

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, via Webex.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Chris Waggoner, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Damien Gilbert, Committee Assistant
Meredith Fry, Legislative Research Department
Victoria Potts, Legislative Research Department
Zach Fridell, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

No list available

Informational briefing:

Victoria Potts, committee researcher, presented a color-coded org chart of state water programs ([Attachment 1](#)) put together by the Kansas Legislative Research Department. She also went through and briefly summarized the duties of each of the state and federal agencies listed in the Kansas Water Office's Programs Manual ([Attachment 2](#)), which was used to create the org chart.

Chairperson Highland stated that each member of the committee would be provided a physical copy of the Programs Manual, and that it would be posted on the committee's webpage as well.

Rep. Rhiley asked if the committee would be discussing abandoned water and oil wells mentioned in the manual. Chairperson Highland responded that each agency listed in the manual would be presenting to the committee and that the issue would be addressed when the proper agency came in.

Rep. Bishop noted that dry cleaner pollution and earthquakes connected to fracking mentioned in the manual are problems specifically in her area of the state, which is south-central Kansas.

Rep. Haswood asked which agency was responsible for tribal water rights. Potts said she was unfamiliar with that area but would look into it.

Rep. Vaughn asked if there was an available glossary explaining the meaning of the many technical scientific terms mentioned in the manual. Potts said she keeps a list for herself and would share it with the committee.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Rep. Minnix noted that he has a well that was measured by the Kansas Geological Survey and that they do a good job.

Rep. Jennings requested that agencies present on their budgets as they come before the committee. Chairperson Highland said that he is requiring each agency to do just that.

Chairperson Highland stressed that the committee does not have any preconceived intentions, and that it will form recommendations as it receives and organizes the information provided by the various water agencies.

There being no further questions, Chairperson Highland adjourned the meeting at 9:48 am.