

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Tuesday, February 03, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Susan Concannon – 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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Susan Metzger, Chief of Planning and Policy, Kansas Water Office

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Bill introductions

Representative Read made a motion to introduce legislation concerning fees on natural gas wells..

Motion seconded by Representative Lusker. Motion approved without objection.

Hearing on: HB2063 — Amending the definition of project in the public water supply project loan program.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, explained that **HB 2063** amends the definition of "project" in current statute, which provides that the term "project" does not include any project related to the diversion or transportation of water acquired through a water transfer. This bill would strike that language in the current statute ([Attachment 1](#)).

Susan Metzger, Chief of Planning and Policy, Kansas Water Office, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB 2063** ([Attachment 2](#)). Ms. Metzger explained that a strategy identified in the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas is to allow for the transfer of water supplies between basins where feasible and cost effective. This strategy would require action to eliminate statutory prohibition to use drinking water State Revolving Loan Funds (SRF) for water transfers and identify other state policies which unnecessarily limit transfers. Ms. Metzger indicated that while the adoption of **HB 2063** would reduce a potential barrier to future water transfer projects, priority of award for SRF loans will remain for projects that address Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Ms. Metzger responded to questions from the Committee.

There were no other conferees to appears as proponents, neutrals or opponents.

The hearing on **HB 2063** was closed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 3:30pm on Tuesday, February 03, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

Distribution of Report on Implementing Multi-year Flex Accounts (K.S.A. 82a-736)

A report from David Barfield, Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Department of Agriculture, titled "Report on Implementing Multi-year Flex Accounts (K.S.A. 82a-736)" was distributed to the Committee ([Attachment 3](#)).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for February 4, 2015.