

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, in room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:
No staff present

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
No conferees present

Others in attendance:
No list available

Presentation on:

Connie Owen began by thanking the committee for the opportunity to testify about the Kansas Water Office ([Attachment 1](#)) and referred committee members to the Kansas Water Authority's 2021 Report to the Governor and Legislature ([Attachment 2](#)). She then delivered a presentation regarding the duties and organization of the Kansas Water Office ([Attachment 3](#)). Owen began by giving an overview of the structure of the Kansas Water Office, as well as the representatives on the Kansas Water Authority which guides the policies of the KWO. She then turned the presentation over to Matt Unruh, KWO Chief of Policy and Communications, who gave an overview of the main duties of the organization, including State Water Plan development and implementation, drought monitoring and response, running public water supply programs, conserving aquifers and reservoirs, improving state water quality, and limiting vulnerability to extreme flood events. He then explained the KWO budget and the state water plan development process.

Owen and Unruh then stood for questions from the committee. Topics covered include drought management, the loss of holding capacity of Tuttle Creek reservoir, the final say of who decides when water supply from reservoirs are shut off, the relationship of the chair of the Kansas Water Authority and the Kansas Water Office, awareness campaigns for water issues, and cooperation with the Corps of Engineers. Some answers, which required more research, were later distributed to the committee ([Attachment 4](#)).

There being no further questions, Chairman Highland adjourned the meeting at 10:07am.