

### **1. Welcome**

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, welcomed attendees and asked for introductions.

### **2. Approval of Minutes from June 4, 2014 and September 25, 2014**

*Bob Myers, Newton (Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope) moved to approve the minutes from June 4, 2014 and September 25, 2014. Motion adopted.*

### **3. 2015 Legislative Priorities Survey Results**

The REAP Legislative Committee issued a survey to the REAP Board of Directors, members, committees, task forces and partners on October 9, 2014, soliciting feedback on legislative issues for the upcoming session. The survey closed on October 17, 2014 at noon. 36 participants responded to the survey request. The Committee discussed the results of the survey, noting that the State budget is going to be tight and very limited, so encouraging an increase in any funding is likely not going to be an option, noting that “opposing reductions” might be the better course of action. In regards to the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program (KAAP), the Committee agreed that the request should be to fund the Program as statutorily written, which includes administration of the program by REAP. The Committee agreed that the Chamber of Commerce and private business would be the best partner to lead the charge on the renewal of the program. REAP could facilitate a meeting of several business partners and other Chambers in the REAP region on potential ways to move KAAP forward in the upcoming session and the appropriate roles and responsibilities for all involved.

The Committee noted the interesting survey results from the RPS question and after lengthy discussion decided it is not an issue that will fit into the organizations 2015 Legislative Agenda. The Committee requested staff arrange for a presentation on the RPS during the upcoming year for educational purposes. The results of the Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG) study may assist in this process if it identifies a notable industry cluster in wind energy.

The City of Wichita noted that their ASR wording was changing, that their request will be to have the ASR more included in the Governor’s 50 Year Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas Plan, noting that it supplies 20% of Kansas with water. Additionally the Equus beds should be more included in the Governor’s Plan. Several Committee members noted that the ASR might be a good opportunity to bond with the Ag community, noting that Gerald Holmes with the Wichita Chamber has a positive, established relationship with them, and this is an issue of joint concern to all involved.

Wichita will also be asking for funding for the NEPA study for passenger rail service expansion in Kansas. T-Works funds should not be “raided” due to budget cuts and shortfalls.

The Committee noted that as some of the transportation and water issues also have federal implications, perhaps REAP should develop a separate policy statement.

*Staff will draft the 2015 priorities list as a result of the meeting and will circulate it to the Committee for comment and feedback. The draft will be presented to the Board of Directors on November 7, 2014 for adoption. The infographic will be developed and presented to the Committee at the next meeting, and following approval will be printed for inclusion in the packets for the December 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative Policy Summit.*



**4. 2015 Legislative Policy Summit**

Commissioner Westfall noted that the annual Legislative Policy Summit is scheduled for December 5, 2014 at Botanica. The Legislative Committee and staff are finalizing the speaker requests, following the results of the November 7<sup>th</sup> election. Sponsors are still needed for the event- if you are interested in sponsoring or know of a company or organization that might be interested, please contact Keith or Kelly.

**5. 2014 Governmental Relations Services Update**

Lawing noted that a contract is being finalized with Tom Bruno of Bruno and Associates for the upcoming legislative session.

**6. Unscheduled Topics**

No unscheduled topics were raised by the Committee or staff.

**7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

**Attendance**

**Committee Members**

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, Legislative Chair  
Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney  
Bob Myers, Newton  
Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope, Treasurer  
John Waltner, Harvey County  
Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, Chair

**Guests**

Richard Klemp, Kansas Star Casino Government Relations Director  
Bernie Koch, Harvey County Council of Governments Lobbyist  
Dale Goter, City of Wichita Government Relations Director

**Staff**

Keith Lawing  
Kelly Bergeron