

REAP | Regional Economic Area Partnership

REAP Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2015 ~ Workforce Alliance Administration Offices

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Chip Westfall called the meeting to order and asked for self-introductions.

2. Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2014

Bob Myers, Newton (Kathy Sexton, Derby) moved to approve the meeting minutes from November 21, 2014. Motion adopted.

3. Legislative Update

Tom Bruno, Bruno and Associates, provided the committee with a verbal report and update of legislative activities and bill status included in the agenda packet. Of specific note:

- Kansas Affordable Airfares Program (KAAP) is included in the budget for \$5 million in FY 2016 but zeroed out in future years.
- CiBOR recently had the \$1 million allocated to their budget from the Legislature pulled, and Wichita State and partners are working to have it added back in.
- NIAR and NCAT funding seem stable, no changes at this time.
- HB 2163, contracting between municipalities and other entities, is a positive bill that will help local governments and enable them to enter into interlocal agreements with other entities such as school districts.
- HB 2255, preventing the secretary of transportation from entering into agreements or issuing bonds, is now dead for the session.
- SB 45, the constitution carry bill, was heard today and passed the Senate this morning. The public employees carry bill, SB 65, is separate and will be worked next week.
- HB 2164 amends sewer district RFP's, raising the cap to \$25,000, previously at \$1,000. This bill was carried by Rep. Kristey Williams from Augusta.
- HB 2076, referencing sales tax holidays, has not yet been heard. Committee members questioned whether there has been discussion on how the lost revenue would be made up, but to the knowledge of the lobbyists no discussion on that has occurred to this point.
- HB 2163, originating with a situation specific to Garden City, will create special zoning exemptions for liquor sales in a downtown core area that would otherwise be disallowed due to proximity of a church or school.
- HB 2137, mandating body cameras for all law enforcement offices, is likely dead for this session while logistics are worked through.
- SB 165: Open meetings bill, had a hearing scheduled but not heard. Unless it is heard by the close of business today it is dead for the session.
- SB 135: tax exemption on aviation fuel from city sales tax has not been heard and is likely dead.
- HB 2200, sales of alcoholic beverages, is out of Committee but has not been debated by the House; it is on general orders, however, not scheduled to move forward at this time.

The Committee discussed a request from Rep. Goico, made the Chamber, to develop a web page for public interaction with the South Central Delegation. This web page would be in place of the

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standing town hall public meetings on Saturday mornings that the South Central Delegation has traditionally held. REAP will touch base with Jason Watkins at the Chamber to see if an update on the progress of this site is available.

REAP has been approached by the Hospital Society and Via Christi, asking for support for their KanCare 2.0 bill. This late in the session it is not likely that the bill has any traction, but REAP would like a formal presentation and educational opportunity on it over the summer as preparation for the upcoming 2016 session. The Hospital Society commissioned an economic impact study from George Washington University that shows the potential for 3,400 jobs created if KanCare was expanded in Kansas. This is a larger opportunity for REAP to perhaps host or coordinate a forum on the future of rural and small town hospitals. What is their economic outlook in five to ten years, with an aging population and dwindling revenues? Outcomes of the BREG healthcare industry cluster may provide more background data for this forum by the end of the year.

4. Other Business

No other business was raised by the Committee or staff.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Attendance

(Members/Alternates)

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, Chair
Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County
Bob Myers, Newton
Daniel Shea, Kingman County
Kathy Sexton, Derby
Council Member Pete Meitzner, Wichita (By Phone)
Dale Goter, Wichita (By Phone)

Staff

Kelly Bergeron, REAP
Keith Lawing, REAP
Tom Bruno, Bruno & Associates (By Phone)