

# REAP | Regional Economic Area Partnership

## **EAP Executive Committee Meeting Agenda** **Wichita Workforce Center - 2021 N. Amidon, #1100** **OR Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87961157122>** **November 2, 2023 ~ 11:30am**

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1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Commissioner Pete Meitzner, Sedgwick County, Chair (11:30)
2. **Approval of Minutes REAP Meeting: October 12, 2023:** Commissioner Meitzner (11:35)  
*Recommended Action: Approve as presented*
3. **Digital Literacy Presentation:** Nick Engle, Councilman, City of Derby (11:40)  
*Action: Share ideas and opportunities with your stakeholders*
4. **Regional Legislative Priorities:** Kimberly and Josh Svaty (11:55)  
*Plans for developing 2024 regional legislative priorities will be discussed, and an update on interim legislative committees will be presented*  
*Action: Draft of 2024 Legislative Priorities*
5. **REAP Organizational Committee: Nominations and Review of By-Laws (12:40)**
  - Kelly McElroy, Chair, City Administrator, Garden Plain
  - Mayor Tom Brown, McPherson
  - Mayor Terry Somers, Mt. Hope
  - Councilman Justin Shore, Clearwater
  - Randy Frazer, City Manager – Arkansas City
    - 2024 Officer Nominations: present slate of officers at Dec. meeting
    - By-Laws Review & Revisions: review By-Laws and present an update to the Executive Committee at the January 2024 meeting*Action: Approval of the Committee Assignments*
6. **MHSAC 2023 Fall Community Update and Legislative Luncheon**
  - November 16th, 2023; 10:00-2:30pm
  - WSU Eugene Hughes Metropolitan Complex  
5015 E. 29th Street North, Room 180, Wichita, KS 67220*Action: Register and Attend; [Register Now!](#)*
7. **REAP Member Updates, Best Practices and Opportunities:** Marcy Aycock (12:45)
  - Stakeholder/Community visits
  - Overview of REAP website and use strategies ([Strengthening the economy of South-Central Kansas through joint action of cities and counties \(reap-ks.org\)](#))
    - Calendar updates
    - Community Spotlights
  - REAP member sharing of news and happenings of interest in the region*Action: Share upcoming events, photos, etc.*
8. **Adjourn:** (1:00)

**NEXT MEETING: December 6, 2023**

# REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

## Wichita Workforce Center

2021 N Amidon Ave, #1100

Wichita, KS 67203

October 12, 2023 ~ 11:30 am

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### 1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Kelly McElroy, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 11:34 am and began introductions.
- Keith introduced the new Executive Director Dr. Marcy Aycock.

### 2. Approval of Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting from Sept. 7, 2023

- Kelly recommended changing Council Member Russ Kessler to Mayor of Haysville.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Kelly McElroy made a motion to approve the September 7, 2023, REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Tom Jones (Park City) seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 3. Eisenhower Airport Updates: Commercial Air Service Expansion and Regional Economic Impact:

- Jesse Romo, Director of Airports for the City of Wichita presented a presentation updating the current commercial air service at the Eisenhower Airport.
- Jesse reinforced the importance of expanding air service through the Eisenhower Airport and the positive economic impact it could have on Wichita.
- Keith Lawing made a motion to move fellow REAP members to share this information within their communities to promote awareness about these new non-stop flights being added to the airport:
  - November 5, 2023, to Phoenix Arizona, and Las Vegas
  - November 11, 2023, to Miami Florida
  - January 8, 2024, to Washington D.C.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Report was received and filed

### 4. 2024 Regional Legislative Priorities:

- Keith discussed the success of the Summer 2023 tours and how they helped the elected Legislatures understand the?
- Council Member Justin Shore suggested that we have an Agriculture tour next year.
- Keith presented the 2023 Legislative Priorities and that these should be a starting point for our Legislative priorities for next year.
- State investment into an airport incentive will be a return on investment. This expansion will help all surrounding areas not just Wichita.
- Mayor Tom Brown suggested that REAP be represented at the October 9, 2024, Water Summit.
- REAP is partnering with the Wichita Chamber for an evening reception honoring local elected officials on November 14, 2023.

- Tom Boese stated that the Governor's Water Conference will be on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He also stated that there are a lot of funding opportunities for smaller communities involving water issues and that REAP members need to explore those to help their communities.

