

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Monday, February 08, 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:

Sara Baer - Kansas Biological Survey
Ted Harris - Kansas Biological Survey

Others in attendance:

No list available

Request for bill introductions

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

Presentation on: Kansas Biological Survey

Sara Baer, Director, introduced herself and her role at the Kansas Biological Survey, then gave a presentation on the organization ([Attachment 1](#)). She reviewed its history and the expansion of expertise and resources at the Survey, showed how Survey data are used in statewide applications, and presented current work on water dynamics in western farmlands and eastern floodplains in Kansas.

Ted Harris, Assistant Research Professor at the KBS, then provided a summary of harmful algal bloom research in Kansas, before summarizing the key points of the whole presentation.

Baer and Harris then stood for questions from the committee, which included the agricultural motivation for decreasing phosphorous since it is already abundant in the soil, and whether blocked sunlight from cattails could be a solution to harmful algal blooms. Chairperson Highland requested a more detailed breakdown of the agency's budget and employees, as well as an atlas of Kansas lakes.

Seeing no further questions, Chairperson Highland adjourned the meeting at 9:58am.