

REAP Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Wichita Workforce Center

2021 N Amidon Ave #1100

Wichita, KS 67203

October 27, 2022 ~ 11:30 am

1. Welcome and Introductions: Mayor Tom Brown, Chair (11:30 a.m.)
2. Approval of Minutes from Executive Committee Meeting from September 8, 2022 (pp. 2-5): Mayor Tom Brown, Chair
Recommended Action: Approve the Minutes from the September 8, 2022 REAP Executive Committee meeting.
3. Build Back Better Grant Overview: Debbie Franklin, Wichita State University
Recommended Action: Provide feedback.
4. Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs Programs: Dr. Melissa Walker, Director
Recommended Action: Provide feedback.
5. RFP for REAP Government Relations Services (pp. 6-8): Laura Rainwater
Recommended Action: Take appropriate action.
6. 2023 REAP Legislative Policy Platform and Priorities (pp. 9-10): Mayor Tom Brown, Chair
Recommended Action: Take appropriate action.
7. Committee Reports
 - A. Airport Advisory Board (pp. 11-12): Randy Frazer (Arkansas City)
 - B. Transit Advisory Committee (pp. 13): Troy Tabor (Andover)**Recommended Action: Receive and file.**
8. Community Updates
9. Adjourn (1:00 p.m.)

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.

REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Wichita Workforce Center

2021 N Amidon Ave #1100

Wichita, KS 67203

September 8, 2022 ~ 11:30 am

1. Welcome and Introductions: Mayor Tom Brown, Chair
2. Approval of Minutes from Executive Committee Meeting from July 28, 2022: Mayor Tom Brown, Chair

ACTION TAKEN: Council Member Tom Jones (Park City) made a motion to approve the July 28, 2022 REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. Mayor Terry Somers (Mount Hope) seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Talent Roadmap Leadership Coalition: Tami Bradley, Senior Strategic Advisor for Talent Roadmap and Workforce Development
Recommended Action: Provide feedback
 - Talent Roadmap created: Founders, GWP, Kansas Dept. of Commerce, Workforce Alliance, City of Wichita and Sedgwick County
 - Process led by Deloitte, however much community engagement
 - Ambition statement created: “We are a vibrant, global community of possibility that invests boldly, takes risks, and defies expectations”
 - 13 action steps: business, industry and education working together
 - Talent Roadmap Leadership Coalition created - first meeting Sept. 27, 2022
 - Selection criteria: Leadership, community trust and subject matter expertise
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Representatives from across the Wichita region will serve as “boots on the ground
 - Hold each other accountable
 - Provide oversight to the work of the Talent Roadmap
 - Mission of Consortium: Establish connection between public, private and community stakeholders to drive inclusion by bringing diverse voices to the table with the goal of identifying and addressing the priorities, needs and barriers faced by various populations across the greater Wichita region
 - Responsibilities defined

- Scope and Expectations
 - Cascade the strategies/pillars – tactical initiatives that drive the ambition statement
 - Establish feedback loops, collect feedback and proactively address gaps and needs shared by stakeholders
 - Champion the initiatives driven by the Talent Roadmap and encourage stakeholders across the region to do the same
 - Time Commitment – Will meet quarterly and more as needed
 - Mayor Tom Brown (McPherson) stated more regional representation is needed on the Coalition
 - Tami Bradley will work on getting more representation from outside of Sedgwick County
4. One Workforce Grant Report: Mary Mann, Workforce Alliance of South-Central Kansas
- Recommended Action: Receive and file**
- Employer Driven
 - Buckets of money
 - Scholarships funding buckets for training
 - Incumbent worker training
 - In-house or custom programs, or through scholarships to local colleges or universities in technology and advanced manufacturing based on employer needs
 - Available to all in the 10-county region for advance manufacturing and IT
 - \$1million grant for Digital Transformation through the Office of Innovation and New Ventures at WSU
5. WAMPO Regional Transportation Projects and Upcoming Studies: Chad Parasa, Executive Director, and Ashley Bryers, Transportation Planning Manager
- Recommended Action: Receive and file**
- Notable KDOT Projects:
 - I-235/I-135/K-254 Interchange (North Junction)
 - K-96: Discovery Phase for Upgrade from 4- Lane to 6-Lane
 - Right of Way Acquisition for Northwest Wichita Bypass
 - US-54 (E. Kellogg Ave) in Sedgwick/Butler counties
 - Upcoming studies:
 - Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
 - Economic Development Report
 - Travel Demand Model Update
 - Regional Transit Feasible Study - 2023
 - Regional Transit Committee Formation - 2023
 - Regional Active Transportation Plan - 2023/2024

