

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Thursday, February 04, 2021, in room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Chris Waggoner, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Meredith Fry, Legislative Research Department
Victoria Potts, Legislative Research Department
Zach Fridell, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

David Soffer - Kansas Department of Commerce

Others in attendance:

No list available

Presentation on: Department of Commerce

David Soffer, Legislative and Policy Director of the Kansas Department of Commerce, presented to the committee about his organization's duties and responsibilities with relation to water-based initiatives ([Attachment 1](#)). The KDC's Community Development Division aims to grow the economy through fostering the development of vibrant communities, specifically related to water through its Community Development Block Grants, Community Service Tax Grants, and Kansas PRIDE program. Water and Wastewater is one of three categories that are eligible to receive block grant funding, which must be applied for by communities and meet the criteria of benefitting low and/or moderate income individuals, removing or reducing slum or blighted conditions, or eliminating an urgent need created by a disaster when local funds are unavailable. Over the last three years, CDBGs have funded 24 water projects totaling \$12.9 million, and 20 sewer projects totaling \$11.5 million.

Soffer then stood for questions from the committee, which covered topics including how low/middle income levels are tabulated.

Discussion on: Committee Agenda and Expectations

Chairperson Highland referred the committee to the document that was distributed to them which discussed its agenda and his expectations for the committee during the 2021-2022 sessions ([Attachment 2](#)). These include overviewing of the scope and complexity of water management in Kansas through informational briefings by agencies, departments, offices with water jurisdiction, and non-governmental organizations, as well as through public comment. The information gathered will be analyzed and placed in an organizational chart by the Kansas Legislative Research Department staff on the committee, which will be made public and used by the committee to decide whether water

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.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Water at 9:00 am on Thursday, February 04, 2021, in room 152-S of the Capitol.

organizational structures need to be changed, simplified, or otherwise altered. If it is the will of the committee, these changes will be drafted into a bill.

Committee members made several comments complimenting and concurring with the direction of the agenda.

With no further comments, Chairperson Highland adjourned the committee at 10:33am.