

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 10, 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:

John McCannon, Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC)

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

**Bill introductions**

Representative Ewy moved to introduce legislation regarding research efforts on alternative crops (RS#0265). Motion seconded by Representative Francis. Motion approved without objection.

Representative Lusker moved to introduce legislation regarding agricultural opportunities relating to pari-mutual racing (RS#0252). Motion seconded by Representative Dierks. Motion approved without objection.

Representative Schwartz moved to introduce legislation regarding deer antlers (RS#0567). Motion seconded by Representative Clark. Motion approved without objection.

**Hearing on: HB2231 — Eliminating the annual licensing fee for any gas well used to strictly heat a dwelling or other structure.**

Natalie Scott, Revisor, provided a brief explanation of the bill ([Attachment 1](#)).

Representative Marty Read appeared before the Committee in support of **HB 2231** ([Attachment 2](#)).

Representative Read explained that the bill reduces the annual operator license fees for wells used strictly for personal use such as heating a residential dwelling or any other structure located on the same premises.

John McCannon, Kansas Corporation Commission, appeared on behalf of Ryan A. Hoffman, Director, Conservation Division, Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), as neutral on **HB 2231** ([Attachment 3](#)). Mr. McCannon explained that KCC has several concerns with **HB 2231** as currently drafted; noting their primary concern is safety. KCC is currently responsible for licensing all operators of oil, gas, and

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Class II injection wells, including those operators who only operate a single well for the purpose of heating their residence. With more wells being drilled and used, there is a greater need for operating infrastructure and more opportunities for problems.

Mr. McCannon noted another concern regards enforcement of the change; staff would have difficulty determining how the gas is being used in any other structure.

Mr. McCannon responded to questions from the Committee.

There were no other conferees to appear before the Committee on **HB 2231**.

The hearing on **HB 2231** was closed.

### **Discussion & possible action on: HB2063 — Amending the definition of project in the public water supply project loan program.**

Natalie Scott, Revisor, reviewed **HB 2063**.

*Representative Sloan moved to recommend **HB 2063** favorable for passage. The Motion was seconded by Representative Waymaster.*

*Representative Sloan made a substitute motion to amend **HB 2063** by striking language on Page 1, Line 17 thru Line 19 "Project" does not include any project related to the diversion or transportation of water acquired through a water transfer, as defined by K.S.A. 82a-1501 and amendments thereto" and replacing with language "Water transfer projects shall be a lower priority than safe drinking water compliance projects" ([Attachment 4](#)) . Motion seconded by Representative Lusker. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

*Representative Sloan moved to recommend **HB 2063** as amended favorable for passage. Motion was seconded by Representative Dannebohm. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

### **Discussion & possible action on: HB2029 — Identification of domesticated deer.**

Natalie Scott, Revisor, reviewed **HB 2029**.

*Representative Lusker moved to recommend **HB 2029** favorable for passage and placement on the consent calendar. Motion seconded by Representative Dierks. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for February 11, 2015.