

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Council member Carl Koster, City of Cheney, called the meeting to order.

## **2. Approval of Minutes from June 4, 2015**

*Mayor George Kolb, Valley Center (Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope) moved to approve the minutes from June 4, 2015. Motion adopted.*

## **3. REAP Nominating Committee**

Koster explained that according to the by-laws, that in advance of the final meeting of each year, the Chair shall appoint a nominating committee comprised of no less than five (5) members who will at the last meeting of the calendar year, place in nomination the names of REAP members for Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair appoints:

Mayor Marcey Gregory, Goddard  
City of Wichita Representative (Mayor Jeff Longwell or Council Member Pete Meitzner)  
Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County  
Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney  
Council Member Tom Haynes, Derby

A conference call will be scheduled before the end of the month for the committee members to discuss nominations.

## **4. 2015 Work Plan and Regional Initiatives**

Keith Lawing, REAP, announced that Marla Canfield is being assigned to administer REAP staffing services. Her official title will be Executive Officer; she will begin her duties on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Lawing announced that a Transportation Task Force meeting chaired by Commissioner Carol Voran, Kingman County, was held on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was very well attended and members include representatives from WAMPO, KDOT, Wichita Transit, Butler and Harvey County Economic Development, K-96 Corridor Association, Kansas Global, Transystems and S.P.I.R.I.T.

The purpose of the task force is to enhance and coordinating regional transportation issues. A follow up meeting is planned in the next few weeks and a report will be given to the REAP Board of Directors at the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

A. Regional Policy Summit

Lawing announced that this year's Regional Policy Summit is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2015 at the Rhatigan Student Center at Wichita State University (A draft agenda was included in the meeting packet). This meeting is typically held at the beginning of December; however, as fewer legislators have attended than in previous years, an earlier date is thought to provide for increased attendance. The agenda for the summit will be built around BREG and the regional economy. Invitees include local government representatives, local workforce boards, business and industry. REAP members are encouraged to extend an invitation to interested parties in their communities.

B. Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG) Update

Lawing presented an update on BREG, the collaborative regional initiative to create a strategy for economic growth, composed of eight industry action plans. The collective action plans create a Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth. The purpose of BREG is to grow the region's economy, leading to more jobs and a better quality of life for south central Kansas citizens.

BREG is funded by seven sponsors working together to grow the regional economy. They are: Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition (GWEDC), Metro Wichita Chamber, Wichita State University, City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Wichita Downtown Development Corp., and Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP).

The following industries were identified and clusters formed for BREG: Advanced Manufacturing, Advanced Materials, Aerospace, Agriculture Inputs & Processing, Data Services & IT, Health Care – Devices, Practices, Info Tech, Oil and Gas Production & Transportation, and Transportation & Logistics. Cross-cutting initiatives for each sector include Communications, Exports, Logistics, Workforce and Innovation.

Beginning in April, a series of meeting were held for each BREG cluster under the following phases:

- Phase One: Organize Leadership – Mobilize
- Phase Two: Prepare a Baseline Analysis – Analyze
- Phase Three: Hold Cluster Meetings – Catalyze
- Phase Four: Complete Strategy & Implementation Partnership – Realize

REAP members and staff were involved in each of the BREG phases and attended all meetings. A large town hall style meeting was held July 17 to present a summary of findings from the cluster meetings that took place over the summer. Action Teams have

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been formed for each cluster to begin Phase Four to implement plans developed over the summer. Meetings are planned for September and the Action Teams will continue to meet as needed to implement change. It is estimated the full clusters will continue to meet quarterly; meetings will all have virtual access allowing participants throughout the region to call in or join via internet.

All BREG meeting are open to the public and more information is available at <http://www.bregsck.com>.

**C. 2015 Budget Report**

Lawing presented the current REAP Operating Budget Report and a copy was included in the meeting packet. Lawing and Mayor Sommers had previously met to discuss the budget and agreed that the way the budget has previously been reported be revised to reflect the revenue that was used in conjunction with the South Central Kansas Prosperity Plan were not part of the approved 2015 budget.

Lawing noted that next year's budget will have less revenue and REAP will have to look for ways to save money such as sponsoring fewer events and increase additional funding streams. Mayor Longwell, City of Wichita, indicated that the City of Wichita may contract with a lobbyist and that the possibility exists to share that expense in order reduce or eliminate that expense for REAP.

Discussion ensued about what the members want from lobbyist services and if they felt, the current contract fulfilled those needs. The Legislative Committee was directed to discuss this issue in more detail and provide a recommendation on legislative strategies and priorities.

**5. 2016 Legislative Agenda Planning: Keith Lawing**

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item 4C., 2015 Budget Report.

**6. Other Business**

- Lawing announced that Mayor Gregory was nominated to be on the Kansas Water Office's Equus-Walnut Basin Advisory Board; however, she was not selected. Lawing will forward a list of the board to the committee.
- Paula Downs, WSU, announced that she had been contacted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and that all of the administration of the South Central Kansas Prosperity Plan grant is complete, all requirements met and that in their review, no findings were discovered.

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## 7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

### **Attendance**

#### Members/ Alternates

Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney, Chair  
Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County  
Mayor Marcey Gregory, Goddard, Water Resources Chair  
Council Member Tom Haynes, Derby  
City Manager George Kolb, Valley Center  
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita, CEOB Chair  
Mayor Rex Satterthwaite, Bentley, Member at Large  
Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope, Treasurer  
Commissioner David Unruh, Sedgwick County  
Commissioner Carol Voran, Kingman County, Transportation Chair  
Commissioner John Waltner, Harvey County

#### Staff

Keith Lawing, REAP  
Shirley Lindhorst, REAP  
Misty Bruckner, Wichita State University  
Paula Downs, Wichita State University