

REAP Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Wichita Workforce Center
2021 N. Amidon, Suite 1100, Wichita
September 27, 2018 ~ 11:30 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Bob Myers, Chair

Bob Myers, Chair, called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of minutes

Approval of Minutes from Legislative Committee Meeting from November 16, 2017.

Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope (Jack Whitson, Park City) moved to approve the minutes from November 16, 2017 Legislative Committee meeting. Motion adopted.

3. 2019 Legislative Agenda Planning

Part of the strategic planning process of 2017 included how to engage the State and Federal Delegation on regional policy priorities. Historical regional legislative and policy priorities have been in the areas of skills training/workforce development, transportation infrastructure and water quality/conservation as these are all topics that do not respect traditional political boundaries and impact the regional economy.

Questions for the Committee to consider and discuss:

1. What are the basic goals for REAP in the area of policy advocacy and influencing state investments to support the regional economy?
2. What is the best way to develop regional legislative priorities?
3. How can REAP best work with other partners and stakeholders on regional legislative priorities?

Outreach/Engagement Tactics to Consider

- Partner with the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce on the networking reception for the South Central Delegation. This event happens annually and with REAPs involvement it included local governments the past 2 years. The sponsorship for this event is \$5000.
- Align regional priorities with area chambers of commerce.
- Coordinate the annual South Central delegation meeting in January. REAP offered to coordinate the South Central Delegation meeting held each January. Staff reached out to the current Chair of the South Central Delegation Senator Gene Sullentrop in early September and offered to coordinate the 2109 South Central Delegation Meeting. Senator Sullentrop is reviewing last year's agenda and will make recommendation for the 2019 meeting. The event will be January 2019 at WSU. Please share any feedback or suggestions for the event.

- Reception at the annual delegation meeting in January. This reception has become a standard event following the delegation meeting.
- REAP day in Topeka (during session):
 - Sponsor a South Central Delegation lunch
 - Set up meetings with key officials of the state (i.e., Governor, Legislative Leaders, Kansas Department of Transportation and Kansas Department of Commerce Secretaries).
- Contract with a lobbyist to represent the region in Topeka. This was last done for the 2015 Legislative Session. Estimated cost is \$25,000 to \$30,000. Bob Myers requested forming a taskforce to discuss and exploring hiring a lobbyist for 2019. The committee supported this request. The taskforce will include input from the Wichita Regional Chamber and WSU Government Relations.

Issues currently being discuss as possible legislative priorities for 2019 include:

- Regional transportation investments
- Enhancing career and technical education funding
- Recruitment tools to help bring skilled workers to South Central Kansas
- Expansion of Pell Grant funding (federal)

There was discussion on how to market the region to enhance workforce. Including discussion about the DCI update for the Greater Wichita Partnership and the strategies being put into place. What tactics will be used now that WSU is in a new conference to highlight the region and McConnell Airforce Base recruitment. Keith also shared about a bonding program in Iowa. This information will be emailed out to the committee members present.

Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County (Randy Frazer, Moundridge) moved to approve the scope of work for 2019 Legislative Committee. Motion adopted.

4. Regional Transportation Strategic Planning

REAP in partnership with the South Central Kansas Transportation Coalition (Wichita Regional Chamber ad hoc Committee), WAMPO and the Greater Wichita Partnership, as part of the BREG strategy, have been convening multiple regional meeting to plan for the upcoming Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Taskforce meetings in the region.

The top goal for the region is to highlight key projects and to present a unified voice of the region. There is a meeting on 9.28.18 at the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce at 11:30am to bring key partners together to develop a plan for the regional taskforce meetings.

The Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Taskforce will have seven responsibilities. It will evaluate the state's transportation system, the way it uses state highway funds, and the method it uses transportation funding to determine whether funding levels are sufficient. It will solicit local input on projects and identify additional transportation projects. Finally, it will make

recommendations on the state's future transportation system needs and the structure of the state highway fund. The task force must submit its reports to the Kansas Legislature by Jan. 31.

The taskforce will meet 8 times in the next few months across Kansas, but no schedule of meetings has been approved yet.

5. Other Business:

KAC – BNSF vs. Chase County and the federal right way of rail and time of crossing issues.
Butler County is discussing funding for the community college.
HUD housing proposed changes to requirements.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:00p.m.

Attendance

Bob Myers, Newton (Chair)
Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County
Mayor Donna Clasen, Maize
Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope
Council Member Pete Meitner (phone), Wichita
Council Member Tom Jones, Park City
Council Member Vaughn Nun, Derby
Council Member Gib Bergen, Moundridge

Mayor Tom Brown, McPherson
Anthony Swartzendruber, Harvey County
Jack Whitson, Park City
Kathy Sexton, Derby
Randy Frazer, Moundridge
David Dilliner, El Dorado
Kelly McElroy, Newton

Staff/ Guests

Marla Canfield, REAP
Keith Lawing, REAP
Bernie Koch, Harvey County Council of Governments

John Waltner, REAP
Bruce Witt, Via Christi