



**Water Resources Committee
Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP)
Meeting Agenda
9:30 a.m., November 5, 2012
Hughes Metropolitan Complex
Mayor Marcey Gregory, Chair**

1. Welcome and Introductions: Mayor Marcey Gregory

2. Approval of the Minutes from September 10, 2012 Meeting: Mayor Marcey Gregory
Recommended Action: Approve or modify minutes as needed.

3. Water Resources Committee Staffing Update: Joe Yager
Members will be provided an update on staffing.

4. Review and Discussion of 2013 Work Plan: Joe Yager
A review the 2012 Work Plan will be provided and the Committee is asked to discuss activities that should be focused on in 2013.

- A. 2012 Work Plan Review
- B. 2012 Annual Survey Results
- C. 2013 Work Plan Proposal

Recommended Action: Adopt proposed Committee activities for 2013.

5. 2013 WRC Meeting Schedule: Joe Yager
Staff has prepared dates, times, and location for Committee meetings in 2013.
Recommended Action: Approve meeting schedule.

6. Review of Governor's Water Conference: Mayor Marcey Gregory
At the July 9, 2012 WRC meeting, the Committee authorized sponsorship for the Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas utilizing REAP WRC Project Funds. Several members and partners were in attendance and will be asked to provide any observations from the Conference.

7. Partners Report

Many of our members serve on several water related committees or groups that are important to our region. We will ask for any members of these groups to share an update.

- Walnut Basin Advisory Committee
- Lower Arkansas Basin Committee
- Groundwater Management District #2
- Kansas Water Authority

8. Sustainable Communities Planning Update and Discussion Request: Paula Downs
A report on recent developments of the Sustainable Communities grant will be provided. Committee members are also asked to engage in discussion in regards to potential chairs for the Natural Resources Work Team.

Recommended Action: Discuss and provide direction.

9. 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.

10. Adjourn

Water Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2012
Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas
Mayor Marcey Gregory, Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Approval of the Minutes from July 9, 2012 Meeting

Mr. Kent Brown, City of Clearwater, moved (Mayor Keith DeHaven, City of Sedgwick) to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Water Resources Committee Staffing Update

Mayor Gregory asked Mr. Joe Yager, REAP Chief Executive Officer, to explain the latest on staffing changes for REAP and the WRC. Mr. Yager explained that due to REAP Executive Officer of Water Resources Dane Baxa's transition to the grant there is a vacancy in staffing. He identified that historically for REAP, changes in staffing have accompanied some other important changes in the organization. In this case the REAP Executive Committee has directed staff to evaluate a process to align these positions for more efficient and effective use of resources.

He noted that water and water issues are of high importance because of the integral role water plays in economic development. It was also noted that while the WRC has its own assessments that pay for the WRC position, it may not be the most effective or efficient use of those funds as the WRC is not as aligned with REAP as the other committees. If the WRC was more interconnected it would be more effective and this would work well with integrated staffing. By moving the organizational structure of staffing there would be the ability to provide a more integrated, efficient and effective operation. This would help to continue to increase the value and outcomes of the WRC.

4. WRC Capacity Discussion

Ms. Kathy Sexton, City of Derby, asked how the funding work with a new structure to ensure the proper amount of time is allotted to water and water issues. Mr. Yager responded that there are several potential methods for dealing with the funding issue and as long as there are the two separate assessments there would need to be a method that showed the value of that assessment. Mr. John Carder, City of Hesston noted that the separate funding sources makes the issue more complicated. While in the past the WRC has kept funding separate that may not be as effective as now that the committee is more established and it may be good to go to a common funding structure, perhaps by increasing the overall REAP funding and use the unified voice to be more effective. Dr. Ed Flentje, Wichita State University, echoed this statement by noting that there has been an evolution in the committee and that a consolidation with REAP would allow for a more integrated view of water in light of legislation issues and economic development.

Mr. Yager followed by asking the committee what the needs of the WRC are and how staff could best ensure that water priorities and needs are being met. Mr. Kurt Bookout, City of El Dorado,

mentioned that he felt comfortable with the idea, but would like to see a stronger proposal, since there were still a lot of unanswered questions. Chairwoman Gregory stated that the executive committee wanted the input and recommendation of the WRC as REAP is recognizing the importance of water.

