

REAP Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Wichita Workforce Center
2021 N. Amidon, Suite 1100, Wichita
September 28, 2017 ~ 11:30a.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Carl Koster, Council Member, Cheney

In the absence of the Chair Bob Myers, Carl Koster called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of minutes

Approval of Minutes from Legislative Committee Meeting from May 25, 2017.

Jack Witson, Park City (Council Member Tom Jones, Park City) moved to approve the minutes from May 25, 2017 Legislative Committee meeting. Motion adopted.

3. 2018 Legislative Agenda Planning

Discussion of outreach/engagement tactics to consider in 2018. Provided the 2017 REAP priorities and the Wichita Regional Chambers 2017 priorities. Discussed priorities around economic development incentives and how to create an environment for to entice out of state businesses. KS Department of Commerce has been severely cut in previous years which impacts some of the programs providing incentives.

It may be beneficial to reach out to Reno and Butler Counties to see if there is a need for support on the state prison systems in those communities.

The committee supported moving forward with planning the following events/activities:

- Partner with the Wichita Metro Chamber on the networking reception for the South Central Delegation. This event happens annually and with REAPs involvement it will now include local governments.
- Host or co-host the annual South Central delegation meeting in January.
- Reception at the annual delegation meeting in January.
- REAP day in Topeka:
 - Sponsor a South Central Delegation lunch
 - Set up meetings with key officials of the state (i.e., Kansas Department of Transportation and Kansas Department of Commerce Secretaries).
- Align regional priorities with area chambers of commerce.

4. Regional Transportation Strategic Planning

The first meeting was held on May 18, 2017 for Butler / Sedgwick Counties in Andover. Jeff Lackey, Trans Systems and BREG Transportation & Logistics Co-Chair, facilitated the conversation. The focus of the meeting included: ideas on improving infrastructure, discussion of regulatory requirements that making it difficult to move product, what are the transportation related improvements that would help business grow. There were leaders from across the private and public sectors in attendance. Key discussion included how does the region showcase the assets (i.e., IKE Airport, McConnell Airforce base gas pipeline). The region needs to develop a list of assets for new business recruitment and current business expansion.

The second meeting was held on June 29, 2017 for Harvey / Reno Counties in Burrton. Craig Bay and Heather Denker, from BREG, facilitated the conversation. The focus of the meeting included: ideas on improving infrastructure, discussion of road conditions (i.e., bridges) requirements that making it difficult to move product and people, what are the transportation related improvements that would help business grow, and consequences of new development on the region.

Cowley/Sumner/Harper/Kingman will tentatively be held on October 24th in Wellington. More information will be sent out as soon as logistics are confirmed.

This information will be used to define our regional logistics assets and needs in order to provide a collective voice for the regional transportation industry.

The Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce is also developing a coalition to discuss regional transportation priorities. The purpose of the coalition is to provide an effective partnership between the private and public sectors would enhance the Wichita region's ability to attract state and federal funding for area transportation projects. This ad hoc coalition will coordinate the efforts of several partner groups listed below. Target audiences will include south central Kansas legislators, the Governor's office, the Kansas congressional delegation, KDOT and the Federal Highway Administration.

Objectives

- Share information on regular basis
- Coordinate lobbying effort for funding at state and federal level
- Engage the legislative delegation and cultivate "champions"
- Engage additional regional partners to identify important projects
- Identify local funding in order to leverage state/federal support
- Involve regional business leaders in the effort

Preliminary Transportation Projects

- E. Kellogg (143rd Interchange)
- North Junction (next phase, first phase is partially funded by KDOT)
- NW By-Pass
- I-235 & Kellogg (next phase, Blue Phase)
- West Kellogg (119th Interchange)

Discussion/Next Steps

- Reaching out to City and County Leaders
- Engage Wichita State University to update data on state spending in our region versus other parts of the state; update information on economic benefits of regional projects

5. Wichita's (Aquifer Storage & Recovery) Project

Scott Macey presented on the City of Wichita's plan to pursue an allowance by the State that will enable the ASR (Aquifer Storage & Recovery) project to continue to benefit the Equus Beds Aquifer, which has recovered to near-natural, full conditions.

Discussion of the economic impact of the aquifer are tremendous to business. It is estimated the region could get through a 1930's drought with limited impact to the aquifer. There was agreement to have Scott come back in November to discuss progress for the project and groups supporting.

6. Other Business: Legislative Committee Members

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:41p.m.

Attendance

Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney
Jack Witson, Park City
Kaylene Haug, K96 Corridor

Council Member Diane Wynn, Bel Aire
Council Member Tom Jones, Park City
Heather Denker, BREG

Staff/ Guests

Marla Canfield, REAP
Gary Plummer, Wichita Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Daniel Clement, Burns McDonnell

Lonnie Wright
Scott Macey, Wichita
Don Henry, Wichita