6. Committee Reports
 - A. Kansas Legislative Update: Kimberly & Josh Svaty
 - Interim committee on water
 - Committee adjourned without making any recommendations
 - Many speaker stated that the voices of municipal governments were not fairly represented
 - Need a dedicated funding source
 - Move Chief Engineer
 - Discussion on lack of municipal representatives
 - B. Airport Advisory Board: Report provided by Randy Frazer (Arkansas City)
 - Full written report was provided in REAP Executive Committee Meeting packet
 - Traffic back to pre-covid numbers
 - C. Transit Advisory Board: Report provided by Council Member Troy Tabor (Andover)
 - Full written report was provided in REAP Executive Committee Meeting packet
 - Transit is moving forward with board consolidation
7. Community Updates
 - Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce City-to-City visit is to Minneapolis this year – Mayor Tom Brown (McPherson), Mayor John Lehnherr (Park City) and REAP Executive Director will be attending
 - CEDBR Economic Outlook Conference, October 6th 7:30-11:30 – REAP is a table sponsor
 - Mental Health Association Beautiful Minds Gala: Saturday, Oct. 8, 6-9PM, at Mark Arts – REAP is a table sponsor
 - RFP for REAP Government Relations Services closes tomorrow (Sept. 9)
 - Council Member Mike Hoheisel (Wichita):
 - Budget passed
 - Money to pave dirt roads
 - Money to fund positions in police department for mental health
 - Money to address sewer plant stench in South Wichita
 - WSU awarded Build Back Better Grant of \$51million to advance smart manufacturing technologies in south central Kansas
 - McPherson College announcement of \$1 billion investment
8. Adjourned at 12:54PM

NEXT MEETING: Due to the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce's City-to-City visit Oct. 12-14, our next meeting has been moved to Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 11:30

Attendees:

Name	City	In Person	Zoom
Mayor Tom Brown	McPherson	X	
Mayor Russ Kessler	Haysville	X	
Will Black	Haysville	X	
Kristi Northcutt	Lindsborg		X
Lucas Neece	Lindsborg		X
Tami Bradley	GWP	X	
Kasi Morales	McPherson		X
Chad Parasa	WAMPO	X	
Ashley Bryers	WAMPO	X	
Dr. Justin Henry	Goddard USD		X
Dr. Randy Smith	Cowley College		X
Keith Lawing	Workforce Alliance	X	
Mary Mann	Workforce Alliance	X	
Council Member Mike Hoheisel	Wichita		X
Lauren Clarey	Kansas Gas Service		X
Mayor Terry Somers	Mount Hope	X	
Council Member Tom Jones	Park City	X	
Anthony Swartzendruber	Harvey County	X	
Kelly McElroy	Newton		X
Council Member Troy tabor	Andover		X
Council Member Nick Engel	Derby		X
Diane Tinker-Hurst	WSU		X
Kimberly Svaty			X
Josh Svaty			X
Don Koci	Burns McDonnell		X
Kennisha Rolfe	Workforce Alliance	X	
Laura Rainwater	REAP	X	

Background:

At the July 28, 2022, REAP Executive Committee meeting, members unanimously approved the authorization for the REAP Executive Director to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Government Relations Services for REAP. On August 5, 2022, the RFP was emailed directly to individuals/firms who have previously worked with REAP staff and members on regional issues. To ensure access for all registered lobbying firms/individuals, it was also published in the Kansas Register and posted on the REAP website.

REAP Chair appointed the following to the RFP review panel to evaluate submitted proposals: REAP Chair, REAP Vice Chair, REAP Treasurer, REAP Executive Director and REAP Senior Advisor.

