

REAP Legislative Committee Meeting Agenda

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

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 4th 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