

2015 REAP Work Plan

Adopted by the REAP Board of Directors on November 7, 2014

Role of REAP

1. To be a regional catalyst for strategies and actions to increase state and federal investments for economic development and job creation in South Central Kansas;
2. To be the regional convener on issues, projects and strategies that impact the economy in South Central Kansas

In 2015, the Board of Directors (*full REAP Membership*) will meet quarterly with two additional regional events.

- Thursday, January 29, 2015- Board of Directors Meeting: 12:30-2:00
- Thursday April 16, 2015- Board of Directors meeting: 12:30-2:00
- *Thursday, May 21, 2015- Regional Water Conference*
- Thursday, July 23, 2014- Board of Directors meeting: 12:30-2:00
- Thursday, October 15, 2015- Board of Directors meeting: 12:30-2:00
- *Friday, December 4, 2015- Legislative Policy Summit*

Items for the 2015 Work Plan

1. Develop and support a regional legislative agenda and policy priorities for the 2015 Legislative Session.
2. Create stronger working relationships between and among economic development agencies/offices in the region.
3. Raise awareness of municipal water issues in South Central Kansas in relation to state policy, possible legislation, and best practices.
4. Work with REAP members, state officials, WAMPO, and other stakeholders to develop a regional forum to enhance and coordinate regional transportation issues and projects.
5. Identify and implement services for REAP Members related to best practices, community development and leadership.
6. Expand REAP membership.

Strategies and Tactics for Implementation:

1. Develop and support a regional legislative agenda and policy priorities for the 2015 Legislative Session.
Strategies/Tactics:
 - A. Pursue opportunities to engage with the Legislature, including hosting information sessions, attending and testifying at hearings in Topeka, presenting at the meetings of the South Central Legislative Delegation
 - B. Monitor and act on legislative issues during the 2015 session
 - C. Provide state and national elected leadership with information on the regional economy
 - D. Host the annual legislative policy summit (December 2015)

2. Create stronger working relationships between economic development agencies/offices in the region.
Strategies/Tactics:
 - A. Convene regional economic development officials for planning sessions and informational workshops and serve as the catalyst to develop partnerships for regional branding and outreach strategies.
 - Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG)
 - Regional Export Plan- “Export Now”
 - WSU Innovation Campus
 - Other Regional Initiatives
 - B. Support the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which goes into effect July 1, 2015, mandating regional planning efforts with Economic Development and Workforce Development entities.
 1. Coordinate workforce development outreach and awareness strategies in partnership with the Local Workforce Investment Boards for Local Areas I and IV
 - a. Create pool of REAP members to speak on the opportunities offered through workforce services
 2. Carry out the Chief Elected Officials Business (CEOB) duties for Local Area IV
 - C. Expand Asset map to four remaining REAP Counties
 - D. Use regional studies, including BREG, Asset Maps, Wichita Metro branding initiative and others to pursue the development of a regional brand for REAP region

3. Raise awareness of municipal water issues in South Central Kansas in relation to state policy, possible legislation, and best practices.
Strategies/Tactics:
 - A. Identify state and federal water policies that impact South Central Kansas
 - B. In partnership with the Basin Advisory Committees, Ground Water Management Districts, and other stakeholders, create a regional water coalition to increase collaboration and understanding between water users in the region
 - C. Host the annual Regional Water Conference (May 2015)
 - D. Conduct the annual water/wastewater/storm water rates survey

4. Work with REAP members, state officials, WAMPO, and other stakeholders to develop a regional forum to enhance and coordinate regional transportation issues and projects.

Strategies/Tactics:

- A. Support regional public transit strategies
 - B. Monitor state policies impacting public transit
 - C. Host workshop/summit for transportation officials
5. Identify and implement services for REAP Members related to best practices, community development and leadership.

Strategies/Tactics:

- A. Explore need and feasibility for a Small Cities Task Force
 - i. Define needs specific to small cities (under 1,000)
 - ii. Determine resources and opportunities available to small cities
 - iii. Survey small cities to determine interest in participation
 - iv. Convene small cities for focus groups/meetings (as needed)
 - B. Access to grant postings website
 - C. Opportunity for joint purchasing and cooperative services sharing coordination
 - D. Training opportunities at reduced rates for members:
 - i. BUILT Game
 - ii. Municipal Leadership Program
 - E. Community profile update & expansion
 - F. Conduct a municipal fee survey
 - G. Asset map expansion
 - H. Conduct a salary study for the region* (*pending LKM salary study results*)
6. Expand REAP membership.
 - A. Recruit new city and county members (goal: five by the end of 2015)
 - B. Recruit new associate members (goal: ten by the end of 2015)