

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Joanna Wochner, Legislative Research Department
Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes
David Wiese, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Welcome and Introduction of members/staff

Chair Schwartz welcomed the committee members and asked them to introduce themselves and provide some background information. Copies of committee rules and conferees rules were distributed to the Committee. Natalie Scott, Revisor, explained that an RS#, as required for introduction of new legislation, is available from the revisor when discussion is started on the new legislation. Chair Schwartz introduced staff members.

Bill introductions

Erik Weisner, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the committee to request the introduction of two pieces of legislation:

Representative Sloan moved to introduce legislation regarding the pet animal act as requested by the Department of Agriculture (RS#252). Motion was seconded by Representative Dierks. Motion carried without objection.

Representative Dierks moved to introduce legislation regarding a technical amendment (RS#256). The motion was seconded by Representative Thimesh. Motion carried without objection.

Other introductions:

Representative Moxley moved to introduce legislation regarding easements and the Department of Conservation. Motion was seconded by Representative Lusker. Motion carried without objection.

Representative Moxley moved to introduce legislation regarding the Great Plains Compact. Motion was seconded by Representative Hibbard. Motion carried without objection.

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 Agriculture and Natural Resources at 3:30pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

Discussion on:

Copies of the Upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Performance Report for the period October 1, 2013 thru September 30, 2014, were distributed to the Committee (copy available from Department of Agriculture or at <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/division-of-conservation>). The Committee was asked to review the report and if there were questions, the Chair would request a question and answer session at a later date.

Overview of the Governor's Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, and Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office, jointly appeared before the Committee to provide an overview of the Governor's vision for water across the state. The following documents were provided to the Committee:

- A Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas ([Attachment 1](#)).
- Progress: Phase I Action Items ([Attachment 2](#))
- Final Regional Goal Terms([Attachment 3](#))
- 2015 Kansas Legislative Session Water-Related Agenda ([Attachment 4](#))

Mr. Streeter noted that a lot of the emphasis is being placed on two water supplies - the High Plains Aquifer and the reservoirs, noting that there are 24 reservoirs within the State; 17 of these are operated by the Corp of Engineers. Mr. Streeter indicated that there is less than 25 years of water supply in the High Plains Aquifer at this time.

Ms. McClaskey stated that one factor discovered by the governor's task force is that not all solutions for water work for all Kansans and all areas of the state. Some of the priority action items include improving coordination on water related issues at the executive level with additional regular agencies; establish blue-ribbon task force to develop a balanced, affordable and sustainable method to provide financing for water resource management and protection; including alternatives that utilize public and private partnerships. Other issues to be addressed include treatment of "pre-used" water; use of water by the oil and gas industry and increasing water storage.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on January 15, 2015.