

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Thursday, January 20, 2022, in room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:
No staff present

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Kent Askren, Director of Public Policy, Kansas Farm Bureau.

Others in attendance:
No list available

Request for bill introductions

Chairperson Highland made a request for bill introductions. There were none.

Update on: Farm Bureau Public Policy

Kent Askren, Director of Public Policy, Kansas Farm Bureau. Provided an update on the Bureau's water policy. ([Attachment 1](#)). Kent reviewed Kansas water laws and regulations. He reviewed existing water rights established by the legislature. He reviewed Ground Water Districts, Kansas Water Plan, and the importance of including local water districts with changes in conservation efforts.

The Chairperson opened the meeting for questions from the committee. The committee asked questions regarding senior water rights, Ground Water Districts, the Ogallala Aquifer, crop selection in western Kansas, and the usable life left with Kansas aquifer's. There were questions on how the Farm Bureau would address changes in laws regarding water and conservation. Layne Letourneau, Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture, was asked to respond to questions on the useful life of the Ogallala Aquifer. The Chairman asked Kent on how the Farm Bureau can help expand the message of water conservation and the work the House Water Committee is doing to increase awareness. The Chairperson asked Kent to expand on his comments about not putting all water resources under one roof.

The Chairperson Adjourned the meeting at 10:05 am.