

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 28, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Sloan – Excused
Representative Joe Seiwert – Excused
Representative John Ewy – Excused
Representative Susie Swanson – 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:

Jaime Gaggero, Department of Health and Environment
Susan Metzger, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Presentation on Sediment & Nutrient Abatement Efforts of Multiple State Water Agencies

Jaime Gaggero, Chief, Department of Health and Environment, Watershed Management Section, appeared before the Committee to provide information on the Conservation Programs Aimed to Abate Sediment and Nutrients and the Efforts of Multiple State Agencies ([Attachment 1](#)).

Ms. Gaggero stated that the Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas calls for an increase in the adoption of watershed practices that reduce loss of the future water supply. Per the attachments, Ms. Gaggero presented testimony on six programs within the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Division of Conservation (DOC), Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and Kansas State University (KSU) including:

- KDHE - Kansas Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategy Program (WRAPS);
- KDA and DOC - Non-Point Source Cost-share Program within Department of Agriculture and Division of Conservation;
- KDHE - Local Conservation Lending Program;
- KDA DOC - Water Resources Cost-share Program
- KSU - Kansas Forest Service Regional Conservation Partnership Grant;
- KDA DOC - Water Quality Buffer Initiative Program.

Ms. Gaggero noted that the Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas calls for an

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 3:30pm on Thursday, January 28, 2016 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

increase in interagency coordination and communication on streambank restoration projects, facilitating the identification and pursuit of streambank restoration projects in high priority watersheds to reduce sediment loading in order to preserve future water supplies.

Ms. Gaggero's testimony also included a map of WRAPS Projects and contact information for each team area ([Attachment 2](#)) In addition, Ms. Gaggero included a review of Sediment & Nutrient Abatement Efforts of Multiple State Agencies ([Attachment 3](#)) .

Responding to questions from the Committee, Ms. Gaggero stated that she would supply the Committee a list of projects listed by priority in the WRAPS program.

Update on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREPS)

Susan Metzger, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee to give an overview of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) ([Attachment 4](#)).

Ms. Metzger stated CREP is a federal/state partnership created for enhancing water conservation efforts along the Upper Arkansas River corridor from Hamilton County to Rice County. Both state and non-state dollars are used to leverage federal dollars for the program. Ms. Metzger indicated that there are approximately 17,000 acres in the program with the addition of 1,411 acres during 2015.

Responding to a question from the Committee, Ms. Metzger indicated that 80% of funds used in the program are federal and approximately 20% are state funds. Ms. Metzger noted that approximately \$440,000 is budgeted within the state budget each year for the CREPS program. Ms. Metzger noted that most of the state funds used in the program are from fees and not state general fund (SGF).

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department, noted that per statute there is to be a \$6 million transfer from the SGF to the State Water Plan each fiscal year; however, this transfer has not been made for the past six years. Mr. Gilliland stated that the intent when this funding was put in statute was to benefit all of Kansas citizens.

- Chair Schwartz requested that Mr. Gilliland provide Committee members with information on the statute concerning the SGF transfer to the State Water Plan.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Monday, February 1, 2016.