

**REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Zoom Meeting  
Wichita Workforce Center  
May 13, 2021 ~ 11:30 a.m.

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1. **Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Agenda:** Mayor Tom Brown, Chair  
REAP Chair, Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.
  2. ***ACTION TAKEN: Council Member Cindy Claycomb (Wichita) motioned to APPROVE the Minutes from the April 8, 2021 REAP Executive Committee. Seconded by Lucas Neece (Lindsborg). Motion carried 15-0.***
  3. ***ACTION TAKEN: Council Member Cindy Claycomb (Wichita) motioned to APPOINT Dr. Dennis Rittle, President Cowley Community College, and Terrell Davis, Executive Director of Public Affairs, USD 259 Wichita Public Schools, to the REAP Executive Committee. Seconded by Council Member Tom Jones (Park City). Motion carried 15-0.***
  4. **AMTRAK Expansion: Chairman Pete Meitzner, Sedgwick County Commission**  
Improved, Modern Service for the Midwest
    - Wichita Connection is one of the Top 5 projects
    - \$80B assigned to AMTRAK
    - AMTRAK is committed to cover if transportation bill gets passed
      - \$30M on the Kansas side, \$90M on the Oklahoma side
      - Includes funds to cover revenue shortfall for the first 3 years
    - Goal is to connect Dallas, TX to Kansas City, MO
      - Adding stops throughout southern KS and northern OK
      - Potentially updating existing platforms or building new
  5. **Legislative Update: Erik Sartorius & Andrew Wiens**  
**Erik Sartorius:**
    - SB273- Relief to Businesses
      - Bill is currently on Gov. Kelly's Desk
      - Affects businesses with less than 50 employees
      - Relief is available in cities/counties whose rules were stricter than the state
        - Face masks are not considered a restriction
      - Senate put in provision for 35% of county ARPA funds
        - Federal government states can't dictate how counties use the ARPA funds
        - Through the end of 2023
    - HB2313- Tax Transparency
      - Property Tax Rebate
        - Health Club Tax Exemption
        - Alerts went out and exemption was rejected
      - If a local government issues a restrictive order closing a business, the business doesn't pay property tax for each day they are closed

- SB50
  - Marketplace Tax Included in SB50
    - Adds a sales tax to online purchases
    - Should positively impact smaller communities that rely on online retailers

**Andrew Wiens:**

- Thank you to REAP Sponsorship of Legislative Reception
- Truth in Taxation- Property Tax
- Decoupling from Federal Tax Code
- TEFPI Bill- Signed by Gov. Kelly in Hesston
  - Will impact banking and investing services in a positive manor
- Star Bonds were extended
- Angel Investor Tax Credit
- Occupational Licensing Reciprocity

**Council Member Claycomb - Questions**

- Does any of the market place tax collected make it back down to local level?
  - Erik- Yes it will
- SB273- If a city enacts a mask mandate after May 31<sup>st</sup>, do they have to set aside the 35% of ARPA Funds?
  - Erik- Yes

**6. Workforce Economic Impact Report: Keith Lawing, President & CEO, Workforce Alliance of South-Central Kansas**

- Economy is Recovering!
  - More Job Growth expected in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2021
    - Spirit and Textron are bringing people back
  - Unemployment number is going down
- Workforce Shortage
  - Biggest challenge is getting in applications, and drawing people back to the workforce
    - Childcare, health concerns, and unemployment benefits are common concerns regarding people reentering the workforce

**7. Groundwater Management District 2 Annual Meeting: Laura Rainwater**

- Meeting date to be July 13, 14, or 15<sup>th</sup> in the evening
  - Waiting to see if location is available, then finalized date will be published
- Three Board Seats up for Election
  - Kathy Sexton, Derby
  - Don Henry, Wichita
  - Suzanne Loomis, Newton
- Working towards gaining input from larger municipalities

**8. Other Business**

- Airport Advisory Board: Kelly McElroy (Newton)
  - TSA extended mask mandate through Sept. 13
  - Passenger traffic is significantly increasing
  - Cargo is up

- Hotel Development has been put on hold
  - Set to be funded by airport revenue bonds
- Transit Advisory Committee: Troy Tabor (Andover)
  - Written report attached to meeting packet

**9. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Regional Convening: Laura Rainwater**

- Focusing on Higher Education
  - WSU
  - Cowley
  - Bethany
  - McPherson
  - Board of Regents

**10. Community Updates**

- Lucas Neece (Lindsborg)
  - Bids for childcare center on \$3M facility
  - Groundbreaking in June
- Kelly McElroy (Newton)
  - Law enforcement appreciation week
  - EMS & Public works week
- Sean Fox (Park City)
  - Amazon
    - 1M SQFT on Ground floor
      - 250 SQFT mezzanine
    - Operational by July, Fully functional by October
    - 500-800 Employees
    - New Sewer Line installed
  - Pratt Industries
    - 1M SQFT facilities
    - 250 Employees
    - KDOT Grant- 77<sup>th</sup> & Broadway roundabout

**Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.**

***ACTION TAKEN: Council Member Cindy Claycomb (Wichita) motioned to ADJOURN the May 13, 2021 REAP Executive Committee. Seconded by Lucas Neece (Lindsborg). Motion carried 15-0.***

Attendees:

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| <p><b>Voting Members:</b><br/>Mayor Tom Brown, Chair, McPherson<br/>Vice Mayor Cindy Claycomb, Vice Chair, Wichita<br/>Council Member Tom Jones, Treasurer, Park City<br/>Chairman Pete Meitzner, Sedgwick County<br/>Mayor Donna Clasen, Maize<br/>Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope<br/>Mayor Gary Schmidt, Pratt<br/>Lucas Neece, Lindsborg<br/>John Waltner, Harvey County EDC<br/>Ty Lasher, Bel Aire<br/>David Dillner, El Dorado<br/>Kelly McElroy, Newton</p> | <p><b>Other Stakeholders:</b><br/>Sean Fox, Park City<br/>Darren Muci, Muci &amp; Associates<br/>Erik Sartorius, LKM<br/>Kevin Coccetella, Preferred Capital, LLC<br/>Terrell Davis, USD 259<br/>Dennis Rittle, Cowley Community College<br/>Andrew Wiens, Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce<br/>Brett Letkowski, TranSystems<br/>Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance<br/>Laura Rainwater, REAP<br/>Zoe Sisco, REAP</p> |
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