

**REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Zoom Meeting  
Wichita Workforce Center  
October 9, 2020 ~ 11:30 a.m.

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1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mayor Tom Brown, Chair  
REAP Chair, Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.
  
  2. **Approval of Agenda**  
Approval of Agenda for REAP Executive Committee on October 9, 2020.  
  
REAP Chair, Mayor Brown, suggested a vision to the Agenda to include item #7E, Connectivity Grant update.  
  
***ACTION TAKEN: Vice Mayor Cindy Claycomb (Wichita) motioned to APPROVE the Agenda with revision to include item #7E, Connectivity Grant update. Seconded by Mayor Donna Clasen (Maize). Motion carried 11-0.***
  
  3. **Approval of Minutes**  
Approval of Minutes from Executive Committee Meeting from September 10, 2020.  
  
***ACTION TAKEN: Vice Mayor Cindy Claycomb (Wichita) motioned to APPROVE the Minutes from September 10, 2020 Executive Committee meeting. Seconded by Mayor Terry Somers (Mount Hope). Motion carried 11-0.***
  
  4. **Economic Recovery & Kansas Framework for Growth Update: Secretary David Toland, Kansas Department of Commerce**  
Leaning into challenges and focusing on growth:  
Revamping the Commerce Department – First time in seven years Commerce has a full business recruitment team  
Focus on community development
    - Childcare – access and affordable
    - Quality of life
    - Placemaking
    - Entertainment
    - Parks & Rec
    - Mainstreets and downtown development
    - Attract and retain talentRe-established the International Division
    - New leadership – Jeff Willis, Director
    - Getting Kansas back in the game – fully re-engage in foreign tradeOther Commerce changes
    - Major structural overhaul
    - Hired Bill Murphey as Deputy Secretary

- Improved communication
- Statewide virtual job fairs
- Mobile workforce centers

Certified Sites Program – Application period now open

- Two sites in Paola have been approved
- Department goal of having 10 sites approved by Dec. 31, 2021
- Provides important background information on your site's availability, utilities, site access, environmental records and potential site development costs
- Encourages faster site selection decisions
- Jonathan Clayton, Program Manager
- Marla Canfield, South Central Region Project Manager
- Wiley Smith, Sedgwick County Project Manager

Business Development: What does this yield?

- New Kansas Projects are up 26% compared to the start of 2019
- Potential new jobs up 18% from start of 2019
- Potential capital investment has dropped from \$3.9 billion in 2019 to \$2.9 billion in 2020

Covid-19 impact on business development

- New Kansas Projects are up 30% since March, compared to last year
- From March 1 to Oct. 7
  - New projects are up 30% over 2019
  - Potential new jobs is up 65%
  - Potential capital investment is down 10%

Capital expenditure success in 2020 vs. 2019

- 2019
  - 93 projects
  - \$1.32 billion in capital expenditures
  - \$110 million in capital expenditures per month
- 2020 (through September)
  - 73 projects
  - \$1.65 billion in capital expenditures
  - \$183 million in capital expenditures per month

Kansas Recovery is underway

- Statewide unemployment rate is down to 6.9% from 11.9% in April
- Total spending has rebounded
- Sluggish growth still being experienced in certain industries (aircraft & manufacturing)
- E-commerce growth up 146%: \$4.2 trillion projected total for 2020
- Seizing new opportunities: Rapid growth in logistics, distribution, data storage, inventory management, food processing, transportation and e-commerce

REAP Partnerships: Cohesion and collaboration among communities in South Central Kansas is vital to overcome unique challenges for REAP region

- Aerospace Uncertainty
  - 737 MAX Grounding
  - Commercial Air Travel Demand
- Manufacturing Challenges
  - Workforce Recruitment and Retention
  - Pandemic Creates Question Marks

Connecting Kansas: Establishment of the Office of Broadband Development for the distribution of nearly \$50 million in Connectivity Emergency Response Grant (CERG) funds to underserved communities across Kansas

- \$14.1 million for South Central Kansas
- Housed in the Dept. of Commerce
- Led by Stan Adams, Director of the Office of Broadband Development

