

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 14, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Sloan – Excused
Representative Joe Seiwert – Excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kyle Bauer, General manager, KFRM Radio, Clay Center
Julie Mulvihill, Kansas Humanities Council
Earl Lewis, Kansas Water Office
Susan Metzger, Department of Agriculture

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Informational briefing:

Chair Schwartz introduced two new members to the Committee and requested that them to tell a little about themselves - Representative Greg Lewis and Representative Ken Rahjes. Staff was also introduced.

Chair Schwartz brought the Committee's attention to information included in their packets today:

Committee Member Information List ([Attachment 1](#))

Seating Chart ([Attachment 2](#))

Committee Rules ([Attachment 3](#))

Conferee Rules ([Attachment 4](#))

Chair Schwartz welcomed several members of the Senate Natural Resources and Senate Agriculture Committees who are present today to observe and take part in the documentary and presentation on water in Kansas.

Bill introductions

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

(1) Penalties regarding water reporting (RS#2705)

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- (2) Animal facilities (RS#2784)
- (3) Plant Pest Act (RS#2772)
- (4) Multi-Year Flex Accounts (RS#2760)
- (5) Conservation Reserve Enhancement (RS#2681)
- (6) Animal Brands (RS#2709)
- (7) Noxious Weeds (RS#2759)

Representative Waymaster moved to approve the introduction of legislation as requested by the Department of Agriculture. Motion was seconded by Representative Carlin. Motion carried.

Brief Remarks by Kyle Bauer, General Manager, KFRM Radio, Clay Center

Kyle Bauer, General Manager, KFRM Radio, Clay Center, appeared before the Committee, to make comments about his interest in water issues and the work he contributed to the documentary "When the Well Runs Dry".

When the Well Runs Dry - A Documentary About Water in Kansas

Julie Mulvihill, Executive Director, Humanities Council, introduced the documentary concerning water titled "When the Well Runs Dry", a short film produced by Steve Lerner and the Florence Historical Society with funding support from the Kansas Humanities Council. The film portrays the vital connection that rural Kansans have with water and is intended to expand the conversation about the future of water ([Attachment 5](#)).

Water Vision Implementation Update

Earl Lewis, Kansas Water Office, and Susan Metzger, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee to provide a Kansas Water Vision Implementation Update ([Attachment 6](#)).

Mr. Lewis informed the Committee that as of November 2015, more than 80 per cent of the action items on the 101 Phase I Action Items identified in the Vision have been completed. Mr. Lewis noted that fourteen regional advisory community groups have been formed to get more Kansans involved in the conserving water project.

Susan Metzger noted that they are holding discussions about the cost associated with various projects, how much it will cost and where the funding will come from. The agency is also working to educate Kansas citizens on water conservation, working with cities on ways to be more conservative and working with the farming communities to improve irrigation practices.

The agencies are coordinating efforts to eliminate duplicating efforts, working across agency lines and implementing task forces to work in various areas.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for

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

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Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

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