

REAP Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Wichita Workforce Center

2021 N Amidon Ave #1100

Wichita, KS 67203

November 10, 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 October 27, 2022 (pp. 2-5): Mayor Tom Brown, Chair
Recommended Action: Approve the Minutes from the October 27, 2022 REAP Executive Committee meeting.
3. Build Up Kansas: Mike Gibson, Executive Vice President, Associated General Contractors of Kansas
Recommended Action: Provide Feedback.
4. GovBuilt Presentation: Robert Disberger, Owner and Vice President
Recommended Action: Provide Feedback.
5. 2023 REAP Legislative Policy Priorities (pp. 6-7): Kimberly & Josh Svaty
Recommended Action: Approve the 2023 REAP Legislative Policy Priorities.
6. 2023 REAP Executive Officers (pg. 8): Mayor Tom Brown
Recommended Action: REAP Chair shall appoint a nominating committee comprised of no less than three (3) members representatives who will at the last meeting of the calendar year, place in nomination the names of REAP members for Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer.
7. Community Updates
8. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.

REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wichita Workforce Center

2021 N Amidon Ave #1100

Wichita, KS 67203

October 27, 2022, 2022 ~ 11:30 am

1. Welcome and Introductions: Mayor Tom Brown, Chair (11:36 a.m.)
2. Approval of Minutes from Executive Committee Meeting from September 28, 2022:
Mayor Tom Brown, Chair

ACTION TAKEN: Council Member Tom Jones (Park City) made a motion to approve September 8, 2022, REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. Russ Kessler (Haysville) seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Build Back Better Grant Overview: Debbie Franklin, Wichita State University
 - ARPA funded awarded 529 proposals nationwide 8 from KS/Kansas City, MO
 - WSU proposal was the only one selected for phase 2
 - One of 21 that received the award nationally
 - Transform our regional economy and super charge advanced manufacturing through a collection of collaborative, aligned project
 - The world is flying 26,000 commercial aircraft, forecast over the next 20 years will need to build 40,000 more
 - South Kansas Coalition: Empower equitable adoption of productivity enhancing technologies for sustainable, precision manufacturing competitiveness profitability
 - Build economic diversity and ensure long-term supply chain resilience
 - Major components: Develop a complete solution to the adoption of additive manufacturing through guidance and data, hybrid technical training, and on-site factory support
 - Future factory high-velocity machining, and Future Factory Lab w/industrial commons
 - Technology and Innovation Building - The building is 85,000 and will be located on the WSU Innovation Campus
 - 4-year team with \$51.4million in smart manufacturing technologies
 - South Central Kansas growth clusters: transportation, manufacturing, petroleum and coal products manufacturing

4. Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs Programs: Dr. Melissa Walker, Director
 - Dr. Walker discussed the Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs program
 - Mini MPA program begins in January 2023 - Looking for people who want to learn more about local government. Cost is \$1,050 and meets for 16 weeks
5. RFP for REAP Government Relations Services: Laura Rainwater

Laura presented a summary of the process of the RFP to hire government relations services for REAP for the next 2 years.

 - Committee appointed by REAP Chair to evaluate proposals submitted
 - The committee used a scoring rubric to evaluate three submitted proposals
 - Based on scoring, the committee recommends hiring Gencur Svaty Public Relations

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Russ Kessler (Haysville) motioned to approve Gencur Svaty Public Affairs to represent REAP. Tom Jones (Park City) seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. 2023 REAP Legislative Policy Platform and Priorities: Mayor Tom Brown, Chair
 - Mayor Brown briefly mentioned the legislative policy platform and priorities, mentioned helping students get into the smart manufacturing business
 - Laura mentioned Andy presented an email regarding higher education
 - Keith Lawing: Less focus on aviation and more on how to attract and retain workforce for all sectors
 - Dr. Justin Henry: Fully funding state aid for K-12 school districts as this directly impacts workforce readiness and property tax policy for South Central Kansas
 - Include funding to build a regional mental health hospital in South Central Kansas
 - Support legislation to assist and support a stronger workforce pipeline, attract new workforce, and support current behavioral healthcare staff
 - Other minor edits to the REAP 2022 Legislative Platform will be made and a revised 2023 REAP Legislative and Policy Priorities Platform will be presented at the November 10, 2022, REAP Executive Committee meeting
7. Committee Reports
 - A. Airport Advisory Board: Randy Frazer (Arkansas City) & Valerie Wise, Eisenhower Airport
 - September traffic increased
 - For the year, passenger traffic is up 26%
 - 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
 - Eisenhower National Airport, the average inflation-adjusted domestic fare in Q2 2022 increased 19% to \$442.45 from Q2 2021

- Airlines reporting earnings are increasing, Salina is in jeopardy of losing service
 - 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
- B. Transit Advisory Committee: Council Member Troy Tabor (Andover)
- 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
 - KPTA conference held here in Wichita - 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.

