



**REAP Meeting Agenda
Workforce Alliance Center
2021 N. Amidon Ste. #1100
OR Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84823622747>

December 4, 2025 • 11:30 AM

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1. **Welcome and Introductions (11:30 AM):** Russ Kessler, REAP Treasurer
Mayor, City of Haysville
 2. **Approval of Minutes, August 14, 2025 REAP Meeting (11:35 AM) (pp. 2-4):** Russ Kessler
Recommended Action: Approve as presented
 3. **Election of 2026 REAP Officers (11:40 AM) (p. 5):** Russ Kessler
 4. **REAP 2026 (11:45 AM – 12:20 PM):** 2026 REAP Chair
 - **Discussion Items**
 - a. **REAP Work Plan 2026 (p. 6)**
 - b. **REAP Legislative Priorities (pp. 7-8)**
 - c. **REAP Calendar of Events (pp. 9-10)**
 - d. **REAP Recruiting Event Discussion/Planning***Recommended Action: Receive and share information*
 5. **Airport Authority Update (12:20 PM):** Randy Frazer, Advisory Board Chair
Recommended Action: Receive and share information
REAP Representative
City Manager, Arkansas City
 6. **Collaborative Discussion: 2026 Community Priorities (12:30 PM):** 2026 REAP Chair
 7. **Executive Director’s Report (12:45 PM) (pp. 11-12):** Dr. Marcy Aycock
 - 2025 Summary*Recommended Action: Receive and share information*
 8. **REAP Member Updates (12:50 PM):** Attendees
 - Share a 2025 Achievement*Recommended Action: Receive and file reports*
 9. **Adjourn: (1:00 PM)**



REAP Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2025 | 11:30 AM

1. Welcome and Introductions.

- REAP Chair Ashley Coleman (Mayor, Kechi) called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM and began introductions.

2. Approval of Minutes from the REAP Meeting from April 10, 2025

ACTION TAKEN: Terry Somers (Mayor, Mt. Hope) motioned to accept the April 10, 2025, minutes as presented. Nick Engle (City Council Member, Derby) seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Solving Housing Challenges in South Central Kansas – A Panel Discussion

- a. Angeline Johnson, Greater Wichita Partnership
- b. Bekah Selby-Leach, Center for Economic Development and Business Research, WSU
- c. Gentry Thiesen, Realtors of South Central Kansas
- d. Stephanie Marsh, SCKEDD
- The panelists provided timely information, applicable data, and resources on the topic of housing.
- Slide decks and other resources from panelists will be sent to REAP members
- The panelists answered questions from the audience and stayed after the meeting to answer individual questions.

4. Executive Director’s Report: REAP Executive Director Dr. Marcy Aycock

- Executive Director Dr. Marcy Aycock shared updates on the Regional Water Summit and other upcoming events. She urged members to attend the Summit, the WSU Tech Re-entry Simulation, and offered seats for paid members at the CEDBR Economic Outlook Conference on Oct. 2.
- Executive Director Dr. Marcy Aycock provided attendees with an overview of activities from mid-April through early August. A full report was distributed to members and included in the follow-up packet.

5. REAP Member Updates.

- The update topic focused on Housing Solutions/Issues, in lieu of regular updates.

Adjourn:

- Meeting Adjourn: Chair Ashley Coleman, Mayor, Kechi, adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 4th @ 11:30 AM



