

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.

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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.