The following timeline for the RFP was established:

1. August 5, 2022: RFP release - Email potential firms and post to REAP website
2. August 14, 2022 (5PM): Deadline to submit written questions
3. August 15, 2022: Virtual meeting to answer questions from potential bidders with REAP Executive Director and REAP Senior Advisor
4. August 20, 2022 (5PM): Deadline to answer submitted questions and post to REAP website
5. September 9, 2022 (1PM): Deadline to submit proposal via email. Three proposals submitted:
 - Gencur Svaty Public Affairs
 - 1861 Consulting
 - Strategy Consultants
6. Week of September 19, 2022: Review committee evaluated proposals using a scoring rubric to determine a recommendation to give to the REAP Executive Committee at the October 27, 2022 REAP Executive Committee meeting for a preferred vendor

Based on the evaluations from members of the RFP review panel using the scoring rubric (attached), the panel unanimously recommends contracting with Gencur Svaty Public Affairs beginning December 1, 2022 and ending November 30, 2024.

Recommended Action:

Authorize Executive Director to negotiate scope of work and terms of contract with Gencur Svaty Public Affairs for REAP government relations services and authorize the necessary signatures on contract.



Candidate Name:
Reviewer Name:
Date Reviewed:

**Request for Proposal for
Government Relations Services
Scoring Rubric**

1. Please evaluate proposal for (1) Required Elements, (2) Quality of Proposal, (3) Rates, and (4) Additional Considerations.
2. Verify the inclusion of Required Elements (Y/N).
3. Evaluate the Quality of the Proposal on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) – select “0” if the component is missing from the proposal. Total Quality of Proposal score.
4. Evaluate the included Rates (prohibitive, competitive, bargain). Select “missing” if not included.
5. Review the Additional Considerations (Y/N) and include the total estimate amount.
6. Include comments and a final recommendation.

Required Elements	No	Yes
Cover Page including Cover Letter		
General information: Location of offices, number of partners and associates, contact information, liability insurance, any litigation (current or settled in the last two years)		
Resume of Key Personnel		
Minimum of three (3) professional references/letters of recommendation from current or previous clients		
Evidence of successful service of similar size, scope, and complexity		
Executive Summary		
Narrative response illustrating Firm’s qualifications and/or background and how the Firm would use their expertise to meets the deliverables and objectives outlined in the Scope of Work		
Itemized quote outlining services and cost associated with such service with authorized signature and date. An electronic signature is acceptable		
Overall cost of products/services		

Quality of Proposal	Poor			Excellent		
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Ability in terms of workload and availability of qualified personnel to perform the required services competently and expeditiously						
Narrative response describing Firm's relevant experience						
Evidence of specialized experience that may be relevant to REAP members						
References: Describes the Firm's current relationship with governmental agencies and/or quasi-public corporations, including information in the following format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of Governmental Agency Relationship (type of counsel services provided) Length of time serving in this capacity Expiration date of current contract 						
Identifies any actual or potential conflicts of interest						
Identifies any publications and other information and resources of the Firm that will be available to REAP members.						
Additional equipment/services offered beyond those listed in the RFP						
Describes Firm's proposed fee structure for the two (2) applicable years identified under this RFP; including the costs of various reimbursable expenses.						

Required Elements Comments:

Quality of Proposal Comments:

Rates Comments:

Additional Comments:

Based on the overall merits of the proposal and the estimate for proposed products and/or services, would you recommend this candidate receive the award for Government Relations Services for the Regional Economic Area Partnership?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2023 Legislative and Policy Priorities

REAP's purpose is to provide a unified voice for the region at the state and national levels, advance greater economic prosperity from regional cooperation and address issues that cross political boundaries. The following issues have been identified by the members of REAP as policy and Legislative priorities for South Central Kansas.



REGIONAL JOB GROWTH & BUSINESS EXPANSION

Workforce

- REAP supports policies and investments targeting workforce recruitment strategies and skills training in high-demand areas that generate high wage career opportunities vital to economic development in South Central Kansas.
- REAP supports legislation to expand funding for workforce development programs, including the Excel in CTE initiative, the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT), work-based learning, and apprenticeships.
- REAP supports crafting incentives to aid the aviation industry in attracting and retaining talent locally.

