

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Thursday, March 10, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

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:

Susan Metzger, Department of Agriculture
Earl Lewis, Kansas Water Office
Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association
Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau
Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Cooperative Council

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: SB330 — Establishing the Kansas conservation reserve enhancement program.

Chair Schwartz opened the hearing on **SB330**.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, explained that **SB330** provides for definitions used for the conservation reserve enhancement program (CREP). The Senate Committee removed the definition of "program" from the bill and replaced the term throughout the bill with "CREP". The bill creates the Kansas CREP fund and allows the division to pursue agreements with the United State Department of Agriculture ([Attachment 1](#)).

Susan Metzger, Assistant Secretary and Interim Director, Division of Conservation, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee in support of **SB330** ([Attachment 2](#)). Ms. Metzger noted that the bill provides the state the ability to significantly leverage state and private funds to meet specific water resource goals in targeted areas of the state.

Earl Lewis, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office, appeared before the Committee in support of **SB330** ([Attachment 3](#)). Mr. Lewis stated that the Kansas Water Office supports the legislation because the program will help improve the quality of the project area waterways that serve as drinking water sources for area residents. The program will also support implementation of the Kansas Nutrient Reduction Framework developed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment addressing

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 3:30pm on Thursday, March 10, 2016 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

nutrient-related water quality issues.

Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau, appeared before the Committee in support of **SB330** ([Attachment 4](#)). Mr. Askren noted that KFB supports the CREP program. Mr. Askren indicated that KFB is comfortable with Senate amendments to **SB330** that gives CREP statutory authority to function and operate under clear guidelines for implementing the program.

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association, appeared before the Committee in support of **SB330** ([Attachment 5](#)). Mr. Beam noted that KLA supports **SB330** because it is intended to provide statutory authority for a continuation of the Upper Arkansas River CREP after the 2015 fiscal year.

Leslie Kaufman, on behalf of Kansas Cooperative Council, Kansas Grain & Feed Association and Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, appeared before the Committee in support of **SB330** ([Attachment 6](#)). Ms. Kaufman requested that the Committee advance the bill in its current form.

The conferees responded to questions from the Committee.

Written testimony in support of **SB330** was received from Mark Rude, Executive Director, Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 ([Attachment 7](#)).

There were no conferees to appear as neutral or in opposition to **SB330**.

The hearing on **SB330** was closed.

Possible action on bills previously heard

*Representative Sloan moved to suspend the rules and take action on **SB330** and **SB329**. Motion seconded by Representative Lusker. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

*Representative Sloan moved to recommend **SB330** favorable for passage. Motion seconded by Representative Victors. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

Natalie Scott, Revisor, explained **SB329**, which had a hearing in Committee on March 9, 2016.

*Representative Sloan moved to recommend **SB329** favorable for passage. Motion seconded by Representative Lusker. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2016.

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.