

REAP | Regional Economic Area Partnership

REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2015 ~ Wichita Workforce Center

Council Member Carl Koster, Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2014 and February 13, 2015

Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County (Mayor Rex Satterthwaite, Bentley) moved to approve the minutes from December 11, 2014 and February 13, 2015. Motion adopted.

3. Export Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

During 2014 REAP and the Workforce Alliance participated in a planning initiative to expand exports. The project was directed by the GWEDC and Kansas Global Trade Services. The plan, titled the Wichita-South Central Kansas Regional Export Plan, was completed in December 2014 and is now preparing to launch into implementation phase. To publically recognize the entities that participated and supported the planning process a Memorandum of Understanding has been proposed, documenting the continued commitment to implementation of the five-year plan. The signatories have committed to specific actions within the plan. The MOU puts into writing the groups intentions and agreed upon responsibilities and creates accountability for the region's stakeholders. REAP is specifically designated to "provide regional coordination with elected officials and economic development professionals on legislative issues in support of increased exports."

A formal signing event for the MOU is scheduled for March 26, 2015 in Newton at the Meridian Center.

Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita (Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope) moved to authorize the REAP Chairman to sign the MOU for the Export plan. Motion adopted.

4. Consideration of Recommended Options for Sedgwick County's Reimbursement Request

On February 13th the Executive Committee met and discussed Sedgwick County's request for a pro-rated reimbursement of their 2015 dues. The Committee requested that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) be consulted on the matter and provide a recommended action. On February 19th the TAC met and discussed alternatives for responding to Sedgwick County's request. Because this has never happened before and there is no policy or process in the bylaws to address the issue; therefore, whatever decision is made by REAP makes in this instance will establish a precedent. To address this issue in the future the TAC recommends an update to the Fiscal Policy and the Bylaws to reflect the action chose by REAP.

The TAC suggested three options for consideration, as well as the projected fiscal impacts of each option. Options include doing nothing and keeping Sedgwick County's 2015 membership dues; returning a pro-rated amount of Sedgwick County's dues for the remaining three quarters of the year; or returning a pro-rated amount of membership dues for half the year, or 50%.

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After extensive discussion and consideration of all the options provided by the TAC as well as the potential fiscal impacts of each option, the Committee came to a consensus decision to recommend to the Board of Directors at the April 16th Board meeting to respectfully decline Sedgwick County's request for a refund of a pro-rated amount of their 2015 dues. The Committee's main points of discussion were:

- REAP's work plan and activities are heavily concentrated in the first quarter to six months of the year due to legislative activities and the Water Conference, making a monthly pro-rated amount of annual dues an unviable option.
- This action sets a precedent for the organization; this is not a decision based on a single member's request, but sets a policy statement moving forward. Members could potentially join at the beginning of the year and take advantage of the legislative and lobbying services offered and then remove themselves from membership and request a refund of monies that have been spent during those months.
- The dues were included and paid for from the 2015 budget which was approved by Sedgwick County of a five to zero vote meaning that two of the current three Sedgwick County Commissioners that voted to remove themselves from membership initially approved of the investment. It was a unanimous decision and a commitment was made to REAP for 2015.
- When a member joins REAP later in the year the members still pays the full annual dues; members may choose to remove themselves from the organization at any time, per the bylaws and Interlocal Agreement provisions, however, the organization is not required to refund dues to that member.

The Committee recommends to the Board of Directors to respectfully decline the request of the Sedgwick County Commission to return a pro-rated amount of the County's 2015 membership dues. Motion adopted.

5. REAP Outreach and Recruitment Update

The 2015 Work Plan adopted by the Board of Directors in December 2014 set a goal of recruiting five new city or county members and 10 new associate members by December 2015. With the upcoming municipal elections in April staff recommends a comprehensive outreach plan, requesting meetings and presentations with existing member communities and the opportunity to introduce the organization and the importance of regional collaboration and cooperation to the newly elected officials. Members of REAP may be asked to attend these meetings and speak with their peers. Additionally, staff requests member's assistance in referring potential associate or city and county members who may be interested in joining REAP. REAP has scheduled four upcoming presentations to Derby, Harvey County Council of governments, Kechi, and South Hutchinson in March.

The Committee received ad filed the report.

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6. Budget Update

Kelly Bergeron reported that the budget is on track and that expenditures are as expected. The next largest upcoming expense will be the Water Conference in May. Members are asked to referring potential sponsors to Bergeron for the event.

7. Other Business

Misty Bruckner, Hugo Wall School, Wichita State University provided a handout to the Committee listing the progress of some of the work plan items specific to Hugo Wall School, and a specific monetary value for these activities, such as a discount provided to REAP members for the Municipal Leadership Series. The handout is intended to show REAP members another angle of monetary value that they receive for their membership.

Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County, reported that the Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG) project is about to Launch with a kick off town hall meeting in April at the Meridian Center in Newton. Eight industry clusters have been identified that have potential for growth and exporting or are emerging in the 10 county region. The BREG will align resources within those industries to create a business plan specific to each industry and to increase their bottom lines and profitability in the next four to six months. Commissioner Dillon is co-chairing the project along with Charlie Chandler of Intrust Bank.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Attendance

Members/ Alternates

Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney, Chair
Commissioner Brad Dillon, Reno County, Vice Chair
Mayor Marcey Gregory, Goddard, Water Resources Chair
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Wichita, CEOB Chair
Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope, Treasurer
Mayor Rex Satterthwaite, Bentley, Member at Large
Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, Immediate Past Chair

Guests

Misty Bruckner, Wichita State University
Janis Hellard, Sumner County Chamber of Commerce

Staff

Kelly Bergeron, REAP
Keith Lawing, REAP

