

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

Keith Lawing, acting on behalf of Commissioner Dave Unruh, called the meeting to order and asked for self-introductions at 11:40 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from January 3, 2014

Mayor Kristey Williams, Augusta, (Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope) moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion adopted.

3. Report of the REAP Committees and Task Forces

Lawing reviewed the report of the Committees and Task Forces included in the packet, specifically noting the upcoming legislative luncheon on February 19th for the South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation at the Capitol building. Lawing also noted that the Regional Water Conference date has been changed from May 22nd to May 29th to avoid a scheduling conflict with the Kansas Water Office quarterly meeting. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has great participation from the City and County managers and administrators, and they are on schedule to make recommendations on a funding and organizational structure at the May Board of Directors meeting. The Transportation and Workforce Development Task Forces both need additional members, and any assistance recruiting new members would be appreciated, especially from the northern half of the REAP region.

The Committee received and filed the report.

4. REAP Financial Update: 2014 Assessments

Lawing reviewed the financial updated included in the packet, noting that as of February 10, 2014, \$147,000 in assessments have been received. Members have until March 31, 2014 to pay assessments to remain members in good standing. Mayor Somers recommend REAP reach out to South Hutchinson and present information to them on joining.

The Committee received and filed the update.

5. Kansas Affordable Airfares Program Update

Chris Chronis, Sedgwick County CFO, presented an update on the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program. Sedgwick County has received invoices from South West Airlines for October, November, and December of 2013, totaling \$3 million. South West has consumed \$5.5 million of the allotted \$6.5 million for this Fiscal Year. The County has not yet received payment from the Kansas Department of Commerce. The Governor's budget for next year will include an allocation of \$5 million for the program, appropriated directly to Sedgwick County and Garden City. The County and the City are required to maintain the same reporting procedures to Commerce that they maintained under the contract when REAP was the administrator.

Committee members noted that it would be interesting to see an updated Return on Investment (ROI) figure for the program, following the change in airlines and the increasing cost of airfares in the nation.

The Committee received and filed the update.

6. GWEDC Update

Lawing reminded the Committee that Commissioner Dave Unruh appointed Mayor Williams as the REAP representative to the GWEDC Steering Council. Mayor Williams, Commissioner Unruh, Council Member Jeff Longwell, and Keith Lawing will be attending the GWEDC annual meeting on February 20th.

REAP is partnering with GWEDC and Kansas Global Trade Services on the development of the Regional Export Plan, funded by the Brookings Institution and JP Morgan Chase. Karyn Page from Kansas Global Trade Services and Tim Chase from GWEDC are spearheading the project and are seeking additional investors. Considering the direct economic impact of the plan in the REAP region, the Committee discussed and agreed that investing \$5,000 in the initiative would wise.

The Committee moved to recommend to the Board of Directors that \$5,000 be invested in the Regional Export planning Initiative. Motion adopted.

7. Other Business

Mayor Somers noted that the League is undergoing a transition to new leadership and is seeking a new Executive Director. In the meantime, REAP may consider connecting with the organization through the current President, John Deardoff, City Manager of Hutchinson.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Attendance

Committee Members

Mayor Terry Somers, City of Mount Hope
Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County
Mayor Kristey Williams, City of Augusta

Guests

Chris Chronis, Sedgwick County
Bill Bolin, SCKEDD

Staff

Keith Lawing
Kelly Bergeron