Mr. Carder moved (Ms. Sexton) to recommend to the REAP Executive Committee that consolidation of staffing occur with assurances of expenditures utilized for Water Resources Committee purposes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. WRC 2012 Year in Review

Mr. Yager provided the committee with the highlights from the past year as preparation of the 2013 workplan discussion.

6. WRC 2013 Work Plan Development Discussion

Mayor Gregory requested discussion of priorities and issues to be included in the 2012 annual survey of membership. Mr. Baxa mentioned that the annual water conference was an important aspect of the committee and also being a voice working to help develop the state water plan. Dr. Flentje added that urban representation is minimal in the Kansas Water Authority and REAP would be a good conduit for the urban voice to be heard at the state level. He also asked if WRC should be working with the grant on regional water planning efforts. Mr. Baxa responded that may be an opportunity for the WRC.

Mayor Gregory noted that the annual survey would be forwarded following the meeting and encouraged all members to respond to help provide input in the discussion on priorities for next year.

7. Reservoir Roadmap for Lower Arkansas and Walnut Basins Follow-up

REAP WRC members were invited to participate in a GLANCE session hosted by the Kansas Water office as a discussion of the Reservoir Roadmap. Mr. Yager offered a quick synopsis of the session and Mr. Bookout noted that combining the Lower Arkansas and the Walnut Valley was a good plan and very forward thinking.

8. REAP WRC Sponsorship of the Governor's Water Conference Update

Mr. Yager presented options for marketing materials to be on hand at the booth the WRC will have at the conference. Mayor Gregory noted that the best asset the WRC can promote is the ability to make information available to all communities.

9. Report of the Executive Officer

Mr. Yager noted that staff will prepare for the upcoming Governor's water conference; he also mentioned the upcoming meetings for the Walnut Basin Advisory Committee, Lower Arkansas Basin Committee both on September 12, the GMD #2 meeting on September 11 and the Kansas Water Authorities' upcoming meeting on October 29th.

10. Sustainable Communities Planning Update

Ms. Paula Downs mentioned that the grant was moving forward. She also noted that they are currently assembling work teams and are planning to do a needs assessment in the near future.

11. Unscheduled Topics

No unscheduled topics were brought up for discussion.

12. Adjourn

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

REAP WRC

Attendance – 9/10/2012

Committee Members and Guests

Chair-Mayor Marcey Gregory City of Goddard
Mr. Dale Shaffer, City of Benton
Mr. Brian Meier, Burns & McDonald
Mr. Kent Brown, City of Clearwater
Ms. Kathy Sexton, City of Derby
Mr. Herb Llewellyn, City of El Dorado
Mr. Kurt Bookout, City of El Dorado
Mr. John Carder, City of Hesston
Mr. Don Koci, City of Hutchinson
Mayor Terry Somers, City of Mount Hope
Ms. Dana Walden, City of Park City
Mr. Jerry Martin, City of Park City
Ms. Clare Paul, PEC
Ms. Kathy Raney, City of Rose Hill
Mr. Kirk Hayden, City of Rose Hill
Mayor Keith DeHaven, City of Sedgwick
Ms. Susan Erlenwein, Sedgwick County
Mr. Larry Mangan, City of Wellington
Council Member Lavonta Williams, City of Wichita
Mr. Mike Jacobs, City of Wichita
Mr. Zack Daniel, WSU
Mr. Dane Baxa, WSU
Ms. Paula Downs, WSU
Dr. Ed Flentje, WSU
Ms. Rebecca Likiardopoulos, WSU
Dr. Nancy McCarthy Snyder, WSU
Mr. Taylour Tedder, WSU
Mr. Joe Yager, WSU
Mr. John Willoughby, 100th District Candidate

Item

REAP Staffing Proposal

Background

Effective July 9, 2012, Dane Baxa, REAP Executive Officer of Water Resources, transitioned into the role of Assistant Project Director for the REAP Sustainable Communities Grant. With this transition it created a vacancy for the REAP Water Resources Committee (WRC) and the Chief Executive Officer is covering those duties in the short term.

In addition, the REAP Executive Committee has been evaluating the overall structure of REAP personnel for the past year and with this vacancy the Committee directed staff to consolidate responsibilities of the two existing positions (Chief Executive Officer and Executive Officer of Water Resources) into a more cohesive and efficient structure that would not delineate Water as a separate position. In other words, the REAP structure would now include an Executive Director and Assistant Director that would be responsible for all REAP activities, including the Water Resources Committee and Technical Sub Committee.

