

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 9:00 a.m. on January 27, 2011, in Room 783 in the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Bob Brookens – Excused
Representative Michael Peterson - Excused

Committee staff present:

Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Wales, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Earl Lewis, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office
Don Paxon, Vice Chairman, Kansas Water Authority

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Hayzlett moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 19, and 20. Seconded by Representative Collins, the minutes were approved.

There were no committee bill introduction requests.

Earl Lewis, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office, provided an overview of the structure of the Kansas Water Authority and their role to plan for the future needs for water in the state and to make legislative recommendations. Copies of the Kansas Water Authority's 2011 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature (available from the Kansas Water Office) were distributed.

Don Paxon, Vice Chairman, Kansas Water Authority, highlighted key issues and accomplishments and said increased funding will be needed to maintain progress on water issues to meet the growing demands on our water resources. He reviewed the State Water Plan Resource Estimates and the State Water Plan Fund Recommendations FY 2010 – FY 2012. (Attachment 1) He outlined four policy issues the Kansas Water Authority would like addressed this legislative session:

- Creation of a dam safety and rehabilitation program within the State Conservation Commission and re-establishing the Dam Safety Inspection Program within the Division of Water Resources;
- Expand access to Kanopolis Reservoir;
- Ensure long-term availability of Water Transition Assistance Program; and
- Allow the Kansas Water Office to grant easements on behalf of the state for water related projects on navigable rivers in the state.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee is scheduled for February 1, 2011.