

Minutes of Government Foundation Unified Legislative Agenda Strategic Alliance Meeting Held Monday, April 18, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church

Present: Thomas Rudd, Willa DeCastro, Kent Myers, Tim Norton, Greg Meissen, Charlie Peer, Bill Buchanan, Bernie Koch, Mary Lou Rivers, Pat Gallagher, Tom Hein, Jim Grier, Bob Hanson, Ron Tucker, Roger Douthett, Christy Calvert, Melody McCray-Miller, Bess Roberts, Forrest Gossett, John Andrade, Robert Davis, Travis Smith, Keith Sherwood, Mike Meier, Lori O'Toole Buslet, Allen Bell, Willis Heck, Scott Schneider, Jeff Wicks, Jeff Bridges, Kent Brown, John Lay, Tom Ostrander, Carol Bloodworth, Keith DeHaven, Larry White, Linda Jolly, Trista Curzydlo, Les Depperschmidt, Lyndon Wells, John Frederick, Marge Zakoura-Vaughn, Bill Pickert, Eric Sexton, Nile Dillmore, Geraldine Flaharty, Linda Sorrell, Keith Lawing, Clay Bastian, Tim Moore, Jim Wright

- I. Welcome/Self Introductions.** Clay Bastian opened the meeting by welcoming attendees. Participants introduced themselves and the organizations they represented.
- II. Visioneering Wichita Background.** Suzie Ahlstrand provided a brief overview of the Visioneering Wichita process. Henry Luke reviewed page 29, development of the Visioneering Wichita process. Luke presented a current listing of Vision Partners and how Visioneering Wichita needs 700 Vision Partners before the end of the year to commit to carrying out the vision. Luke encouraged attendees to sign up as Vision Partners.
- III. Key Benchmark Review.** Henry Luke reviewed the Key Benchmarks on page 12 reflecting job growth, per capita income, education (skills training, post-secondary, K-12 education systems), family stability, downtown development, arts and recreation, racial harmony, opportunity and diversity and leadership.
- IV. Government Foundation 2005 Strategic Alliance**
 - A. Government Foundation Vision.** Luke reviewed the Government Foundation Vision: Before 2024 the Wichita MSA will...*Be a national model for effective, efficient, inclusive and accountable governments that are representative of the community's needs and desires.*

Unified Legislative Agenda Strategy. Henry Luke asked attendees to review the mentoring strategy and offer their thoughts as to the important concepts outlined in the strategy (see comments at the end of these minutes.)

**B. Setting the Unified Legislative Agenda Benchmark
By consensus the group tentatively adopted the following benchmark...**

Benchmark is whether we have a unified agenda that advances Visioneering Wichita

C. What are Specific Action Steps?

1. Involved the 32 organizations in REAP, then invite others to next meeting
2. Create a forum and determine what the common agenda is, identify specifics.
3. Stop coming up with reasons not to do this.
4. Identify organizations that want to be part of pursuing the goals of Visioneering Wichita – recruit and sign up
5. What issues are there?
6. Present agenda to legislators in Dec. and Jan.

V. Questions/Adjournment

A. Who are additional potential invitees/partners? Who will contact?

Keith Lawing, Eric Sexton, Suzie Ahlstrand and Bernie Koch to create list to invite to next meeting.

B. Selection of Unified Legislative Agenda Chair

Wait until next meeting to select chair

C. Date and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

To be determined.

Unified Legislative Agenda Meeting Comments

This strategy represents a legislative agenda for south central Kansas and:

An opportunity to focus on and come together on serious issues that impact our region,

The importance of communication and community-will,

Investing resources in developing tools to educate the electorate,

Speaks to the relationship between MSA and the State of Kansas,

Working together and

Issues that divide us will not be included on the agenda, we agree to disagree.

How many organizations go to Topeka from this region to lobby, with a person that lives in Topeka: City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Wichita Public Schools, The Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce, Wichita State University, the Boeing Company, WIBA,

REAP, SBC, and others (utilities, banks, medical centers) have a contract lobbyist.

How many organizations that have a legislative agenda and who are they? Over 200

How many agenda unique issues – 100

Not all organizations might desire to be part of the initiative, if so, how many?

Need an agenda with a limited number of issues that a large number of organizations agree on and want action on;

Is it strong agreement or unanimity?

Are we looking to coming together and agree on a very specific issue? Or a broader issue? It's got to be something that is measurable;

Report card issue.....what kind of report card will it be? Being held accountable is about we have done in getting a particular issue across;

Start with basic principles – REAP, enhance the regional economy and do it by consensus.

Organizations will bring their issues to the table going forward

How do we start? Start with organizations.....become a vision partner that will advance the strategies of Visioneering Wichita – is that an action step.

Compliments to those in attendance. We have come together on specific issues and unified our resources.....examples are: Boeing incentive, downtown arena and bio-tech.

How do we identify those who are interested in particular issues?

We want enough organizations involved so that it doesn't become a minority report.

Unified agenda reflects unified region.....

Further the goals of Visioneering Wichita, what is next?

Need to start in June on what are the issues.....

Needs to be a broader trust of local government by state government.

Timing: Chamber – September, City/Cty – same time.

Delegation meets twice a week when in Topeka,

How many counties in south central Kansas should be represented - 7-8? Reno, Kingman and Cowley counties, Butler, Sumner, Sedgwick and Harvey.

If we are to agree we would need to include something for each of these counties? Need a natural interest, i.e. Arena. It's about the region.....

Consider the 4 As: Unified attitude; articulation of our needs; arbitration of conflicting issues; unified agenda.....

We need a unified federal agenda also.