

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Monday, March 16, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Susie Swanson – Excused  
Representative Ponka-We Victors – Excused  
Representative Jarrod Ousley, appointed substitute member to the committee

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:

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association  
Lane Letourneau, Water Appropriation Program Manager, Department of Agriculture  
Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau  
Sean Miller, on behalf of Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4  
Mark Rude, Executive Director, Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

**Hearing on: SB227 — Local enhanced management areas; due consideration; corrective control measures.**

Chairperson Schwartz opened the hearing on **SB227**.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, provided an explanation of the bill, noting that **SB227** amends provisions relating to local enhanced management areas (LEMA) ([Attachment 1](#)).

Proponents:

Lane Letourneau, Water Appropriation Program Manager, Department of Agriculture, provided testimony in support of **SB227** ([Attachment 2](#)). Local Groundwater Management Districts are able to propose a plan that establishes corrective control measures which can reduce water use in a specific area, creating conservation goals to protect groundwater resources.

Mr. Letourneau responded to questions from the Committee.

Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau, provided testimony in support of **SB227** ([Attachment 3](#)). Mr. Askren explained that Kansas Farm Bureau supports strong conservation efforts and methods to extend the life of the state's water resources.

Sean Miller, representing Northwest Kansas Groundwater management District #4 (GMD#4),

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presented testimony in support of **SB227** ([Attachment 4](#)). Mr. Miller explained that GMD#4 supports the ability of the chief engineer to give due consideration to water users who have taken voluntary conservation measures. Mr. Miller explained that GMD#4 has a concern with placing a specific ten-year period of water use data into the LEMA statute which could disadvantage future local proceedings.

There were no other proponents, neutrals or opponents to come before the Committee.

The hearing on **SB227** was closed.

### **Hearing on: SB156 — Allowing certain expenditures from the Arkansas river gaging fund.**

Chair Schwartz opened the hearing on **SB156**.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, provided a briefing, noting that the bill amends provisions relating to the Arkansas River gaging fund ([Attachment 5](#)) .

#### Proponents:

Mark Rude, Executive Director, Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 (GMD#3), provided testimony in support of **SB156** ([Attachment 6](#)). Mr. Rude explained that **SB156** would clarify the annual O & M cost of existing Stateline groundwater gage sites established by GMD#3 with help from the Kansas Geological Survey and the US Geological Survey will be funded each year from the Arkansas River Gage Fund.

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association, presented testimony in support of **SB156** ([Attachment 7](#)) . Mr. Beam explained that KLA opposed the original bill because it appeared to jeopardize state funding for livestock market reports; however the Senate amended **SB156** to address their concerns.

#### Neutral:

Lane Letourneau, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee as neutral on **SB156** ([Attachment 8](#)). Mr. Letourneau explained that the bill limits funding for groundwater monitoring sites to locations along the Kansas state border. The agency feels this is not helpful to the agency's overarching efforts to focus data collection resources where they are most needed and the limitation seems unnecessarily provocative to neighboring states of Colorado and Oklahoma with which the state has interstate river compacts.

There were no other conferees, either proponents, neutrals or opponents to appear before the Committee.

The hearing on **SB156** was closed.

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### **Discussion & action on:**

Natalie Scott, Revisor, explained that **SB120** pertains to land purchases by the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. **SB120** as amended by the Senate Committee, would limit the purchase of land by the Department to 160 acres.

*Representative Sloan moved to recommend **SB120** favorable for passage. Motion seconded by Representative Wilson.*

Representative Sloan presented an amendment to **SB120** which would make deletions to language on page 1, line 7 and lines 33 and 34; revisions on page 2, lines 39 thru 42 and add language as indicated following line 42.

*Representative Sloan made a substitute motion to adopt the amendment to **SB120** as presented. Motion was seconded by Representative Wilson.*

After Committee discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

*Representative Sloan moved to amend **SB120** by striking the 160 acres on page 1, line 27 and return to the 320 acres as in the original bill. Motion was seconded by Representative Wilson. Motion failed on a voice vote.*

*Representative Lusker moved to recommend **SB120** favorable for passage. Motion seconded by Representative Dierks. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for March 17, 2015.