

**REAP Legislative Committee Meeting Agenda**

Wichita Workforce Center  
2021 N. Amidon, Suite 1100, Wichita  
October 26, 2017 ~ 11:30 a.m.

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**1. Welcome and Introductions: Chair Bob Myers, Newton**

Chair Bob Myers called the meeting to order.

**2. Approval of minutes**

Approval of Minutes from Legislative Committee Meeting from September 28, 2017.

***Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney (Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County) moved to approve the minutes from September 28, 2017 Legislative Committee meeting. Motion adopted.***

**3. Legislative Committee appointments for 2018**

Mayor Hansel selected the Legislative Committee for 2018. Appointments were made and accepted.

If any other members are interested in participating in a committee please let staff know. The committees are open to anyone interested. The committee meetings will also begin using Zoom room technology. A link will be sent out with each meeting notice and members can remote into the meeting via computer or cell phone. Staff will send out a memo with specific information on how to use Zoom.

**2018 REAP Legislative Committee appointments:**

Bob Myers, Newton, Legislative Chair  
Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County  
Council Member Pete Meitzner, Wichita  
Commissioner Dave Unruh, Sedgwick County  
Council Member Diane Wynn, Bel Aire  
Council Member Ramona Becker, Bel Aire  
Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney  
Mayor Rex Satterthwaite, Bentley  
Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope  
Jack Whitson, Park City  
Kathy Sexton, Derby  
Randy Frazer, Moundridge  
Andrew Nave, Greater Wichita Partnership  
Kaylene Haug, K96 Corridor

**4. 2018 Legislative Agenda Planning****a. REAP Legislative Priorities for 2018**

Provided the 2017 REAP priorities and the Wichita Regional Chambers 2017 priorities.

Discussed the following priorities for 2018:

- Workforce Development programming. Example given was one out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, called 260 E Workforce Skills Training. Creates a bonding program for workforce development and training. WATC is also interested in this program.
- Staffing shortages at several state departments including:
  - Corrections
  - Department of Commerce
  - KDOT
  - KDHE
- Challenges to following state economic development rules
- Supporting enhancements to freight and passenger rail.
- Federal money swap for roads has increased from 10% to 25% for swapping of money from state.
- Support programs like the previous program to support rural bridges to move freight is crucial. Support strategic bridges that are important to business and industry.
- Townships (unincorporated) are not responsible for street signage. Counties are responsible and the KAC is challenging this rule.
- Electric (coops and municipal) have had a challenging relationship. Could open up more annexations.
- Mental health needs in the state. San Antonino has a successful program.
- Create a home rule priority

Federal-

- Private air traffic control would be damaging to general aviation.

Keep these current priorities:

- **Tax / Spending Lid**

REAP supports correcting the unworkable procedures in the 2016 tax lid legislation on local governments as it will have a stifling effect on the ability to support infrastructure necessary for high quality of life and strong economic growth.

- **Medicaid Expansion**

REAP supports expansion of the Kansas Medicaid program to extend healthcare coverage for at-risk Kansans (over 150,000) to complement the efforts in public health providing vital revenues to local hospitals and stimulating the economy by creating thousands of jobs.

- **Funding for Transportation Infrastructure**

REAP supports dedicated and secure state revenue that cannot be used for other purposes and oppose any further use of transportation dollars to balance the State's general fund; and emphasize the need for adequate funding to build and preserve the transportation infrastructure in Kansas.

- **Passenger Rail Service**

REAP supports state funding for expansion of passenger rail in Kansas, specifically passenger rail connecting Dallas/Fort Worth and Oklahoma City through Wichita to the Southwest Chief in Newton.

***Ongoing Regional Priorities***

- **Water and Energy Resources**

REAP supports policies and strategies to recognize the protection of water resources critical to the economy of South Central Kansas; including of the protection of the Equus Beds Aquifer that supplies water for 20% of the Kansas population.

REAP recognizes the importance of energy to the regional economy and supports access to, and production of a variety of energy sources from oil and natural gas to renewable resources, such as wind and solar power.

- **Regional Economic Development Strategies**

REAP supports regional collaborative sector strategies to create jobs and grow business in the region.

- Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG)
- South Central Kansas Regional Export Plan
- Innovation Campus Strategy

**TACTICS –**

- Update to the exports from the infographics form.
- Get specific stories on priorities.
- Organize info into priorities for cities and counties.
- Make a notebook.

b. **Local Elected Officials Reception and South Central Delegation Meeting**

Reception is November 20, 2017 beginning at 5:30pm at the Boathouse, Wichita. The Delegation will meet on January 4<sup>th</sup> at WSU.

5. **2018 Wichita Regional Chambers Legislative Priorities**

Sean Robinson and Tram Ngo, Wichita Regional Chamber, provided the committee an update on their 2018 legislative priorities.

6. **Regional Transportation Strategic Planning**

Marla Canfield and Craig Crossette provided an update to current transportation initiatives and provided some data regarding transportation planning. The data provided some insight into funding of transportation between Sedgwick and Johnson counties.

7. **2018 Meeting Schedule**

2018 REAP meeting schedule was presented.

8. Other Business: Legislative Committee Members

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:15p.m.

**Attendance**

Bob Myers, Chair, Newton  
Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney  
Randy Frazer, Moundridge  
Council Member Pete Meitner, Wichita

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County  
Kathy Sexton, Derby  
Council Member Tom Jones, Park City  
John Waltner

**Staff/ Guests**

Keith Lawing, REAP  
Sean Robinson, Wichita Regional Chamber of  
Commerce  
Tram Ngo, Wichita Regional Chamber of  
Commerce  
Kelly McElroy, Newton

Marla Canfield, REAP  
Craig Crossette, WSU  
Bruce Witt, Via Christi