

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on March 5, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Tim Huelskamp- excused
Ralph Ostmeyer- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Matt Todd, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Gary Hanson, Public Wholesale Water Supply District #25 (PWWSD)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken noted that copies of a 2007 Progress Report from the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA) (Attachment 1) which had been mentioned in yesterday's meeting, had been distributed to Committee members.

Chairman Taddiken also said that there have been some questions regarding the status of **SB 595–Agricultural products; labeling requirements**. He said there have been discussions with the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and Secretary Polansky has indicated that the labeling issue can be addressed with rules and regulations. Chairman Taddiken said considering the broadness of **SB 595** that he does not intend to work it at this time. If the labeling issues need to be addressed in the future, perhaps this matter should be addressed by an interim committee.

The hearing on **SB 559–Water supply and distribution districts, acquisition of grounds** continued.

Gary Hanson, Public Wholesale Water Supply District #25 (PWWSD), spoke in opposition to **SB 559** (Attachment 2). Applications have been filed with the Division of Water Resources (DWR) to develop a ground water supply in the Kansas River basin east of Lawrence. Those applications are pending. He said that this bill would put an end to the use of eminent domain for any purpose.

Mr. Hanson took questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken said the Committee has a copy of a memorandum from Lane Letourneau, Environmental Scientist, Division of Water Resources, KDA which answers questions raised at the hearing on February 25 (Attachment 3).

Staff also answered questions.

Paul Graves, Assistant Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, KDA, answered questions from the Committee.

Burke Griggs, Stevens & Brand, spoke in support of **SB 559**. Mr. Griggs had offered testimony at the hearing on February 25.

Chairman Taddiken closed the hearing on **SB 559**.

Senator Pine introduced visitors Mikayla Lowe and Brandon Hawks from Jefferson County.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 5, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Taddiken and Vice Chairman Pine introduced a **Substitute for SB 559** which would restrict a municipal water district from gaining access to land to obtain a water right. Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, noted that the change would only restrict the ability to exercise the power of eminent domain to access land for the purpose of water rights.

There was discussion on the proposed **Substitute for SB 559**.

Staff will work on language to make the bill clearer.

Meeting adjourned.