

Approved: March 17, 2011
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VISION 2020 COMMITTEE

In the initial absence of Chairman Sloan, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Vern Swanson at 3:30 p.m. on February 9, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Brett Hildabrand- excused
Representative Don Hineman- excused
Representative Mike Peterson- excused
Representative Ron Worley- excused

Committee staff present:

Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Koles, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Earl Lewis, Kansas Water Office
Greg Foley, State Conservation Commission
Dr. Ed Martinko, Kansas Biological Survey

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Swanson welcomed the presenters and requested that the committee ask questions at the conclusion of all the presentations.

Earl Lewis, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office, provided an update on reservoir sustainability. He noted that interstate cooperation and interaction with the Corps of Engineers are important/crucial. The assessment of the Verdigris Basin is complete: more than 50% of the water is consumed by municipal use; a decrease in population in the basin is projected; there is a potential for industrial growth; available supplies are decreasing due to sedimentation – sixty-four hotspots have been identified, salt scars and gullies are possible sources of sedimentation; and the estimated cost for streambank stabilization around the Fall River Reservoir is \$1.4 million.

Because of the threat to water supplies, the Neosho Basin was the first to be addressed in as comprehensive a manner as possible. Twelve project sites have been identified; streambank stabilization is a popular program with landowners and offers the most protection to the storage and drinking water supplies. The Tulsa Corps is addressing levee issues. (Attachment 1)

Greg Foley, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission, addressed reducing sedimentation: the programs, the state buffer initiative, sediment control projects, streambank restoration projects (118), and tons of soil saved FY2006-2010. He discussed and sediment control practices (399 projects) implemented in 2009 and noted water pollution control projects (green projects), streambank stabilization, scheduled for 2011 and 2012. He also mentioned multipurpose small lakes, water supply restoration projects and constructing watershed flood control dams. (Attachment 2)

Dr. Edward A. Martinko, State Biologist and Director, Kansas Biological Survey, explained the issues, implications, and initiatives of the Kansas Reservoir Assessment. Due to severe sedimentation, lost capacity is becoming more common in our reservoirs as are the associated issues of taste and odor. Taste and odor problems can be dangerous, all are costly and can affect recreational activities and habitat. Dr. Martinko maintains that reservoirs should be thought of as critical economic infrastructure - a billion dollar investment. Like highways, reservoirs need attention and it is time to think about maintaining them.

Assessing the current status of our reservoirs began in 2007 with bathymetric mapping (calculate capacity and change over time), sediment surveys (assess sediment thickness and physical/chemical properties), and determining water quality. To date, over fifty reservoirs have had this type of integrated assessment.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Vision 2020 Committee at 3:30 p.m. on February 9, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

As more data is gathered and analyzed, we should be able to predict future odor and taste events and prepare for them. Similarly, we need better information and understanding to make the kind of investment necessary to ensure water availability when a crisis, such as a drought, occurs. (Attachments 3 and 4*)

Following the presentations, questions were asked, comments made, and discussions occurred. Participants included: Chairman Sloan and Chairman Swanson and Representatives Gail Finney, Don Hill, and Bill Otto. Both Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office, and Paul Graves, Assistant Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Department of Agriculture, were in the audience and shared their expertise alongside Earl Lewis, Greg Foley, and Dr. Ed Martinko.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

*Committee Assistant's note regarding Attachment 4: two (2) Kansas Biological Survey information notes pertain to Dr. Ed Martinko's presentation. One describes bathymetric mapping, the other discusses and makes available to the reader a water resources planner online mapping tool. Both were received February 10, and distributed at the February 14 Vision 2020 Committee meeting.