

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Monday, February 22, 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:

Dan Devlin - K-State Research and Extension  
Susan Metzger - K-State Research and Extension

Others in attendance:

No list available

### **Presentation on:**

Dan Devlin, Director of the Kansas Water Resources Institute (KWRI), and Susan Metzger, Associate Director of KWRI, made a presentation to the committee regarding the K-State Research and Extension Office ([Attachment 1](#)). Its main purpose is to develop and deliver engaged educational programs in partnership with the people of Kansas that provide solutions for the grand challenges of water, health, global food systems, community vitality, and developing leaders of the future. After describing the structure of the organization, Devlin and Metzger described the various initiatives of KSRE, including reducing runoff and sedimentation into reservoirs through innovative streambank stabilization design and research, evaluating effective practices for preventing Harmful Algae Blooms and reducing associated toxin levels, and coordinating priority projects through K-State as the state lead for the National Water Resources Institute. The presentation concluded with a discussion of the organization's budget.

Devlin and Metzger then stood for questions from the committee, which covered such topics as the future of fish farming, tribal relations with K-State's Research and Extension water program, research on the harmful effects of atrazine herbicide, the efforts of KSRE to promote and research regenerative agriculture, and the outreach to urban high schools for the Youth Advocates program,

Seeing no further questions, Chairperson Highland adjourned the meeting at 10am.