

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 11, 2006, in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Steve Irsik, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office
Mark Rude, Executive Director, Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District #3
Sharon Falk, Manager, Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5
Harold Klaege, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA
David Pope, Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Johnson welcomed everyone to the joint meeting with the House Environment Committee, Senate Agriculture Committee, Senate Natural Resources Committee, and subcommittees of the House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means Committees dealing with state water issues.

Steve Irsik, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority, provided an overview of the Kansas Water Authority process. Copies of the Kansas Water Authority 2006 Annual Report ([Attachment 1](#)) and FY 2007 State Water Plan Fund budget proposal ([Attachment 2](#)) were distributed.

Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office, reviewed Water Plan Projects Initiative accomplishments, highlighting specific water related projects.

Mark Rude, Executive Director, Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District #3, discussed the Arkansas River corridor hurt economically by compact violations and explained how the federal government's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) fits into Arkansas River restoration.

Sharon Falk, Manager, Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5, discussed Arkansas River Basin water rights retirement and the need for CREP and other programs in the Middle Arkansas and Rattlesnake Creek Sub-basins.

Harold Klaege, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, reviewed the federal focus working with state priorities, in particular the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) quick response areas as a priority in Ground and Surface Water Conservation. ([Attachment 3](#))

David Pope, Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture, explained that the management of water involves the components: education & innovation; incentive-based programs; and monitoring and compliance enforcement. He discussed the Arkansas River Compact with Colorado, an area where monitoring is absolutely necessary, and the Middle Arkansas and Rattlesnake Creek Sub-basins, two areas with voluntary plans and a regulatory component.

A question and answer period followed the presentations.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture Committee is scheduled for January 18, 2006.