Kansas Framework for Growth

- Four pillars identified
  - Talent
  - Innovation Ecosystem
  - Trade Sector
  - Digitalization and Broadband
- The Kansas Advantage: Building the nation's first comprehensive economic development strategic plan that reflects pandemic – will be released in November 2020

SPARK Grant: \$138.6 million for the Dept. of Commerce to disperse

- 11 grant categories
- Economic Development
- Connectivity (Broadband)
- Over 7,800 applications received

We need to grow

- Partnerships & collaboration
- Mobilize resources

Lucas Neece, Assistant City Manager, Lindsborg, asked Secretary Toland about possible funding for state-wide degree completion programs. Toland responded that there are programs currently in place through the statewide portal including:

- Apprenticeships and internships
- Partnerships with higher education institutions
- South Central Kansas is really good at providing a wide range of programs through the Kansas Works website

Wichita Vice Mayor, Cindy Claycomb, asked Toland about the department's strategies to attract advanced manufacturing and to diversify business and industry in South Central Kansas. He responded that it would most likely take some type of legislation to enable the department to have the right tools to support advanced manufacturing. Current programs, like [HPIP \(High](#)

[Performance Incentive Program](#)) and [PEAK \(Promoting Employment Across Kansas\)](#), will need to be modified or a new program developed to support advanced manufacturing.

**5. REAP Technical Advisory Committee Report: Ty Lasher (Bel Aire), Chair**

With help from attorneys Scott MacBeth and Scott Schneider from Hinkle Law Firm, REAP is now recognized by Ford Motor Company as a legal entity. REAP was issued a Fleet Identification Number (FIN) for members to use when ordering fleet vehicles at any Ford dealership.

MacBeth does not recommend incorporating REAP as a non-profit due to regulations and audits imposed on non-profits by the IRS.

REAP staff and TAC members agreed that REAP's purpose is more for regional transformation and not a transactional organization. They therefore do not recommend incorporating REAP as a 501(c)(3) at this time.

The other item discussed was the impact on municipalities of the latest action taken by the Groundwater Management District 2 (GMD2) Board of Directors. At their August annual meeting, the GMD2 Board removed the last remaining municipal representative from the Board.

A strategy/planning meeting with Senator Carolyn McGinn and REAP TAC members has been set for Oct. 12 to determine possible peaceful solutions without legislation. An update will be provided at the November 12 REAP Executive Committee meeting.

**6. Cooperative Purchasing Partnership: Kevin Coccatella, Transfer Capital, LLC and Darren Muci, Retired USD 259 Director of Operations and former Director of Purchasing for Sedgwick County**

- Supply chain issues and budget constraints
- Nation-leading GPOs (Group Purchasing Organizations)
- Voluntary participation
- No fees to participate
- Procurement assistance with coordinating contracts with current vendor support and/or access to Lead Agency Model for solicitation to expedite RFP process
- Cost savings for REAP members
- Agreements with Premier and Omnia already vetted and in place
- Muci strongly recommends a partnership with REAP and use of group purchasing contracts to cut expenses from REAP member's budgets

Mayor Brown moved to have further discussion and action at the Nov. 12, 2020, REAP Executive Committee meeting.

**7. Other Business:**

**A. Wichita Airport Advisory Board Report: Kelly McElroy, City Manager, Newton**

The number of passengers flying out of Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport has increased in September to help the Air Capital outpace the rate of recovery in

passenger traffic nationwide. Wichita seems to be gaining momentum in passengers flying again compared to the rest of the country. Last week, passenger traffic at ICT had grown 388% since May 1 compared to a 313% increase in the U.S. This is the most growth since the pandemic hit, which is surprising since this is typically the slow travel season.

Southwest Airlines will add nonstop service to Houston Hobby for the holiday season. If this route does well, there is a chance it could be permanent. Also, Southwest will bring back Las Vegas and Phoenix nonstop service on peak travel days around the holidays.