8. Community Updates
- Mayor Brown reminded everyone to get out and vote
 - Council Member Nick Engel (Derby) and Mayor Brown summarized their experiences on the Chamber's City-to City visit to Minneapolis
 - REAP will recognize Harvey County Commissioner Chip Westfall at an upcoming meeting. Commissioner Westfall is retiring after his term is over. He has been a huge supporter of REAP and understands the importance of regional collaboration
 - South Central Kansas Legislature Delegation meeting at WSU on December 15, 2022, from 1-5PM

- The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition held a fall update meeting on work progress in addressing regional mental health challenges. Workforce/talent pipeline is top priority

9. Adjourn (12:55 p.m.)

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

Attendees:

Name	City	In Person	Zoom
Mayor Tom Brown, Chair	McPherson	X	
Commissioner Pete Meitzner	Sedgwick County	X	
Council Member Nick Engel	Derby	X	
Kyle Fiedler	North Newton	X	
Diane Tinker Hurst	WSU Tech		X
Dr. Randy Smith	Cowley Community College		X
Marc Howell	SCKEDD	X	
Council Member Mike Hoheisel	Wichita		X
Melissa Walker	WSU		X
Debbie Franklin	WSU	X	
Mayor Russ Kessler	Haysville	X	
Council Member Tom Jones	Park City	X	
Ashley Bryers	WAMPO	X	
Valerie Wise	ICT Airport	X	
Commissioner Don Schroeder	Harvey County	X	
Tim Boese	GMDZ		X
Sean Fox	Park City	X	
Dr. Justin Henry	USD 265 Goddard	X	
Keith Lawing	Workforce Alliance	X	
Mayor Ashley Velazquez	Kechi		X
Tonya Witherspoon	WSU		X
Kennisha Rolfe	REAP	X	
Laura Rainwater	REAP	X	

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 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.
- REAP supports funding to make college affordable by offering scholarships that close the gap between Pell grant and cost of attendance.
- REAP supports the continuation of fully funding state aid for K-12 school districts as this directly impacts workforce readiness and property tax policy for South Central Kansas.

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 addition 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, including funding to build a regional mental health hospital in South Central Kansas.
- REAP supports additional and innovative solutions to combat, treat and prevent addiction to opioids and other drugs.
- REAP supports legislation to assist and support a stronger workforce pipeline, attract new workforce, and support current behavioral healthcare staff.

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. This will improve the Kansas transportation system by creating an expanded connection to the Amtrak national grid.

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 fair and equitable 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.

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.

Background:

According to the REAP bylaws (below) adopted on March 11, 2021, the REAP Chair shall appoint a nominating committee comprised of no less than three (3) members representatives who will at the last meeting of the calendar year, place in nomination the names of REAP members for Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Election and Term of Office.

1. Officers. There shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer.
 - A. Chair. The Chair shall be the chief presiding officer of REAP, and shall preside over and call all regular and special meetings of REAP in accordance with these bylaws, and shall represent REAP before all bodies in his/her official capacity, serving as the spokesperson for the organization. The Chair shall be responsible for the execution of all directives and actions taken by REAP. The Chair is selected through the Nomination and Election process detailed in section 3.
 - B. Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall, in the absence of the Chair, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Chair. In addition, the Vice Chair shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Chair or prescribed by the Committee. The Vice Chair is selected through the Nomination and Election process detailed in section 3.
 - C. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall exercise the administration of and the adherence to the fiscal policy of REAP. In addition, the Treasurer shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Chair. The Treasurer is selected through the Nomination and Election process details in section 3.
2. Term. The term of office for Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer shall be for a period of one year, or until such officer's successor is elected.
3. Nomination and Election. In advance of the final meeting of each calendar year, the Chair shall appoint a nominating committee comprised of no less than three (3) members representatives who will at the last meeting of the calendar year, place in nomination the names of REAP members for Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer. All member representatives of REAP are eligible to be nominated and elected to office. Officers elected at the final calendar meeting of the year assume their offices at the next regularly scheduled REAP Executive Committee Meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Take appropriate action.