



## 1. Welcome

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, welcomed attendees and asked for introductions.

## 2. Approval of Minutes from October 23, 2014

*Bob Myers, Newton (Kathy Sexton, Derby) moved to approve the minutes from October 23, 2014. Motion adopted.*

## 3. 2015 Legislative Priorities and Infographic

The REAP Board of Directors approved the 2015 Legislative Priorities as proposed by the Legislative Committee on November 7, 2014, allowing authority for the Committee to finalize wording on a few items. At the request of Wichita State, the CiBOR item was removed and replaced with “support of the innovation campus”. Staff has developed an infographic included in the packet that will be used at the 2014 Legislative Policy Summit and in the upcoming Legislative Session. Committee members provided feedback on the infographic, which will be sent to print early next week.

The Committee discussed the desire to have educational presentations on the RPS and the economic impact of the potential expansion of Medicaid.

*The Committee directed staff to print the legislative priorities infographic and arrange for presentations on the above topics during the 2015 session.*

## 4. 2015 Legislative Policy Summit Update

Commissioner Westfall noted that the annual Legislative Policy Summit is scheduled for December 5, 2014 at Botanica. The Legislative Committee and staff are confirming speakers, and replacing a few that have conflicts and are unable to attend. KTA/KDOT Secretary Mike King has cancelled. The Committee requested staff find a replacement speaker on the topic of freight and the importance of a well maintained transportation system on the economy. Sponsors are still needed for the event to reach the goal of \$6,000. Funds raised beyond the cost of the event will be saved and rolled forward to the 2015 budget for special events.

## 5. Legislative Outlook- 2015 Session

Tom Bruno updated the Committee on topics of interest to REAP and local governments in the upcoming 2015 session. The major issue will be the State budget, which is estimated to be \$280 million short for the current fiscal year and \$435 for next fiscal year (2015). Potential issues that could have significant impact on the state budget:

- Agriculture: corporate agriculture and the Water Plan
- Energy: RPS, tax exemptions for renewables, length of exemptions, seismic activity
- Governmental: municipal elections- moving to fall of even or odd years, making elections partisan; publically funded lobbying; local control issues such as guns, economic development
- Business: HB 2453- Religious Freedom Protection Act
- Economic Development: Freezing PEAK at current level; elimination of the current jobs creation program fund; eliminate statutory transfer to Kansas Bio Authority (making KBA funding part of the appropriations process)



- Transportation: Reduce KDOT sales tax transfers; sweeping the state highway fund into the State General Fund
- Education: capturing federal reimbursement of K-12 KPERS costs; requiring partial use of unspent K-12 aid from prior years; require partial use of unspent higher education fees
- Taxes: sales tax exemptions (services, certain sales); income tax reductions (slowing decline); property tax (capping rate of increases)

#### **6. Unscheduled Topics**

No unscheduled topics were raised by the Committee or staff.

#### **7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

#### **Attendance**

##### **Committee Members**

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County, Legislative Chair  
Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney  
Council Member Pete Meitzner, Wichita (by phone)  
Bob Myers, Newton  
Kathy Sexton, Derby  
John Waltner, Harvey County  
Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County, Chair

##### **Guests**

Bernie Koch, Harvey County Council of Governments Lobbyist  
Dale Goter, City of Wichita Government Relations Director

##### **Staff**

Keith Lawing  
Kelly Bergeron  
Tom Bruno, Bruno & Associates