

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Tuesday, February 23, 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:

Jennifer Switzer - US Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City Division
Eric Schumate - US Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City Division

Others in attendance:

No list available

Presentation on: US Army Corps of Engineers - Kansas City Division

Jennifer Switzer, Chief of Planning of the US Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City Division, began the presentation ([Attachment 1](#)). She delivered an overview of the boundaries of the USACE Kansas City Division, as well as its several responsibilities as an organization. With relation to water, it is responsible for navigation, flood risk management, watershed planning, and ecosystem restoration. All of these civil works project areas require a local sponsor who can fund cost-sharing, as well as authorization and appropriation from Congress.

Eric Shumate, Chief of the Hydrologic Engineering Branch, continued the presentation on the Kansas City District's reservoir operations. He described how USACE reservoirs are operated, about the 2019 flooding events, and about the current status of reservoir operations.

Both then fielded questions from the committee, including whether the USACE coordinates with rural water districts, what the involvement of the USACE is in the water injection tests at the Tuttle Creek reservoir, the efficiency of hydropower, and the expected lifespan of the flood control projects in Kansas.

With no further questions, Chairperson Highland ajourned the meeting at 10:17am.