***ACTION TAKEN:*** Report was received and filed

#### **5. South Central Kansas Transportation Infrastructure Projects and Priorities:**

- Kelly McElroy pointed out the regional priorities that KDOT and the Transportation Coalition are working on and encouraged everyone to add any opportunities that their communities may have.
- Keith said that REAP is involved with the K254 Corridor Association and is helping KDOT focus on safety. Development along that corridor will have a big economic impact on the communities involved.

#### **6. REAP Member Updates:**

- Haysville Fall Festival is on October 20-22.
- Bentley's 135<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash is Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>

#### **7. Adjourn:**

- Kelly McElroy adjourned the meeting at 1:00.

***NEXT MEETING:*** Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.

#### **Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>In Person</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
Rex Satterthwaite	Logic Data System-Bentley	X	
Councilmember Justin Shore	Clearwater	X	
Council Member Nick Engle	Derby	X	
City Manager Kelly McElroy	Newton	X	
Executive Director REAP Dr. Marcy Aycocok	Workforce	X	
Mayor Tom Brown	McPherson	X	
Mayor Russ Kessler	Mayor Haysville	X	
Council Member Tom Jones	Park City	X	
Mayor Tom Somers	Mount Hope	X	
Mayor Bryan Chapman	Sedgwick	X	
CEO Keith Lawing	Workforce Alliance	X	
Kim Uttinger	REAP	X	
Councilmember Michael Hoheisel	Wichita		X
Commissioner Pete Meitzner	Wichita	X	
Diane Tinker Hurst	WSU		X
Tim Boese	Manager GMD2		X

[illegible]

## 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 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, 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.

**REAP Nominating Committee:**

- Kelly McElroy, Chair, City Administrator, Garden Plain
- Mayor Tom Brown, McPherson
- Mayor Terry Somers, Mt. Hope
- Councilman Justin Shore, Clearwater
- Randy Frazer, City Manager – Arkansas City

**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.



## **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition**

### **Mental Health & Substance Abuse Coalition 2023 Fall Community Update and Legislative Luncheon**

**Join the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition for the 2023 Fall Community Update and Legislative Luncheon.**

The session will include hearing from KDADS Deputy Secretary Scott Brunner in reference to the Regional State Behavioral Health Hospital and transitioning into Legislative Policy Priorities.

As we move into the 2024 Legislative Session, we invite you to hear the Legislative Policy Priorities that the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition has identified to support Behavioral Health in our community.

Immediately following, you and a portion of the attendees will transition to a luncheon discussion where you will have the opportunity to discuss the legislative priorities from agencies supporting behavioral health efforts.

***Please select the "Get more information" link for the flyer***

[Get more information](#)

**[Register Now!](#)**

[I can't make it](#)

#### **When**

November 16th, 2023;  
10:00-2:30pm

#### **Where**

Eugene Hughes Metropolitan  
Complex  
5015 E. 29th Street North  
Room 180  
Wichita, KS 67220

[Driving Directions](#)



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The MiniMPA is a professional development series for people working in local government. Classes meet once each week on Friday mornings from 8 AM to 11AM. The first class and the last two classes meet in person, on campus. All other class sessions will be hybrid with the option to meet online or in-person. In this class you will learn how to:

- make tough budget decisions for a department, a city, or a county
- effectively communicate with elected officials and the public
- engage in win-win collaborative arrangements that involve other units of government, nonprofits, and private businesses
- increase diversity and inclusion through strategic human resource management in recruitment, retention, and promotion
- gain a better understanding of how your department relates to the budget of your city or county
- increase critical thinking about challenging issues facing your cities or counties



### PROGRAM DETAILS:

- Class Dates: January 5, 2024 - April 26, 2024
- Time: Friday mornings 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- Hybrid: option to meet online or in person (with the exception of the first class and last two classes which are mandatory to attend in-person)
- Cost: \$1,050 (includes course materials and a certificate upon completion)

To participate please submit an application and letter of recommendation from your city/county manager, administrator, and/or direct supervisor by Friday, November 30, 2023 to Mercy Umeri at [mercy.umeri@wichita.edu](mailto:mercy.umeri@wichita.edu)

FIND MORE INFORMATION  
AND THE APPLICATION HERE:

