

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Thursday, February 18, 2021, in room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Russell Jennings – Excused

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:

Lane Letorneau - Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Others in attendance:

No list available

### **Approval of minutes**

Chairperson Highland called for approval of the minutes from meetings held from January 13th to 28th.

*Approval of minutes moved by Rep Orr, seconded by Rep. Murphy. Motion carried.*

### **Presentation on:**

Lane Letourneau, Water Appropriations Program Manager for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, introduced himself and his position. He then delivered a presentation on the Division of Water Resources within the Kansas Department of Agriculture and some of its duties ([Attachment 1](#)). In particular, he discussed the application and development processes of various types of water right permits, as well as their functions. He delineated the difference between municipal and irrigation water rights, as well as geographical areas that are closed or restricted to new water rights claims. He closed by discussing the City of Wichita's water resources and the impairment of water rights that are predated by different, more senior water rights.

Letourneau then stood for questions, which covered topics including water rights in Sumner County, further clarification about the water right application process, what happens if impairment to a water right occurs after a new water right has been approved, and the effectiveness of recharging the Equus Beds near Wichita.

There being no further questions, Chairperson Highland adjourned the meeting at 9:41am.