Attendees

Member	Organization/City	In Person	Zoom
Ashley Coleman, REAP Chair	Mayor, Kechi	X	
Jim Benage	Mayor, Bel Aire	X	
Tim Boese	GMD2		X
Russ Kessler	Mayor, Haysville	X	
Jeff Blubaugh	Commissioner, Sedgwick County	X	
Nick Engle	Council Member, Derby	X	
Sean Fox	City Administrator Park City	X	
Nick Gregory	City Manager, Maize	X	
Justin Henry	Superintendent, Goddard Public Schools	X	
Jason McAndrews	Wichita Regional Chamber	X	
Ronnie Price	Mayor, Andover	X	
Chad Parasa	Executive Director, WAMPO	X	
Homer Henry	Council Member, Andover	X	
Tim Bryan	City Administrator, Bentley	X	
Jolene Graham	Assistant City Administrator, Andover	X	
Kate Schieferecke	Management Intern, Andover	X	
Daniela Rivas	City Manager, Newton	X	
Chad Parasa	Executive Director, WAMPO	X	
Dalton Glasscock	Council Member, Wichita	X	
Mike Hoheisel	Council Member, Wichita		X
Eric Latta	Mayor, Harper	X	
Jay Purkey	Mayor, Colwich	X	
Amy Baker	City Clerk, Colwich	X	
Brad Harris	City Administrator, North Newton	X	
Kevin Cochetella	Transferred Capital	X	
Jet Truman	Mayor, Valley Center	X	
Angeline Johnson	Greater Wichita Partnership	X	
George Liebe	Mayor, Goddard	X	
Craig Crossette	City Administrator, Goddard		
Don Schroeder	Commissioner, Harvey County	X	
Terry Somers	Mayor, Mt. Hope	X	
Tom Brown	Mayor, McPherson		X
Pat Stivers	Mayor, Maize	X	
Jim Toews	Mayor, Inman	X	
James Williams	Black Hills Energy	X	
Bekah Selby-Leach	Center for Economic Development & Research, WSU	X	
Craig Compton	Center for Economic Development & Research, WSU	X	
Sumip Thakori	Center for Economic Development & Research, WSU	X	



Gentry Theissen	Realtors of South Central Kansas	X	
Stephanie Marsh	SCKEDD	X	
Ashley Worley	SCKEDD	X	
Megan Unruh	SCKEDD	X	
Keith Lawing	Senior Advisor, REAP	X	
Shirley Lindquist	Workforce Alliance	X	
Dr. Marcy Aycok	Executive Director, REAP	X	



REAP 2026 Slate of Officers

- Chair: Mayor George Liebe, City of Goddard
- Vice Chair: Council Member Nick Engle, City of Derby
- Treasurer: Mayor Russ Kessler, City of Haysville



REAP 2026 Work Plan

REAP Call to Action

- Embrace Regional Collaboration
- Invest in Long-Term Planning
- Lead with Innovation

2026 REAP Work Plan Goals

- Focus on opportunities for joint actions of local governments, encouraging regional collaboration around areas of high-interest, high-impact.
- Member meetings focusing on high-interest topics, including Healthcare, Transportation, Housing, Aviation, and Workforce.
- Recruitment of new members, including cities and counties, businesses/industries that partner with local governments; education partners, including colleges and school districts, with a focus on high-impact collaboration opportunities.
 - Goal: 10 new members across the three sectors: local governments, business/industry, and education
- Develop a new Membership Fee Scale for all members beginning in 2027.
- Set an organizational goal of 25 high school internships in local governments.
- Set an organizational goal of 5 military SkillBridge internships in local governments.

Action Steps:

- Provide members with customized regional, county, and city economic data reports.
- Provide opportunities to learn and network around the topics of innovation in workforce development through “Lunch and Learn” opportunities with the South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation.
- Provide guidance, planning, and facilitation for local or regional “Talent Talks” as a member benefit.
- Host topic-related REAP Membership Meetings, focused on areas of high interest to regional stakeholders.
- Provide weekly updates to members, highlighting opportunities, events, and resources, including updates during the Legislative Session.
- Provide a workshop opportunity and toolkit for developing internships in local governments.
- Provide resources to member Mayors for the development of a “congratulations” letter to graduating high school seniors.
 - Include employment data, engagement opportunities, and “inviting them back”
- REAP Executive Committee Meetings to provide planning and oversight to the organization.
- Encourage member participation in regional planned events for networking and collaboration with regional partners, focusing on key topics and high-interest regional issues



2026 Legislative and Policy Priorities

REAP provides a unified voice for the region at the state and national level to advance greater economic prosperity through regional cooperation and to address issues that cross political boundaries. REAP Members have identified the following priorities to continue building a stronger, more resilient economy in South Central Kansas.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- REAP remains an active member of the South-Central Kansas Transportation Coalition and continues to support regional transportation projects critical to economic growth and industry competitiveness.
 - Continue to support state funding for existing freight rail service and the expansion of passenger rail in Kansas, specifically extending the Heartland Flyer from Dallas/Ft. Worth and Oklahoma City through Wichita to Newton and the Southwest Chief.
 - Encourage state support for the Kansas Air Service Development (KASD) program to expand commercial air service and enhance the competitiveness of airports across Kansas, including Eisenhower National Airport.
 - Support policies that protect and sustain critical water resources vital to the South Central Kansas economy, including protection of the Equus Beds Aquifer, which provides water for 20% of the state's population.
 - Recognize the importance of diversified energy sources—oil, natural gas, hydrogen, and renewable energy—to ensure affordable, reliable power that drives long-term regional economic development.