Education

- REAP encourages policymakers and post-secondary institutions to adopt innovative programs and practices to meet the need of an abundant and skilled business workforce.
- REAP supports legislation that would increase need-based aid for first generation or non-traditional students aiming for higher education to bolster workforce talent.

Economic Development

- REAP supports continued availability and expansion of economic development incentives, programs, and tools that keep the state competitive regionally, nationally and globally.
- REAP supports funding and incentives for childcare facilities and grants for families who cannot afford childcare to help maintain a robust workforce.
- REAP encourages state efforts to increase access to affordable housing in additional to mixed-use housing communities.
- REAP supports state legislation establishing a program to help the state collect state and local sales and compensating use taxes due from in-state purchasers on remote sales. Remitted taxes should be distributed using existing methods/formulas for the state and local governments.
- REAP supports property appraisals based on fair-market value. We oppose any legislation that artificially limits or otherwise alters property valuation.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

- REAP encourages additional investments to address access to mental health treatment and the associated facilities in South Central Kansas.
- REAP supports additional and innovative solutions to combat, treat and prevent addiction to opioids and other drugs.

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Federal Infrastructure Funding

- The federal government passed three bills with significant infrastructure investment opportunities in South Central Kansas communities. Federal funding is available for broadband deployment, water and wastewater investment, power and energy sector investment, resiliency programs as well as sizable, targeted transportation dollars. REAP will work with the State to ensure assistance with the required local match needed to secure funding and to help with the build out of the grant writing and support network to help facilitate securing all the federal formula and grant money available to South Central Kansas communities.

Funding for Transportation Priorities

- REAP recognizes the need for adequate funding to build and preserve the transportation infrastructure in South Central Kansas, specifically projects/investments with that are vital to business and industry. REAP supports the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE) and encourages equitable taxing and distribution of funding to address critical needs in South Central Kansas.

Rail Service

- REAP supports state funding for existing freight rail service and expansion of passenger rail in Kansas, specifically passenger rail service expanding the Heartland Flyer from Dallas/Ft Worth and Oklahoma City connecting through Wichita to Newton and the Southwest Chief, providing our state with service to Oklahoma and Texas.

Water Protection

- REAP supports policies and strategies to protect water resources critical to the economy of South Central Kansas, including protection of the Equus Beds Aquifer that supplies water for 20% of the Kansas population.
- REAP recognizes the need for all voices to be heard on the Groundwater Management District 2 (GMD2) Board of Directors and supports legislation to ensure municipal representation on the GMD2 Board.

Energy Resources

- 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 clean energy.

REDISTRICTING & HOME RULE

- REAP favors extending constitutional protection for county home rule authority – a change that will enable county leaders to best serve their constituents

FEDERAL ISSUES

- REAP supports full funding for employment and training systems driven by the needs of business and industry by leveraging opportunities under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to enhance sector-based partnerships that are employer led and advocate for demand-driven workforce and training programs.
- REAP supports federal funding for expansion of passenger rail in Kansas, specifically passenger rail service expanding the Heartland Flyer from Dallas/Ft Worth and Oklahoma City connecting through Wichita to Newton and the Southwest Chief, providing our state with service to Oklahoma and Texas.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Airport Director, Jesse Romo, reported that the Wichita Airport Authority hosted a successful Job Fair for airport tenants on August 30. There were 16 companies represented and a steady stream of job seekers attended.
- Stacey Wilbanks was introduced as the new Operations Manager.

STAFF REPORTS:

- Runway Rehabilitation project at Jabara ended a few weeks ago. The contractor was Snodgrass & Sons. The project received funds from a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation Division of Aviation grants program.
- The General Aviation Project using Pearson Construction is currently in phase 6 with an anticipated completion date of December 2023.
- The street side project is also contracted with Pearson. That project is underway and is about halfway complete. The contractor is moving over to Harry Street, also called Learjet Way, to do pavement patching and sealing. On the south side of centerline is Airport property. The north side of centerline is Bombardier property. Bombardier will reimburse half of the cost.
- MCAS hangar is complete. It is the largest hangar on the airport property with approximately 34,000 sf, which includes 2,000 sf of office space on the mezzanine level.

