

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on January 16, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Tom Sloan - excused

Committee staff present: Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statute's Office
Mary Ann Graham, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Al LaDoux, Director, Kansas Water Office, 901 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1249
Kent Lamb, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority, RR1 Box 69, Macksville, KS 67557-9402
Cliff Mayo, Member, Kansas Water Authority, 1909 Grandview East, Garden City, KS 67846-8325
Jerry Blain, Member Kansas Water Authority, 1815 W. Pine, Wichita, KS 67203-3230
Clark Duffy, Asst. Director, Kansas Water Office, 901 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1249

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. She announced that the committee was invited to attend the Ag Information and Technology Tour scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2001. The bus departs the Capitol building at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 5:30 p.m.

The Chair welcomed Al LeDoux, Director, Kansas Water Office. Staff members of the Kansas Water Office along with members of the Kansas Water Authority briefed the committee on various water issues. Mr. LeDoux introduced members of the Authority to the committee and gave an overview of the briefing. (See attachment 1) He has an abiding interest in water and believes the water plan process is a very valuable one and is in good hands.

Kent Lamb, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority, was welcomed to the committee. Mr. Lamb reviewed a map of Kansas defining the twelve basins. Each of the twelve basins in the state have their own identifiable needs and resources to be addressed. Further delineation and definition of unique areas within each basin is necessary for planning purposes in the development appropriate and workable management practices. The "one size fits all" concept will not produce acceptable outcomes. The Kansas Water Authority believes in the planning process that has been established by the Legislature and the Governor to formulate and initiate best management practices that will secure the sound and stable water policies for all Kansans for the future.
(See page 5 attachment 1)

Cliff Mayo, Member, Kansas Water Authority, was welcomed and addressed the committee concerning groundwater management. (See page 7 attachment 1) He is an irrigator in western Kansas and can attest to the fact that the biggest water issue is groundwater depletion. The single most important source of water for western Kansas, the Ogallala portion of the High Plains Aquifer, is being withdrawn much faster than it is being recharged. Pumping practices for irrigation is the largest single use for this water. Irrigation is the lifeblood of western Kansas.

Jerry Blain, Kansas Water Authority, was welcomed. He briefed the committee on Public Water Supply. (See page 5 attachment 1) Public water supplies are crucial to the state of Kansas, supplies include municipal water suppliers,

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, Room 231-N of the Capitol at 3:30 p.m. on January 16, 2001.

rural water districts, and assurance districts. Kansas has approximately 900 public water suppliers. Water plan goals include development of water reservoir storage to meet current and future use; assurance that municipal water systems can meet drought conditions and that water suppliers meet safe drinking water standards; assurance that water suppliers have technical, financial, and managerial capacity; and encourage local planning that supports state water programs.

Al LeDoux, Director, Kansas Water Office, presented a 9 minute video, narrated by Bill Curtis, that emphasizes the Kansas approach to implementation of water quality. This is the voluntary, incentive-based approach highlighted in the Governor's Water Quality Initiative. Committee questions followed.

Clark Duffy, Asst. Director, Kansas Water Office, was welcomed to the committee and discussed Kansas Water Authority recommendations and requested the three following bills and two concurrent resolutions:

(1) A bill to amend the multipurpose small lakes act. (See page 1 attachment 2) (2) Establish the source water development fund. (See page 6 attachment 2) (3) Re-establish the water assurance fund. (See page 12 attachment 2).

(1) A Resolution in support of federal action on High Plains Aquifer. (See page 17 attachment 2) (2) A Resolution in support of reallocation of John Redmond Reservoir. (See page 15 attachment 2).

Rep. Don Myers made a motion the requests by the Kansas Water Authority be introduced. Rep. Becky Hutchins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bill Bider, Director, Bureau of Waste Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, was welcomed to the committee. He requested three bills on behalf the Department:

(1) KDHE Mausoleum Bill (2) KDHE Miscellaneous Solid Waste Amendments (3) Proposed Update to State Waste Tire Program. (See attachment 3)

Rep. Dan Johnson made a motion to introduce bills requested by KDHE. Rep. Ted Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairperson Freeborn closed the floor for bill requests.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2001.