

REAP | Regional Economic Area Partnership

REAP Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2015 ~ Doubletree Hilton Hotel
Council Member Carl Koster, Chair

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney and 2015 REAP Chairman, welcomed attendees and asked for self-introductions. Chairman Koster asked Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, 2012-2014 REAP Chairman to come forward and presented him with a gavel and sincerest thanks and appreciation on behalf of the organizations for his leadership as chair over the past two years.

2. Board of Directors Business

A. Approval of Minutes from November 7, 2014

Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County (Kathy Sexton, Derby) moved to approve the minutes from November 7, 2014 as presented. Motion adopted.

B. Associate Membership Applications

Kansas Global Trade Services, Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition (GWEDC), K-96 Corridor Association, and Mr. Willis Heck has applied for associate membership with REAP.

Bob Conger, Kechi (Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County) moved to approve the associate membership applications as presented. Motion adopted.

C. 2014 Work Plan and Regional Projects Update

Keith Lawing gave a brief updated on the Regional Export Plan and the BREG Industry Cluster Study. Kelly Bergeron presented the 2014 annual report booklets, the year end 2014 budget and noted the actions of the Chief Elected Officials on behalf of Wichita Council Member Jeff Longwell who was not able to attend the meeting. Commissioner Chip Westfall, Legislative Chair, gave a brief update on current legislative activity, noting that a substantial amount of money would be transferred from KDOT to the State General Fund to accommodate for revenue shortfalls.

The report was received and filed by the Board of Directors.

3. Regional Spotlight Topic: South Central Kansas Prosperity Plan

Paula Downs, Wichita State University, and John Waltner, Harvey County administrator, spoke on the South Central Kansas Prosperity Plan. The process began in 2011 and involved hundreds of people in the South Central Kansas region. These individuals met in works teams focused on six topic areas to discuss the current state of the region and alternative plans and actions that could be undertaken for the future of the region. Waltner thanked the individual community members, private business owners, elected officials and nonprofits that participated in the multi-year planning process for giving their time and expertise. Downs noted that all of the works groups identified and prioritized several areas of concern that they hoped to address and selected some demonstration projects such as the BUILT game, asset map, and water education videos. The plan is a tool kit for the region moving forward, housing substantial data and research compiled by the consultants and used as a basis of identifying potential opportunities for future collaboration among member jurisdictions in the region and best practice examples from around the country and in the region that communities could choose to recreate in their own jurisdictions.

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Downs provided an executive summary of the larger plan and a draft copy of the Asset Map as samples of the final work product. Hard copies of the full plan will be available along with a flash drive containing the documents and data for members upon request. These documents and the data will also be available on the REAP website.

The report of the plan and planning process was received and filed by the Board of Directors.

4. **Unscheduled Topics**

Bergeron reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for April 16 and is tentatively scheduled for the Cheney Water Shed with a tour of the facility, weather permitting. More details will be announced as the date approaches.

5. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Board Members and Alternates

Council Member Carl Koster, Chair	Commissioner Jim Nickel, Newton
Bob Conger, Kechi	Daniel Shea, Kingman County
Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County	Kathy Sexton, Derby
Mayor Marcey Gregory, Goddard	Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope
Commissioner Randy Hague, Harvey County	Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County
KayLene Haug, K-96 Corridor Association	Commissioner Carol Voran, Kingman County
Willis Heck, Associate Member	John Waltner, Harvey County
Commissioner Ron Loomis, McPherson County	Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County
Jennifer McCausland, Andover	

Guests/Presenters/Staff

Kelly Bergeron, REAP	Hoyt Hillman, WRAPS
Misty Bruckner, WSU	Commissioner Jim Howell, Sedgwick County
Angela Buzard, WSU	Keith Lawing, REAP
Paula Downs, WSU	Rick Rekoske, Bel Aire
Garrett Glaser, Bel Aire	Anthony Swartzendruber, Harvey County
Alex Hendee, WSU	John Todd, Citizen