

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Monday, January 25, 2021, in room 152-S of the Capitol.

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:

Dr. Jim Butler, Kansas Geological Survey

Others in attendance:

No list available

Request for bill introductions

The Chairperson called for bill introductions. Hearing none, he moved to the next order of business.

Presentation on: Kansas Water Geology - Dr. Jim Butler and Brownie Wilson, Kansas Geological Survey

Dr. Jim Butler introduced himself, and then delivered a presentation created by him and Brownie Wilson of the Kansas Geological Survey ([Attachment 1](#)). It provided an in-depth overview of Kansas water systems, which are broadly based on groundwater in the west of the state and surface water in the east due to the smaller amount of precipitation the west. He also explored the details, quantity, and quality of Kansas aquifers, which move very slowly beneath the surface in the High Plains Aquifer and in alluvial river valleys.

Dr. Butler then fielded several questions from the committee, including how water rights are measured in western Kansas, whether injection fracking had a polluting effect on aquifer quality, his opinion on the Equus Bed Recharge Program, the correlation between lower groundwater usage in years with heavier rainfall, and others.

With no further questions, Chairperson Highland adjourned the committee at 9:44am.