

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Thursday, March 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:

Earl Lewis - Kansas Department of Agriculture

Others in attendance:

No list available

Discussion on:

Various agencies collaborated to create their own version of the Water Program Organizational Chart after viewing the one drafted by the committee researchers, which was presented to the committee ([Attachment 1](#)). Earl Lewis of the Kansas Department of Agriculture explained the justifications of the alterations that were made.

Lewis then fielded questions from the committee, which covered topics such as what triggers remapping of floodplain areas, where grant and loan approval fit on the org chart, and whether there were any other states in particular with a reputation for having an effective organization of their water programs. Chairperson Highland requested a map that shows the status of the floodplain mapping activities in Kansas, which was later provided to the committee ([Attachment 2](#)) in two parts ([Attachment 3](#)) by Earl Lewis, in addition to a slide that shows the generalized process to develop a new floodplain map ([Attachment 4](#)).

The committee then deliberated on a tentative date to meet during the interim period, which was settled to be on August 11th, 12th, 18th, or 19th. It will be held virtually, with the possibility of an in-person meeting in Wichita or Garden City in the case that Rep. Bishop or Rep. Jennings can find outside funding to pay for the expenses.

With no further business, Chairperson Highland adjourned the committee at 9:34am.