

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 9:00 am on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 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
Tony Prohaska, Committee Assistant
Victoria Potts, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Rob Manes, Director, Nature Conservancy.
Ginger Niewmann-Harper, Community Planner, United States Army Corp of Engineers.

Others in attendance:

No list available

Request for bill introductions

Chairperson Highland asked for approval of the minutes for Jan 11th, Jan 12th, and Jan 13th.

*Representative Orr moved for approval of the committee minutes for Jan 11th, 12th, and 13th.
Representative Rhiley seconded. Motion carried.*

The Chairperson asked for bill introductions. There were none.

Update on: The Nature Conservancy, Rob Manes, Director

Rob Manes, Director, The Nature Conservancy. Provided an update of the organization. ([Attachment 1](#)) Rob discussed the Nature Conservancy business model and how the agency is funded. Rob discussed future economic development opportunities with conservation, recreation, and water. The Chairperson opened the meeting for questions. Committee members asked questions regarding eastern red cedars, contact information, Rattle Snake Creek, matching funds, and impaired waterways.

Update on: Corp of Engineers Federal-State Partnerships

Ginger Niewmann-Harper, Community Planner, United State Army Corp of Engineers provided an update of Corp's mission and priorities. ([Attachment 2](#)) Ginger reviewed Corps focus on reservoirs, levies, and environmental clean up efforts. She reviewed reservoir management and flood control efforts in the state. The Chairperson open the meeting up for questions. There were question from committee members about sedimentation, infrastructure funding, flood capacity, Arkansas river basin water quality, and military infrastructure projects.

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, January 19, 2022, in room 152-S of the Capitol.

The Chairperson adjourned meeting at 10:10 am.