HOUSING

- REAP recognizes that accessible, affordable, and quality housing remains foundational to workforce attraction and community vitality in South Central Kansas.
 - Support continued partnerships between state and local governments, housing authorities, and private developers to address housing availability and affordability challenges.
 - Encourage innovative strategies to address homelessness and support programs that provide pathways to stable housing.

JOB GROWTH & BUSINESS EXPANSION

- REAP continues to prioritize investment in workforce development, business growth, and the expansion of economic opportunities for South Central Kansas residents.
 - Support targeted workforce investments and skills training programs in high-demand fields vital to regional job growth, including:
 - Excel in CTE (Career and Technical Education)
 - Work-Based Learning for High School Students
 - Expansion of Registered Apprenticeship programs
 - Support policies that expand access to affordable, high-quality childcare to increase

- labor force participation and family stability.
- Encourage state economic development incentives and programs that maintain Kansas' competitiveness regionally, nationally, and globally.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- REAP supports continued investment in health and human services that strengthen community well-being and workforce readiness.
 - Advocate for expanded access to mental health services and treatment across all age groups, including facility investments that meet regional needs.
 - Support initiatives that promote public safety and the integration of health services with community-based support systems.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- REAP supports federal programs and funding that advance regional priorities and strengthen the South Central Kansas economy.
 - Continue advocating for full funding of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and other workforce development initiatives that enhance employer partnerships and training opportunities for job seekers.
 - Support federal investment in passenger rail expansion, particularly the Heartland Flyer connection from Dallas/Ft. Worth through Wichita to Newton and the Southwest Chief.

CONTACT

REAP Executive Director

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REAP Chair

George Liebe, Mayor, Goddard

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REAP Vice-Chair

Nick Engle, Council Member, City of Derby

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REAP Treasurer

Russ Kessler, Mayor, Haysville

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REAP Calendar of Events 2026

- January 8** **REAP Executive Committee Meeting**
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Zoom
- Late Jan/Early Feb.** **Member Recruiting Event**
- Newly Elected – Cities/Counties
 - School District Leaders
- Sponsored by...
- February 12** **REAP Member Meeting**
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Workforce Center
Topic: Healthcare/BioMed District
Topic: Senior Opportunities/Needs
Feature Goddard Senior Center
Invite Mayors to invite Senior Center Directors
Workforce Center resources for seniors
- March 12** **REAP Executive Committee Meeting**
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Zoom
- April 9** **REAP Lunch & Learn**
Invite South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation, if during mid-session break
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, USD 259, Future Ready Centers
Topic: Education Innovation
Tour, Learning, and Networking
- May 14** **REAP Member Meeting**
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Workforce Center
Topic: Transportation/Infrastructure
- June 11** **REAP Lunch & Learn w/ South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation**
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, Textron Aviation Learning Center
Topic: Aviation Innovation
Tour, Learning, and Networking
- July 9** **REAP Executive Committee Meeting**
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Zoom

August 13

REAP Member Meeting

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Workforce Center

Topic: Workforce

- Labor Market Reporting
- Economy Overview Reporting

September TBD

CEDBR Kansas Economic Outlook Conference

- This will be a 3-day conference for 2026

Sept/October

REAP Lunch & Learn w/ South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM,

Topic: TBD

Tour, Learning, and Networking

October TBD

City to City 2026 (Regional Focused) – REAP representatives

October 8

REAP Executive Committee Meeting 2027 Planning Retreat

11:00 – 2:00 PM, Workforce Center

- 2027 Slate of Officers
- Prepare draft/proposed 2027 Schedule
- Annual Budget
- Work Plan
- Legislative Priorities

November 11

Local Elected Officials Reception

(partnership with the Wichita Regional Chamber)

November 19

REAP Executive Committee Meeting

11:30 – 1:00 PM, Zoom

December 3

REAP Member Meeting

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Workforce Center

Topics:

- Election of 2027 Officers
- Approve the annual budget
- Work Plan
- Regional legislative priorities
- Workshop: Creating High School Internships

Event Additions –

- **Water Summit – Biannually – Plan for Sept. 2027**



REAP 2025 Executive Director Summary

Throughout 2025, work as Executive Director of REAP centered on strengthening regional collaboration, engaging members, facilitating learning opportunities to deepen understanding of regional issues, advancing the REAP Work Plan, expanding partnerships, and serving as a key convener for communities across South Central Kansas. Continuity was ensured across major initiatives—including regional water strategy, transportation planning, local government engagement, and workforce development—while elevating REAP’s visibility and impact across the region.

