

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 9:00 a.m. on February 14, 2012, in Room 783 in the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Michael Peterson (Unexcused)

Committee Staff Present:

Randy Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Chris Sevedge, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Joyce Hladky, Committee Assistant

Presentation by Dr. Jay Lehr, Director of Heartland Institute

Chairman Powell welcomed the committee and welcomed Dr. Jay Lehr with the Heartland Institute, who provided a presentation on groundwater hydrology and Wind Energy.

Dr. Lehr discussed the success that has been experienced in developing groundwater and the concept of a mega watershed paradigm and the potential for a vast area of fresh water. The technology is available to look for groundwater in deep fractures of rock. Every since he has been working with the technology, there has been no support from the normal groundwater community because they grew up on the old technology and have rejected the idea that there is water in the fractured rock that we have been successful with all over the world.

Dr. Lehr serves as a consultant for Earthwaterglobal.com, a company that develops the water supplies at their expense for contracts to sell the water. He is not compensated by the company and serves only in the capacity as a consultant. The company will come in and develop water supplies at their expense, no capital investment with a guarantee of sales of their water for a 25-year period. Ground water development has many advantages. It uses low amount of energy, treatment requirements are low, the environmental impact is low, liability high, production time can be less than a year, pollution risk low and security requirements low.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES Committee at 9:00 a.m. on
February 14, in 783-DSOB

Dr. Lehr went on to say that water is the only resource that is in short supply. Whenever we run out of anything we come up with replacement ideas. There is no natural resource that has not become less expensive over time because of advances in technology in locating, retaining and refining them. For example, natural gas prices have dropped in the last three years due to advances in hydraulic fracturing. Water exists in fractured rock all over the world, including the state of Kansas.

Dr. Lehr discussed the Ogallala Aquifer noting that while it continues to be strong, it is continually declining and it would behoove the State of Kansas to explore other alternatives to finding water. (Attachment 1)

Dr. Lehr answered questions from the Committee.

Next, Dr. Lehr distributed information on wind energy listing 25 reasons why wind energy can never be a contribution to the energy grid in Kansas, noting that people building wind farms are making significant amount of money at the public's expense. Dr. Lehr also reported that none of the energy in our country needs to be subsidized. If we can produce natural gas and reduce the price we should be subsidizing nothing. (Attachment 2)

Dr. Lehr answered questions from the Committee.

Chairman Powell thanked Dr. Lehr for his presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.