Other statistics:

- Approximately 30% of the US passenger airline fleet remains idle
- Recovery in the US airline travel has plateaued at about 30% of 2019 levels
- TSA throughput is down 53% in Wichita, compared to 69% in US
- Approximately 47% reduction in flights system-wide
- Leisure travel is rebounding faster than business travel – National parks and outdoor destinations are most popular

**B. Transit Advisory Board Report: Andover Council Member Troy Tabor**

Council Member Tabor had to leave the REAP Executive Committee meeting early and was unable to provide follow-up to the written report that was included in the REAP Executive Committee meeting packet. Items of note included:

- Multimodal Project is now in the planning stages
- Battery-electric busses have arrived and now in service

**C. 2021 REAP legislative Priorities: Mayor Tom Brown, Chair**

Mayor Brown summarized the 2020 REAP Legislative Priorities which included behavioral health, workforce development and regional infrastructure. He recommended keeping the 2021 legislative priorities the same.

Lucas Neece (Lindsborg) suggested adding childcare as another priority. Grants for facilities and workforce are needed.

The REAP Executive Board will vote on final 2021 Legislative priorities at the Nov. 12, 2020 meeting.

**D. 2021 REAP Work Plan and Budget: Mayor Tom Brown**

The 2020 Reap Work Plan and budget were reviewed. Due to Covid-19, meetings and quarterly convenings have been virtual which has resulted in a decrease in expenses. The following changes were recommended for 2021:

- Amend bylaws to include cooperative purchasing contracts/partnerships
- Quarterly convening topics to consider: Behavioral health, passenger rail, childcare access, regional water conference and electric vehicles

**E. Connectivity Grant: Mayor Tom Brown**

South Central Kansas communities have been awarded broadband connectivity grants through the Kansas Department of Commerce. Grants have been awarded to telecom companies to make infrastructure improvements in the following communities:

- McPherson: \$487,084 -Fiber to premise broadband service with available speeds up to 1GB symmetrical to these rural areas where 100% or more of the population lacks sufficient access to broadband speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload
- Harper: \$552,000 - Fiber to premise broadband service with speeds up to 1 Gig speeds to the rural KS community of Harper, where 100% of the population lacks sufficient access to terrestrial based broadband speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload
- Anthony: \$534,000 - Fiber to premise broadband service with speeds up to 1 Gig speeds to the rural Kansas community of Anthony, where 100% of the population lacks sufficient access to terrestrial based broadband speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload
- Pratt: \$349,200 - Fiber to premise broadband service with speeds up to 1 Gig speeds to the rural KS community of Pratt, where 100% of the population lacks sufficient access to terrestrial based broadband speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload
- Moundridge: \$127,931 - This project will bring Gig service to the Waste Water Treatment Facility as well as service to several businesses and residences. The area proposed is currently underserved with 15/1 maximum copper DSL service
- Derby, Kechi, Topeka, Dodge City/Dodge Township: \$1,381,285 - This project includes building out broadband services to 550 new and currently unserved homes throughout Kansas. Two of these locations are in Shawnee County-north of Topeka; two of these locations are in Sedgwick County-Derby, Kechi/Valley Center; and one location is near Dodge City. Cox Communications plans to provide fiber to the home in four of these projects and hybrid fiber coax for one project
- Full list of awarded grants can be found here: <https://governor.kansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Final-CERG-Awards.pdf>

**8. Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.**

Attendees:

Mayor Tom Brown, Chair	Secretary David Toland
Vice Mayor Cindy Claycomb, Vice Chair	Kathy Sexton, Derby
Council Member Tom Jones, Treasurer	Randy Frazer, Arkansas City
Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope	John Waltner, Harvey County EDC
Mayor Donna Clasen, Maize	Valerie Wise, Eisenhower Airport
Mayor Gary Schmidt, Pratt	Karyn Page, Kansas Global
Commissioner Chip Westfall, Harvey County	Evan Rosell, Greater Wichita Partnership
Council Member Troy Tabor, Andover	Kurt Yowell,
Council Member Tom Kiel, Derby	Chairman Pete Meitzner, Sg. Co BoCC
Ty Lasher, Bel Aire	Kevin Coccetella
Lucas Neece, Lindsborg	Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance & REAP
Sean Fox, Park City	Laura Rainwater, REAP