

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2016 ~ 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Wichita Workforce Center, 2021 N. Amidon, Suite 1100

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

Commissioner Carol Voran, Kingman County, welcomed attendees and asked for self-introductions.

2. Board of Directors Business

A. Approval of Minutes from October 15, 2015

Mayor Jeff Longwell, Wichita, (Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney) moved to approve the minutes from October 15, 2015 as presented. Motion adopted.

B. Membership Update: Marla Canfield

An updated on 2016 membership assessments was provided along with a calendar of upcoming presentations.

In December 2015, REAP assessment invoices were sent to all REAP members.

McPherson County made the decision to not continue with their participation at this time and no reason was provided for the decision.

Staff will be meeting with the following REAP members for presentations before assessments are paid:

- City of Hesston - February 7, 2016 at 6pm

Staff have the following meetings completed or requested:

- Conway Springs – February 2, 2016 at 10:30am. Council member Carl Koster, Cheney attended.

Received and filed.

C. Discussion Topic: Impact of Tax Lid Legislation: Carol Voran

A number of REAP member expressed concern on the impact this legislation could have on local governments. Phil Nelson, WAMPO, shared his experience from Troy, Michigan when they adopted a tax lid. There was risk to losing a significant number of police officers, when valuations dropped.

Mayor Jeff Longwell, Wichita, reported he spoke to the Kansas Association of Realtors and Governor Sam Brownback about the tax lid. The general impression is the tax lid will happen. The City of Wichita is still working to repeal and/or modify the tax lid. Discussion of how to get public involved and realtors (local) educated and involved.

Commissioner Carol Voran, Kingman County, did local research and found the increase in taxes was due to the number of tax payers decreasing not increased new taxes.

Some suggestions were a survey to educate public or an op-ed piece. However the message must be clear REAP and the members do not support higher taxes. Any state imposed tax lid needs to be workable, include exemptions, and recognize home rule.

It was reported Sedgwick County passed a motion supporting the tax lid and to make it workable with early implementation. Passed 3 to 1.

Staff presented a resolution to repeal the tax lid based off the recommendation from REAP TAC. It was encouraged that REAP members adopt the resolution or similar resolution about the tax lid.

Council member Carl Koster, Cheney (Mayor Jeff Longwell, Wichita) moved to adopt the resolution to repeal the tax lid.

3. Update on Efficient Gov Website: Marla Canfield

Misty Bruckner and Corinne Bannon, WSU Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs provided an update on the Efficient Gov grant finder website.

In an effort to provide additional value-added services to REAP member organizations, REAP purchased a two-year subscription for 50 points of contact to utilize EfficientGov's GrantFinder. This tool allows local government organizations to instantly access more than 4,000 federal, state, corporate and foundation grant opportunities.

WSU will help coordinate this initiative. Members are asked to submit a point of contact in each organization to search and track grants. Please identify this individual by sending their first and last name and work email address to Corinne Bannon at corinne.bannon@wichita.edu. In addition to the ability to personalize search and tracking mechanisms for each organization, WSU will continuously monitor current grants available and will send a summary email every two weeks regarding grants of particular relevance to REAP communities.

Each REAP member will identify a point of contact for website.

4. Regional Spotlight Topic: Transportation Update: Mike Johnston and Jeff Lackey

Jeff Lackey, TranSystems and co-chair of Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG) transportation sector, will discussed the role of the transportation industry in the regional economy and its importance to the BREG initiative.

Lackey discussed aligning the BREG transportation sector with REAP's transportation taskforce. The sector is in the first year and meeting monthly. They are working on meeting with other groups and creating collaborations with interested parties. At this time the goal is to align with REAP and have the same messages and partners.

The sector also looked at the KC Smart Port model and how they do business for the Kansas City regional area.

Mike Johnston, Economic Lifelines, discussed the impact from ongoing reduction to state funding for highways and potential impact on regional economy. Economic Lifelines main goal is to promote investments in transportation. State is 5 years into T Works which started as a 10 year/\$8 billion plan. As of today \$1.4 billion has been removed from transportation and another \$25 million will be removed in 2017. As of today the transportation system is good, but continued decreases will impact future quality.

5. **Unscheduled Topics: REAP Board of Directors Members**

6. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Attendance

Board Members and Alternates

Commissioner Carol Voran, Kingman County, Chair	Mayor Jeff Longwell, Wichita
Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County	Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope
Mayor Marcey Gregory, Goddard	Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney
Commissioner Dave Unruh, Wichita	John Waltner, Harvey County
Herb Llewellyn, Eldorado	KayLene Haug, K-96 Corridor Association

Guests/Presenters/Staff

Keith Lawing, REAP	Corinne Bannon, WSU
Marla Canfield, REAP	Phil Nelson, WAMPO
Misty Bruckner, WSU	Jeff Lackey, TranSystems
Michael Johnston, Economic Lifelines	