1. Regional Collaboration & Stakeholder Engagement

- **Consistent engagement with regional leaders**—including mayors, city managers, county commissioners, and higher education partners—helped align priorities and support local government needs. Relationships were strengthened across Wichita, Sedgwick, Butler, Cowley, Harper, Harvey, McPherson, and Sumner counties. Additional work included monitoring South Central Kansas elections, conducting outreach to newly elected officials, and inviting them to participate in REAP meetings and events. Facilitation services were also provided for the Western Sedgwick County Coalition. Collectively, these efforts enhanced REAP’s role as a trusted regional partner and problem solver.
- **Direct outreach to legislators and local elected officials** strengthened communication and reinforced REAP’s visibility. Participation in meetings on key regional issues—such as childcare, housing, and the unhoused—ensured REAP remained informed and connected. Engagement included contributing to the Cowley County Families Gaining Ground work group and representing REAP at regional learning events such as the CEDBR Regional Economic Forum and the Kansas Rural Water Association Conference. Attendance at City to City in Detroit provided insights from national models that can be adapted for South Central Kansas.

2. Event Leadership

- **Leadership was provided for multiple major REAP and regional events throughout the year**, including:
 - Regional Water Summit
 - Community Impact Meetings in Sumner, Cowley, and Butler counties
 - Legislative tours and engagement events
 - Local Elected Official’s Reception

These events strengthened REAP’s role as a convener for discussions on shared regional priorities.

3. Legislative & Policy Engagement

- **A strong and consistent legislative presence was maintained on behalf of REAP members.** Throughout 2025, weekly Legislative Roundups were provided during the Legislative Session; regular engagement with SCKLD leadership occurred; a membership directory was created; a public forum was facilitated; and legislative tours and engagement opportunities were

organized. One-on-one meetings with legislators further strengthened regional policy relationships, helping to build stronger connections between local governments and state policymakers

4. Transportation, Infrastructure & Corridor Work

- **Representation for REAP was provided across a wide range of transportation and infrastructure meetings**, including WAMPO Technical Advisory and Transportation Policy Body meetings, the South Central Kansas Transportation Coalition, Groundwater Management District #2, the NW Expressway, the K96 Corridor, and the K254 Corridor Development Association. REAP members were equipped with preparation tools for the KDOT Local Consult process by creating resources, hosting a webinar, and encouraging robust member participation. Information about passenger rail was furnished by attending virtual Passenger Rail Caucus Meetings and sharing real-time updates on developments with the Heartland Flyer. These efforts ensured REAP members remained informed on regional planning and infrastructure investment priorities.

5. Workforce & Education Initiatives

- **Support was provided for numerous regional workforce development initiatives**, including Youth Employment stakeholder engagement and project meetings, high school internship webinars, Camp HYPE support, participation on the Kansas Aviation Museum's Education Committee, and coordination of REAP's involvement in the WSU Re-Entry Simulation. Stakeholders were recruited, and the Youth Jobs Training Community Development Block Grant application was developed. These efforts helped advance workforce and talent development across the region.

6. Communications, Membership & Administration

- **Consistent communication with REAP members was maintained** through weekly updates, website and social media management, and resource distribution, including creation of a membership listserv. Additional responsibilities included leading development of the REAP 2026 Work Plan and 2026 Legislative Priorities, facilitating CEOB meetings, and advancing membership engagement and outreach efforts.

7. Special Projects & Community Engagement

- **Beyond core responsibilities, participation extended to** economic development forums, aviation sector initiatives, community planning meetings, flood-mapping discussions, water policy engagements, and multiple regional learning events. These efforts further expanded REAP's visibility and regional impact.

Overall Impact

In 2025, REAP was positioned as a hub for regional collaboration, legislative engagement, and strategic problem-solving. Through consistent outreach, strong event leadership, expanded partnerships, and continuous communication, key priorities were advanced in workforce development, transportation, water strategy, and economic development across South Central Kansas. These efforts strengthened REAP's role as a trusted convener for the region.

