

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Thursday, January 15, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Shannon Francis – Excused

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](#)

Bill introductions

Jake Worcester, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee to request the introduction of two pieces of legislation:

Representative Sloan moved to introduce legislation as requested by the Department of Agriculture pertaining to water rights. The motion was seconded by Representative Schroeder. Motion carried without objection.

Representative Dannebohm moved to introduce legislation as requested by the Department of Agriculture pertaining to carryover of unused water rights. The motion was seconded by Representative Dierks. Motion carried without objection.

Representative Sloan moved to introduce legislation as requested by the Department of Agriculture pertaining to augmentation as remedy for water rights. The motion was seconded by Representative Boldra. Motion carried without objection.

Susan Metzger, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee to request the introduction of legislation:

Representative Dierks moved to introduce legislation pertaining to modification of water programs. The motion was seconded by Representative Clark. Motion carried without objection.

Other introductions:

Representative Lusker moved to introduce legislation concerning a constitutional amendment regarding hunting and fishing. The motion was seconded by Representative Clark. Motion carried

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 3:30pm on Thursday, January 15, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

without objection.

Kansas Water Vision Summary

A summary of testimony provided on January 14, 2015, by Tracy Streeter, Kansas Water Office and Jackie McClaskey, Department of Agriculture, was distributed to the Committee ([Attachment 1](#)).

Update on Local Food and Farm Task Force

Joanna Wochner, Legislative Research Department, presented an update on **SB 286**, passed during the 2014 Legislative Session, which established the Local Food and Farm Task Force ([Attachment 2](#)). The Task Force is responsible for preparing a local food and farm plan containing policy and funding recommendations in order to increase locally grown food production. The Task Force is composed of seven members: three members appointed by the Governor; one member representing the Department of Agriculture; one member representing the KSU Extension Systems and Research programs; and one member each from the House Agriculture and Research and Senate Agriculture Committees. Ms. Wochner noted that Representative Lusker, a member of this committee, has been appointed to the Task Force.

Ms. Wochner stated that the Task Force has met twice to discuss strategic and funding needs; recommendations for future expansion of locally-grown produce to be sold in grocery stores and farmer's markets. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for January 23, 2015.

Representative Lusker made a few comments, noting that the Task Force is working to find ways to bring locally grown produce to rural areas, low-income citizens and improve the economy for local producers.

Ms. Wochner and Representative Lusker responded to questions from the Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015.