



## 1. Welcome

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

## 2. Governmental Relations Services

Commissioner Chip Westfall gave a brief overview of the RFP process for governmental relations services issued by REAP on August 5, 2014. The RFP closed on August 22, 2014. One bid was received from Bruno & Associates. The Board of Directors authorized the Executive Committee to execute a contract for legislative services, pending the review and approval of the proposal by the Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee received the proposal by email and was asked to provide any questions or comments at this time. The Board members asked if the proposal was similar in cost and scope to the previous contracts with Bruno & Associates. Kelly Bergeron noted that an RFP for governmental relations services had not been issued by REAP in a number of years and that the cost and scope of services is very similar to years past. The exception was in 2014 when the contract was for six months of service as opposed to the current proposal for one year.

Board members asked the Legislative Committee if the organization has been satisfied with Bruno's performance. Commissioner Westfall, Legislative Committee Chair, noted that no one has expressed strong dissatisfaction with Bruno's services. The RFP specifically requested a Topeka – based firm as a requirement. The Legislative Committee has had several discussions on the importance and potential impact of having someone representing REAP in Topeka year-round. The Committee would like to continue the weekly update calls there took place last session, potentially looking at moving them to another day of the week, and asking Legislator to be a guest on the call to update the Committee on upcoming items that may impact REAP.

Dale Goter, City of Wichita, noted that process that the RFP was issued under could be improved upon. There is a network called the Kansas Society of Association Executives (KSAE) that maintains an electronic newsletter which many of the registered lobbyists belong to. He noted several firms he asked about the RFP said that didn't know it was available. Goter also suggested that next year it might be advisable to develop the legislative agenda for the organization before issuing an RFP for services if REAP thinks a particular issue will surface during the session and a specialized lobbyist may be needed.

Lawing noted that whether one or multiple responses were received, the Committee would need to examine them for conflicts of interests in client representation. Additionally, Lawing noted he was prepared to negotiate on the final cost, start date, and duration of the contract.

*Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney (Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County) moved to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with Bruno & Associates not to exceed \$24,000. Motion adopted.*

## 3. 2015 Work Plan

A draft list of items for the 2015 REAP Work Plan was submitted to the Committees in the packet for review and discussion at the meeting. The goal is to circulate the draft work plan to the committees and task forces for their feedback and approval, and present a final draft plan to the REAP Board of Directors at the November 7, 2014 meeting for adoption. Lawing reminded that Committees that

items on the work plan should fit in with the role of REAP as a regional convener and as a catalyst for strategies and actions to increase state and federal investments for economic development and job creation. Committee members suggested several additions and changes to the list, including expanding the annual water survey to become a municipal fee survey, exploring the fee for service options for services such as the BUILT Game, training opportunities for members, planning assistance, and other topics such as joint purchasing. The establishment of a small cities task force received extensive discussion on how best to engage the cities and what the mission of the task force might be. Staff and Mayor Rex Satterthwaite, Bentley, will work to create the outline of the mission for the potential task force.

*The Committee requested the October 10<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting be expanded to a planning meeting to flesh out additional items for the 2015 Work Plan. The Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on October 8<sup>th</sup> and will discuss their requests for the Plan.*

#### **4. 2015 Legislative and Policy Priorities**

Commissioner Westfall asked that Committee members provide feedback and suggestions for topics and ideas for the 2015 Legislative and Policy Priorities. A survey will be sent out to all members of the Board, Committees and Task Forces requesting their feedback and opinion on items that should be included on the priorities list. A draft priorities list will be presented to the REAP Board of Directors for discussion and consideration at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Technical Advisory Committee will discuss their requests for the draft Priorities as well. Members are reminded that items on this priority list should be those that impact the REAP region as a whole and could potentially help or harm the economy if action is not taken.

Goter suggested that the continuation and funding of the Brookings Export Plan being developed by Kansas Global Trade services should be included on the survey and as a policy priority for the region. The Committees also discussed the upcoming multi-modal project that KDOT is considering. REAP will follow KDOT as the discussion progresses and find out if any REAP communities make the final cut for consideration for the location of the multimodal project.

Members are asked to please share their communities' legislative priorities as they are developed for the upcoming year with the Legislative Committee in order to coordinate efforts.

*The Committees requested that the legislative survey be developed and distributed within the next two weeks to the REAP membership. Results of the survey will be reported to the Legislative Committee at their October 23, 2014 meeting.*

#### **5. 2014 Legislative Policy Summit**

Commissioner Westfall noted that the annual Legislative Policy Summit is scheduled for December 5, 2014 at Botanica. The Legislative Committee is working to develop the agenda and is soliciting sponsors for the event. Suggestions from the Committees for consideration of topics include:

- Juvenile Justice
- WSU Innovation Campus (Dr. John Bardo, President, WSU)
- State Budget Presentation
- Renewable Portfolio Standard (Corporation Commission has a good presenter on this issue)



- ROI report from economist- how much of the taxes the REAP region provides to Topeka come back to the REAP region?

#### **6. Unscheduled Topics**

Lawing asked the Committees to please attend the October 28<sup>th</sup> Leadership Summit put on by the South Central Kansas Prosperity Plan at Exploration Place. Bergeron reminded the Committee that the November 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting will be an important one as the work plan and legislative priorities will be finalized and a vote taken on the revisions to the REAP bylaws.

#### **7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

#### **Attendance**

##### **Committee Members**

Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, Chair  
Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, Legislative Chair  
Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County, Vice Chair  
Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney  
Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope, Treasurer  
Daniel Shea, Kingman County  
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita, Workforce Development Task Force Chair, CEOB  
Mayor Rex Satterthwaite, Bentley  
Kathy Sexton, Derby  
Commissioner Carol Voran, Kingman County  
John Waltner, Harvey County

##### **Guests**

Misty Bruckner, Wichita State University, Hugo Wall School  
Bernie Koch, Harvey County Council of Governments Lobbyist  
Dale Goter, City of Wichita Government Relations Director

##### **Staff**

Keith Lawing  
Kelly Bergeron  
Chad Pettera