Air Service:

- July 2022 passenger activity performed at 90.5% of July 2019. For the year, passenger traffic is up 26%. Labor Day weekend was strong, with a 3% increase in passengers over 2019's Labor Day weekend. Load factors in the summer have been strong, reaching 90% in many cases. That is an indication of oversold flights and spilling passengers to other airports.
- The gap between capacity and passengers was narrow during the summer and appears to be widening during this time of year, which is normal. Compared to 2019, Q4 2022 seats will be down 1% while flights will be down 16%. This is due to a larger aircraft. Narrowbody aircraft make up 52% of our flights compared to 34% in Q4 2019. Large regional jets will be 17% compared to 12%, and small regional jets will be 31% compared to 54%.
- On Oct. 18, 2022, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released its second-quarter average airfare report. The average U.S. domestic airfare increased in the second quarter of 2022 to \$397, up 22% from the second quarter 2021 inflation-adjusted fare of \$326. The average Q2 2022 airfare was up 35% from \$295 in the first full quarter (Q2) of the pandemic in 2020 and down 2% from pre-pandemic Q4 2019 (\$406).
- Eisenhower National Airport, the average inflation-adjusted domestic fare in Q2 2022 increased 19% to \$442.45 from Q2 2021.

- Airline costs have increased considerably during 2022. Jet fuel prices have increased 135% from an average of \$1.75/gallon during 2015-2019, to a high of \$4.12/gallon in June. Labor shortages are forcing higher wages for pilots, crew, and mechanics. Fuel and labor comprise the two largest cost centers for U.S. passenger airlines, with fuel at 17% and labor at 33% of total costs. Despite these higher costs, Wichita's average airfare is 2% less Q2 2019. Compared to Q2 2000, Wichita's Q2 2022 average inflation-adjusted airfare is down 34%.

Q2 2022 Average Airfares - ICT

QUARTER	AIRFARE
Q2 2022	\$442.45
Q2 2021	\$371.60
Q2 2020	\$304.69
Q2 2019	\$453.42
Q2 2000	\$674.59

Q2 2022 Regional Airfares

AIRPORT	AIRFARE
Kansas City	\$425.31
Tulsa	\$433.22
Omaha	\$443.96
Little Rock	\$465.54
OKC	\$454.67
U.S. Average	\$397.14
Wichita	\$442.45

- Looking ahead at Q1 2023, there will be 18% more seats and 21% more flights. Most of the increases are from our network carriers. American will add a 7th daily flight to DFW, United will add a 5th daily flight to Denver, a 4th daily flight to Houston, and a 4th daily flight to Chicago. Southwest has reduced its Phoenix and Las Vegas routes to weekend flying. Phoenix will be completely out of the schedule until early March and it will only operate on weekends. Southwest has said that they are committed to restoring their network. For now, they fly westbound passengers through Denver and eastbound passengers through St. Louis.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

Discussion Items:

TranSystems Update

Brett Letkowski gave quick updates on the Multimodal Facility:

- Met FTA last week to talk about overall design
- Way ahead of schedule
- Engineering and resized the facility to meet current budget
- Next step is to present to council
- Design teams meeting next week to discuss the 30%-60% design phase
- Looking to have 60% concept towards end of the year

Marketing Report:

Mike Tann provided a review in Nathaniel Hinkels' absence:

- Digital insight, Route 15 detour closed for two years due to Amidon bridge closure
- Route 15 will be free while bridge is under construction
- Smart Cards still in process
- August peaked due to school in session
- USD 259 increased ridership
- Choice riders had huge increase

Director's Report:

KPTA conference held here in Wichita. It has been the highest in attendance in a long time.

Fire event of a CCW bus smoking coming from the top. Wichita fire department was called no fire to put out. Investigation was done. Bus was not powered on, not charging, and had not been in service since September 15. It was sitting in the bay and had been there over 48 hours. Manufacturer will be coming in to do a complete checkup as to why it started smoking. Staff handled the whole situation very well.

Met with WSU for more service on game nights. Routes 202 and 202A run one hour before weekday games and half hour after games. Will utilize the off-campus areas. This will help ridership. Meetings are being held on campus for the disabled community 21A route deviations from out parking areas with handicap accessibility to buildings on campus.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.