

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, welcomed attendees and asked for self-introductions.

2. Board of Directors Business

A. Approval of minutes from May 2, 2014

Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita, (Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope) moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion adopted.

B. REAP Membership Assessments and Organizational Structure

At the May 2, 2014 REAP Board of Directors meeting, members voted to preliminary approved the proposed 2015 assessment structure. Members were asked to return to their jurisdictions and visit with their fellow elected officials and their administrative/management staff to ensure that no one had questions or reservations regarding the proposed fee structure. Additionally, the Board requested the development of an “associate” membership dues structure that would allow members of community based organizations, business, individuals, and economic development entities to become members. The Associate membership categories were presented at the meeting. Following discussion, the Board noted that the bylaws first need to be amended to allow for associate members before adopting the assessment structure. Some members noted that they have discussed the new assessment structure with their Council and Commissions.

Proposed Organizational Structure

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was also charged with reviewing the structure and functions of REAP and making a recommendation for these items moving forward into 2014. The TAC has developed a recommendation and presented it to the Executive Committee at the June 12, 2014 meeting. The Executive Committee recommended approval and requested it be presented to the Board of Directors for formal adoption.

Proposed Role of REAP:

- Promote strategic state and federal investments to support job creation and business growth in South Central Kansas
- Identify opportunities for joint action among local governments in South Central Kansas to strengthen the regional economy
- Convene local governments in the region to identify and share best practices
 - Annual Regional Water Conference (May)
 - Annual Regional Legislative Policy Summit (December)
 - Special strategic regional convenings as needed

REAP Structure

- Board of Directors (full REAP membership): meets quarterly, 1.5 to 2 hour interactive meetings with a spotlight/highlight topic of regional significance
- Executive Committee: scheduled to meet monthly, but will convene only when action is needed. The Executive Committee will be empowered to act on behalf of the REAP Board of Directors (full membership), and required to notify REAP members of its actions

- Legislative Committee: leads strategic communications to ensure that issues important to the regional economy are understood by legislative and administrative officials at the state and federal levels
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): consists of area City/County Managers, Administrators and Clerks to advise REAP on annual work plan topics and operations. The TAC will also respond to specific information requests by the Board of Directors and or Executive Committee. The TAC will meet as needed, approximately two times per year.
- Ad Hoc Task Forces: created as needed to address specific issues related to the annual work plan or other issues impacting the regional economy. Task forces will be given assignments and expected to report back to REAP BOD in an agreed upon time frame.

Administrative Staffing Support

- A contractual relationship for an Executive Director and support staff to manage day to day operations (1.75-2 FTE estimated)
- Partnership with Wichita State University for research and policy analysis as needed
- Legislative consulting to monitor policy and legislative issues that impact the regional economy and support strategic communications to state and federal policy makers

The Board discussed the proposed structure and role of REAP and agreed this proposal captures the desired direction for the organization.

Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita, (Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County) moved to approve the proposed assessments for cities and counties, the proposed organizational structure, and request the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) review and update the bylaws to include Associate Members. Motion adopted.

C. 2014 Work Plan and Regional Projects Update

Keith Lawing reviewed the Work Plan update included in the packet. Paula Downs, Director of the South Central Kansas Prosperity Plan project, discussed a handout which updated the Board on the progress and status of the plan. John Waltner, Harvey County Administrator and Chair of the Consortium Leadership Team for the grant project, noted the new tool available to REAP members in the region for community engagement in planning, called the "Built" game. A special meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Goddard where a detailed version of the draft plan will be presented for review and discussion. Downs noted that several pilot projects and initiatives are emerging from the work teams that developed the plan, including the idea of a regional Youth Council which would be a two year program targeted to juniors and seniors in high schools in the REAP region. Members of the TAC will be surveyed to develop a list of the current youth councils in the region to ensure the group is not a duplication of an existing program.

Lawing noted that the reports of the Committee and Task Forces and an update on the Brookings Regional Export Plan were included in the packet and asked for questions. None were received.

The reports were received and filed by the Board.



3. Small Group Discussion- REAP and Community Value

The Board broke into two groups and conducted a brief planning session where they discussed what makes REAP membership valuable to their community and potential services and projects they might like to see the organization provide in the upcoming year. The three most common themes from both groups were communication, resources and information, and networking and education opportunities. A detailed list of suggestions from both groups will be compiled and used as the basis for the 2015 work plan and legislative priorities.

4. Unscheduled Topics

Lawing noted that the federal government recently passed new Workforce legislation, called the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which will replace the current Workforce Innovations Act (WIA). The new legislation shall go into effect in 2015, with a potential two year implementation period.

Lawing also announced the opening of the new Wichita Workforce Center at 21st and Amidon in Wichita.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members and Alternates

Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, Chair	Mayor Rex Satterthwaite, Bentley
Mayor David Austin, Bel Aire	Kathy Sexton, Derby
Kent Brown, Clearwater	Daniel Shea, Kingman County
Bob Conger, Kechi	Cody Sims, Wellington
Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County	Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope
Herb Llewellyn, El Dorado	Sasha Stiles, Andover
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita	Dana Walden, Park City
Commissioner Ron Loomis, McPherson County	John Waltner, Harvey County
Commissioner Jim Nickel, Newton	Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County
Rick Rekoske, Bel Aire	

Guests/Presenters/Staff

Kelly Bergeron, REAP	Mitch Kolf, WSU
Misty Bruckner, WSU	Keith Lawing, REAP
Angela Buzard, WSU	Josh Rueschhoff, WSU
Paula Downs, WSU	Sue Schlapp, Kansas Department of Commerce
Alex Handee, WSU	