

## Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

October 1, 2015 ~ 12:00 a.m.

Wichita Workforce Center

2021 N. Amidon, Suite 1100, Wichita

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1. Welcome: Council Member Carl Koster, Chair
  2. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2015: Keith Lawing (pg. 2)  
**Recommended action: Approve the minutes from the September 9, 2015 Executive Committee meeting.**
  3. Report of the REAP Nominating Committee: Carl Koster  
*The Nominating Committee met and will provide its recommendations.*  
**Recommended action: Take appropriate action**
  4. 2016 Legislative Agenda Planning: Keith Lawing (pg. 6)  
*The Legislative Committee initiated planning for 2016 and developed a series of recommendations. Tom Bruno will also participate in this conversation.*  
**Recommended action: Take appropriate action**
  5. 2015 Work Plan and Regional Initiatives Update: Keith Lawing  
**Recommended action: Take appropriate action.**
  6. Other Business: Executive Committee Members
  7. Adjourn

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*The REAP Board of Directors is scheduled to meet on Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.*

*The REAP Legislative Committee is scheduled to meet on October 22, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.*

*The REAP Regional Policy Summit is scheduled for November 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.*

*Lunch will be provided as part of the meeting.*

## **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 Marcey Gregory, Goddard (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.

## 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

**Item**

2016 Legislative Agenda Planning

**Background**

As part of developing the 2016 budget and work plan, both the Technical Advisory Committee and Legislative Committee reviewed and discussed the need for contracted legislative consulting services, the purpose and development of a regional legislative agenda/priorities and what should be the role of REAP when it comes to policy advocacy.

REAP has contracted for legislative consulting services since 2000, and specifically Bruno and Associates since 2006. The current agreement expires September 30.

There is not an obvious and large scale regional legislative priority identified for the 2016 legislative session that REAP staff have been made aware of to date. That could change depending on feedback and input from REAP members and regional stakeholders.

As most are aware, 2016 will be the first year since 2005 that the region has not requested state support for commercial air service from Eisenhower Airport. A meeting of key area leaders will be taking place in early October to determine if a coordinated regional strategy is needed to address commercial airfares and related issues.

Possible regional legislative and policy priorities are likely to be in the areas of skills training/workforce development, transportation infrastructure and water quality/conservation as these are all topics that do not respect traditional political boundaries and impact the regional economy. REAP staff are part of the Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG) implementation teams and there could be some regional policy priorities that emerge from this initiative.

The consensus from the Legislative Committee is REAP not contract for legislative consulting services until a clear regional legislative agenda is developed, and the role for REAP in regional policy advocacy is clearly defined. Consistent with past practices, REAP should work with members and partners to identify regional legislative priorities for 2016 and raise awareness about key policy issues to support the regional economy. During the legislative session these issues would be tracked and monitored by REAP staff, REAP members with Topeka based representation, and other key regional partners. If there is a need for legislative consulting services for 2016 then services could be acquired.

Members of the Committee emphasized there was no dissatisfaction with services from Bruno and Associates, and if REAP were to seek legislative consulting services in the future he would be invited to submit a proposal.

**Recommended actions:**

- Work with REAP members and partners to identify 2016 regional legislative priorities
- Determine most appropriate role for REAP in advocating for regional legislative priorities
- Utilize partners and REAP staff to monitor and track the 2016 legislative session