Augusta) provided testimony in support of affordable airfares on March 8, 2012 to the Senate Commerce Subcommittee in Topeka. Letters from local businesses, communities, economic development agencies and others were provided along with the Fiscal Year 2011 REAP report on the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program.
- REAP Chair, Mayor Kristey Williams (Augusta) submitted written testimony on behalf of REAP at the House Transportation hearings on HB2747 on Thursday, February 16. REAP was alerted to possible negative consequences regarding the use of state transportation dollars as a means of financing a broad tax reform measure under HB2747. REAP legislative liaison Tom Bruno noted that all the transportation interests had come out against the bill and he did not believe that portion would remain given the hit on the T-Works program, however, he also noted that it would not be harmful to submit written testimony expressing our concern about the negative impact the proposal could have on South-Central Kansas. REAP staff forwarded information regarding this measure to all members of the Committee.
- The February 11, 2012 Sedgwick County Association of Cities (SCAC) meeting was held at City Arts in Old Town, Wichita, KS and included a South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation panel. Dale Goter (Wichita) moderated a panel of: SCK Delegation Chair, Representative Pete DeGraff; Kansas State Senator Jean Schodorf; and Kansas State Representatives Jim Ward and Steve Brunk. The legislators provided insight into the session and answered questions from the audience. REAP representatives in attendance included: REAP Legislative Chairman, Council Member Jeff Longwell (Wichita); Mayor Dion Avello (Derby); Mayor Marcey Gregory (Goddard); Mayor Mike McNown (Valley Center); Mayor Terry Somers (Mount Hope); Stephanie Knebel (Derby); and Joe Yager.
- The theme for the June 11 REAP Board meeting was legislative update and the Legislative Committee was requested to help develop the meeting format and issues for discussion. In addition, for the June meeting, Mayor Williams secured a commitment from Congressman

Mike Pompeo to speak and field questions at the meeting. Therefore, the Legislative Committee discussed the potential format and desired outcomes of the Legislative Engagement theme in order to complement this engagement opportunity.

- The theme for the July 9 REAP Board meeting was legislative update and engagement. The Committee was requested to help develop the meeting format and determined that a panel of local government experts in legislative engagement representing should be invited to participate in a discussion on the past legislative session and REAPs role in the legislative process going forward. It was noted that there will be a historic turnover in the legislature due to redistricting and REAP should discuss how to effectively engage throughout this change. The Committee also directed staff to forward a letter out prior to the July Board meeting to introduce REAP to the candidates and provide an invitation to the July meeting.

***Monitor progress on legislative priorities for 2012 and give guidance to legislative liaison as issues arise.***

- The Committee utilized Mr. Tom Bruno, REAP Legislative Liaison, to monitor progress of legislative issues and regularly reported to the full Board. The Committee provided guidance on issues regarding transportation funding, rail, and hydraulic fracturing during the session.

***Recommend legislative priorities to REAP for the 2013 legislative session.***

- The Committee will be asked to accomplish this task at the October 26, 2012 meeting.

**Item**

2013 REAP Legislative Priorities Survey

**Background**

A survey was sent to all REAP members and alternates opening Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> closing on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> in an effort to learn more about what REAP’s top legislative priorities should be for 2013. 12 unique respondents provided feedback.

*What should REAP’s number one priority issue be?*

	<i>Number of Response(s)</i>	<i>Response Ratio</i>
<u>KAAP (Kansas Affordable Airfares Program)</u>	6	50.0%
<u>Policies Protecting Water Supply</u>	2	16.6%
<u>ASR Project (Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project)</u>	1	8.3%
<u>Aviation Research</u>	1	8.3%
<u>Other (Ending the State's renewable energy mandate)</u>	1	8.3%
<u>Other (Protecting Municipal Finance)</u>	1	8.3%

*What is your community’s top legislative issue?*

- Playing defense against more cuts in funding and more state intrusion in city affairs (unfunded mandates).
- Tax lid
- State statutes regarding special assessments. We need safeguards to protect cities from excessive risk.
- To guard against Federal and State budget cuts that will force local governments to maintain required programs or keep the status quo. This may require in increase in taxes to local property owners.
- Allocation of State and Federal funding. Establish a budget and live by it. NO exceptions for special interest groups whether they promulgate social, business, economic, or governmental issues.
- Prohibiting the implementation of sustainable development.
- Affordable Airfares Technical Education and Training
- avoiding a shift to property taxes to fund schools
- Budget issues, mandates without appropriations
- Resist a tax lid for local government
  - Financing local government
- MUNICIPAL FINANCE -- \$\$\$\$ TAXED OUR RESIDENTS SHOULD BE RETURNED PROPORTIONALLY - UNFUNDED MANADATES - REINSTATE LAVTR - PROTECTING CITIES FROM STATE GOBBLING UP CITIES TAXABLE REVENUE (FUEL TAX, ALCHOLIC/LIQUOR TAX, STOP PASSAGE OF NEW SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS AND PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS)
- Resisting legislation which shift responsibility for programs to the local level.