This request prompted Dr. Ed Flentje, Dr. Nancy McCarthy Snyder, and Joe Yager to consider the potential structure of the two positions as well as funding. These discussions led to a proposal that REAP should consider changing the titles of the existing positions to reflect organizational changes per the discussions of the Executive Committee and the need for more efficient operations.

The REAP Executive Committee met on October 26th to review an official proposal in regards to the structuring of REAP personnel. Based on the discussions from that meeting the Committee requested that the following proposal be recommended to REAP:

Executive Director:

REAP proposes the creation of an Executive Director position with the responsibility of directing the day to day operations for all REAP activities, including those of the Water Resources Committee.

Through a proposed contract with REAP, this position will be contracted with the Hugo Wall School (HWS). This position will be responsible for designing, developing and implementing strategic plans for the organization. The Executive Director will also be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the organization, including managing committees and staff and developing work plans in collaboration with the Board.

The Executive Director will report jointly to the Board and Director of the HWS, and is responsible for the organization's consistent achievement of its mission and financial objectives.

In program development and administration, the Executive Director will:

1. Assure that the organization has a long-range strategy which achieves its mission, and toward which it makes consistent and timely progress.
2. Provide leadership in developing program, organizational and financial plans with the board and staff, and carry out plans and policies authorized by the board.
3. Maintain official records and documents, and ensure compliance with federal, state and local regulations.
4. Maintain a working knowledge of significant developments and trends in the field.

In communications, the Executive Director will:

1. See that the board is kept fully informed on the condition of the organization and all important factors influencing it.
2. Publicize the activities of the organization, its programs and goals.
3. Establish sound working relationships and cooperative arrangements with community groups and organizations.
4. Represent the programs and point of view of the organization to agencies, organizations, and the general public.

In financial management, the Executive Director will:

1. Be responsible for developing and maintaining sound financial practices.
2. Work with the staff, Executive Committee, and the board in preparing a budget; see that the organization operates within budget guidelines.
3. Ensure that adequate funds are available to permit the organization to carry out its work.
4. Jointly, with the chairman of the board, conduct official correspondence of the organization, and jointly, with designated officers, execute legal documents.

Assistant Director:

In conjunction with the creation of the Executive Director, REAP proposes the creation of an Assistant Director position to support the Executive Director and REAP as a whole.

Through a proposed contract with REAP, this position will be contracted with the HWS. This position will be responsible for assisting the Executive Director with the program development, communication and administrative support for the broad implementation of the organizations operations and ensuring the goals of the organization are achieved. The Assistant Director will report directly to the Executive Director and will be responsible for the daily operation of the organization, including but not limited to:

- Assist in program development and administration of the organization's long-range strategy.
- Assist in maintaining official records and documents, and ensure compliance with federal, state and local regulations.
- Assist with development and distribution of communication and progress reports for the REAP board and committees.
- Assist in the coordination of the public relations of the activities of the organization, its programs and goals.
- Assist in establishing working relationships with partner organizations and groups.
- Assist with the development, documentation and communication of performance requirements.

Joint Responsibilities:

It will be the responsibility of both the Executive Director and Assistant Director to provide staff assistance for the following specific duties:

1. Performing a secretariat function for REAP, that is, preparing agenda and organizing regular meetings and all committee or subcommittee meetings of REAP, scheduling invited guests, disseminating meeting agenda and materials, recording minutes of meetings, keeping official records of REAP, executing official communications, and assisting REAP governing board in identifying regional issues and conducting research on those regional issues.
2. Assisting and advising the Executive Committee and Treasurer of REAP on financial management of REAP, including budgeting, collecting revenues, investing, accounting, and reporting on REAP finances.
3. Assisting and advising the Executive Committee in administering the Kansas Affordable Airfare Program, including specifically: 1) performing financial management of the program; 2) reporting on program performance; and 3) serving as liaison with state and local officials in implementation of the program.
4. Providing consultation and technical assistance in addressing priorities identified in the annual REAP work plan, specifically staffing the Executive Committee, Legislative Committee, Economic Development Committee, Water Resources Committee, Technical Subcommittee, and any short-term special purpose committees or taskforces and conducting research in support of the issues before those committees.
5. Providing consultation and technical assistance to the Local Elected Officials Board in fulfilling its duties in implementation of Workforce Investment Act of 1998; and serving as liaison between Local Elected Officials Board and Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas.
6. Identifying, monitoring and updating members on any legislative issues or initiatives.
7. Developing and coordinating ongoing educational forums.
8. Identifying additional grant opportunities.
9. Attending and reporting on the meetings and activities of identified committees and agencies as necessary.
10. Maintaining the REAP website.

