

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, in room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Leo Henning - Deputy Secretary and Director of Environment, KDHE
Tom Stiles - Director, KDHE Bureau of Water

Others in attendance:

No list available

Presentation on: Division of Environment, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Leo Henning, Deputy Secretary and Director of Environment of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, delivered a presentation to the committee regarding KDHE's duties and responsibilities with regard to water ([Attachment 1](#)). He explored the structure, staffing, and budget of KDHE's Division of Environment, as well as the responsibilities of the Bureau of Air, Bureau of Waste Management, and the Kansas Health and Environment Laboratory.

Presentation on: Clean Water Act

Tom Stiles of the KDHE Bureau of Water continued the presentation by exploring the federal Clean Water Act and its state-level equivalent. The objective of the law is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. It also recognizes, preserves, and protects the primary responsibilities and rights of States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution, while planning the development and use (including restoration, preservation, and enhancement) of land and water resources. Stiles further explored the monitoring process used to identify pollution levels, the purpose and process of applying for pollution permits, and the agency's response to harmful algal blooms. Stiles then presented about the State Revolving fund, through which seed money from the Environmental protection agency is used to finance water infrastructure below market cost, after which repayments are used to finance more loans.

Discussion & action on: HB2172

Chairperson Highland opened the committee to discussion on **HB 2172**.

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 Wednesday, February 10, 2021, in room 152-S of the Capitol.

Rep. Bishop proposed an amendment to strike and alter some of the bill's text, which was explained by Revisor Zach Fridell.

Rep. Bishop moved, Rep. Thomas seconded, to adopt the proposed amendment. Motion carried.

Rep. Orr moved, Rep. Murphy seconded, to recommend **HB 2172**, as amended, favorably for passage. The motion carried.

With no further business, Chairperson Highland adjourned the meeting at 10:08am.