**Item**

2013 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule

**Background**

In 2012, the Legislative Committee scheduled monthly meetings for the fourth Friday of each month.

For 2013 it is advised that the meetings continue to be working lunches from Noon to 1:30 and be held at the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Administrative Offices, 150 N. Main, Wichita, unless otherwise indicated.

Staff recommends continuation of meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month unless there is a conflict.

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

***4<sup>th</sup> Friday Schedule***

January 25, 2013

February 22, 2013

March 29, 2013 (5<sup>th</sup> Friday – Spring Break)

April 26, 2013

May 24, 2013

June 21, 2013

No meetings in July, August, September (Listening Tour)

October 25, 2013

November 22, 2013

December 20, 2013 (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday – Christmas)

***Listening Tour for 2013***

July, August, September

***Potential Date for 2013 Legislative Policy Summit***

Thursday, December 12, 2013

**Recommended Action**

Approve meeting schedule.

**Item**

2012 REAP Policy Summit

**Background**

It was determined in the 2011-13 REAP Strategic Plan that REAP will guide state and national policies that impact regional economic development by engaging local leadership to represent the region at the state and national level through awareness, communication and coordination. The Committee identified use of an annual regional legislative policy summit that includes relevant speakers and topics as an activity for this goal to be completed in 2012.

The Committee Chair directed staff to develop in conjunction with several partners the South Central Kansas Legislative Policy Summit to prepare for the 2013 legislative session. The Policy Summit has been scheduled for ***Thursday, December 13, 2012 at the Drury-Broadview Hotel in Downtown Wichita***. The summit will start with registration at 11:00 AM, starting at approximately 11:30 AM with opening remarks. A plated lunch will be served at 12:00 PM, with speakers starting at 12:20PM. The summit will be ending with a reception and REAP Year-End Celebration at 4:00 PM- 6:00 PM following the closing remarks.

Last year's 2011 Legislative Policy Summit had a total cost of \$1907.70, including the Drury's fee, Hors d' Oeuvres Menu, Snack Break, Bar and Beverages. Recommendation for this year's 2012 Legislative Policy Summit cost is \$3959.40 including the Drury's Fee with extra wireless microphones, Plated Lunch Menu, Hors d' Oeuvres Menu, Snack Break, Estimated Bar Cost and Beverages.

Last year's sponsors included: Bruno & Associates, Cox Communications, City of Derby, Go Wichita, Harvey County, City of Newton, Quikprint, REAP, Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey & Associates, Sedgwick County, Visioneering Wichita, Westar, City of Wichita, Wichita Area Builders Association, Wichita Downtown Development Corporation, Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce, Wichita State University and Yingling Aviation. Sponsors provided a \$250 contribution.

The issues that have been identified below are looked at as an opportunity to highlight the strengths and needs of South Central Kansas. Many of the issues will be simple updates, but some will be more in depth discussions. Following is a draft schedule and those potential issues:

*Tentative Schedule*

- 11:00 AM Registration
- 11:30 AM Welcome and Introductory Remarks
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 12:20 PM Main Speaker
- 1:20 PM Panel
- 2:30 PM Break
- 4:00 PM Closing Remarks with Reception/REAP Celebration to immediately follow

*General Session Issues*

**Policy Focus Topics**

- State and Local Economic Environment
- Shifting Burdens on Local Government

**Proposed Individual Topics to Highlight**

- Affordable Airfares – business representative
- Transportation
- Research and Training – potential panel of Tomblin, Kinkle, and KDOC
- Manufacturing – potential panel of Aviation/AgCo/Siemans
- Taxation – AGH, local business, local government
- McConnell AFB
- Water Resources

**Special Presenters**

- Senate Leadership
- House Leadership
- Delegation Leadership