Oversight, Supervision and Funding:

The Executive Director and Assistant Director would serve at the pleasure of REAP and the Director of the Hugo Wall School, and be subject to annual performance reviews by both the Executive Committee of REAP and the Director of the Hugo Wall School. Please note that as employees of WSU, the Executive Director and Assistant Director are responsible to the Director of the HWS.

It is expected that REAP would continue to request additional research assistance through the Center for Urban Studies.

The Executive Director and Assistant Director Positions would be funded initially by both REAP and the REAP WRC. However, the budgets for REAP operations and the WRC would be combined into a single operating budget.

The Executive Director and Assistant Director would be located in shared office space with the Center for Urban Studies in the Hugo Wall School at Wichita State University.

Future Evaluation:

In addition, the REAP Executive Committee will evaluate the current operations of REAP, including:

1. Development of a single assessment model for funding operations.
2. Identification of other revenue sources to offset potential changes in assessment funding.
3. Evaluation of shifting of the operation of REAP out of Wichita State University.

These additional items will be included in the 2013 work plan for the Executive Committee and do not require immediate action.

Recommended Action

That REAP take action to approve the structural change as identified in the proposal and direct staff to initiate the process to accomplish these changes.

Submitted by the Executive Committee:

Commissioner Dave Unruh of Sedgwick County, REAP Chair

Commissioner Brad Dillon of Reno County, at-large representative and REAP Vice-Chair

Council Member Jeff Longwell of Wichita, Economic Development Committee Chair

Commissioner Chip Westfall of Harvey County, at-large representative and Legislative Committee Chair

Mayor Marcey Gregory of Goddard, Water Resources Committee Chair

Mayor Terry Somers of Mount Hope, Treasurer and at-large representative

Mayor Kristey Williams of Augusta, Immediate Past REAP Chair

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.

Item

2013 Work Plan Proposal

Background

The REAP Water Resources Committee (WRC) identifies and coordinates collaborative efforts on regional issues of water quality and supply in South Central Kansas. In May of 2007 REAP created the WRC to serve as a regional conduit for dissemination to members of information and education while providing a regional voice on behalf of the members before federal, state, regional and local agencies and organize member involvement in the activities of those agencies. The following are the proposed work plan items identified for the WRC for 2013.

Water Resources Committee 2013 Work Items

- Research water, wastewater, and stormwater rate information in the region.
- Conduct annual water conference that includes relevant speakers and topics.
- Review and analyze the following hot-topic items:
 - Hydraulic Fracturing;
 - Utilization of “gray water” technology;
 - Water Conservation Plans; and
 - Agriculture vs. Municipal.
- Provide research as requested by WRC member communities and utilize results of analysis to inform REAP members, communities, and partners.
- Evaluate expansion of the composition of the WRC membership.
- Evaluate and determine role and participation of the WRC with the sustainability grant and overall long-term planning.
- Identify WRC members to serve on the REAP Legislative Committee and evaluate process for determining water related legislative priorities to increase participation.

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. 29th 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. 29th St. North unless otherwise noted.

In addition, the WRC holds an annual water conference, generally the 4th 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.

Item

2012 Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas

Background

Governor Brownback hosted the 1st Annual Water Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas. The event was held October 30-31, 2012 at the new Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center in Manhattan, Kansas. In an effort to promote REAP WRC with a larger portion of the state to engage in water issues, the WRC was a platinum level sponsor. This sponsorship allowed REAP WRC to provide information to attendees on the mission and goals of the committee.

Conference

There were over 400 attendees at the conference with more than 10 legislators in attendance as well. The keynote address was delivered by Governor Brownback on the future of Kansas Water. Senator Pat Roberts echoed much of the Governor's remarks over lunch emphasizing the need for sound agriculture policies. Much of the focus of the conference was on the continue decline of the Ogallala Aquifer, the value of water especially for agricultural uses and a need for localized planning to best utilize water resources. The US Army Corps of Engineers presented on the need for joint efforts with communities in tackling the needs of water infrastructure as funding continues to decrease. Other items of note included the relationship between water and energy, hydraulic fracturing, and reservoir initiatives.