

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 29, 2001, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:       Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
  Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office  
  Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

    Bill Howgill, Governor's Legislative Liaison  
    Brownie Wilson, Kansas Water Office  
    Susan Stover, Kansas Water Office  
    Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean and Director, College of Agriculture, K-State Research and Extension, Kansas State University  
    Dr. Gary Clark, Irrigation Engineer, Kansas State University  
    Dr. Kent McVay, State Soil and Water Conservation Specialist, Kansas State University

Others attending:        See attached list

Minutes of the January 22 and 24 meetings were distributed. Chairman Johnson asked members to notify the committee secretary of any corrections or additions by February 5, or they will be considered approved as presented.

Representative Miller requested introduction of a House Concurrent Resolution urging Congress to remove or limit the executive branch's unilateral trade sanction authority. Seconded by Representative Dahl, the motion carried.

Bill Howgill, Governor Graves' Legislative Liaison, reported on the Governor's vision for the maintenance and preservation of the High Plains Ogallala Aquifer. In his State of the State address the Governor supported the recommendation made by his Task Force on Water to stop depletion of the state's aquifers by 2020. Mr. Howgill explained that the Governor's position is not that the use of the aquifer be stopped, but rather to maintain it in a sustainable way for future generations. (Attachment 1)

Al LeDoux, Director, Kansas Water Office, referring to an article in the January 28, 2001, *Wichita Eagle*, stated that neither the Kansas Water Office nor the Kansas Water Authority is ready to support zero depletion of the state's groundwater.

Brownie Wilson, Kansas Water Office, reviewed the Kansas High Plains Aquifer Resources assessment undertaken as part of the mandate to the Kansas Water Authority by the 1999 Legislature. He noted that although there are other aquifer units in Kansas, the High Plains Aquifer is the most heavily utilized aquifer system in the state and represents the primary source of water for most of western and south central Kansas. (Attachment 2)

Susan Stover, Kansas Water Office, outlined a "two pool" management proposal that would establish a "use pool" and a "conservation pool" within the Ogallala Aquifer. She explained that a two pool management approach would address the rate of groundwater depletion, provide time for transition to reduced water use, protect some groundwater for future generations, and have management decisions made on local aquifer conditions. (Attachment 3)

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean and Director, College of Agriculture, K-State Research and Extension, Kansas State University, reiterated K-State Research and Extension's commitment to developing and promoting technology and management systems to ensure quality and conservation of surface water and groundwater in Kansas as outlined in their Five-Year Work Plan presented to the Kansas Legislature in January, 1998. (Attachment 4)

Dr. Gary Clark, Irrigation Engineer, Kansas State University, discussed water conservation and management for Kansas irrigated crop production systems. He reviewed current programs, activities, and accomplishments, as well as future research and educational programs planned to address water conservation in irrigated production systems. (Attachment 5)

Dr. Kent A. McVay, State Soil and Water Conservation Specialist, Kansas State University, discussed the success of dryland no-till cropping systems in Kansas. He noted that conservation tillage systems make better use of precipitation, and that if long-term goals for Kansas include reducing the use of groundwater for agriculture, producers need to be motivated to better utilize the precipitation received. (Attachment 6)

Representative Thimesch distributed copies of a memo from Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department, concerning state inspected meat processing facilities in Minnesota. (Attachment 7) The Representative, also, provided copies of an article by Joel Crews in the January 2001 issue of *Meat & Poultry* regarding the decision in the lawsuit brought against the U.S. Department of Agriculture by a group of Ohio meat processors to allow state inspected companies to ship product over state lines. (Attachment 8)

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2001.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.