

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Wednesday, March 16, 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:

Alan King, Director of Utilities, City of Wichita
Lane Letourneau, Water Appropriation Program Manager, Department of Agriculture
Tim Boese, Equus Beds Groundwater Management District #2
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Approval of Minutes

Representative Frances moved to approve the minutes of March 7, March 8, March 9 and March 10. The motion was seconded by Representative Clark. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Hearing on: SB314 — Extending the local food and farm task force.

Chair Schwartz opened the hearing on **SB314**.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, explained that **SB314** would extend the sunset on the Local Food and Farm Task Force from December 31, 2015, to July 1, 2017. Ms. Scott noted that the Senate Committee on Agriculture amended the bill to specify that members of the Task Force attending regular meetings would need to request reimbursement for mileage and could only receive mileage reimbursement for no more than four meetings. In addition, the Senate Committee amended two of the prior directives to the Task Force and added an additional directive.

Representative Adam Lusker appeared before the Committee in support of **SB314** ([Attachment 1](#)). Representative Lusker, a member of the Local Food and Farm Task Force, noted that extending the deadline on the Task Force will allow for further exploration into the opportunities for locally grown products.

Written testimony in support of **SB314** was received from:

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Donn Teske, President, Kansas Farmers Union ([Attachment 2](#))

Kevin Walker, American Heart Association ([Attachment 3](#))

Susan Metzger, Department of Agriculture([Attachment 4](#))

There were no conferees to appear before the Committee as neutral or in opposition to **SB314**.

In response to a question from the Committee concerning reimbursement and expenses for staff from Legislative Research Department to attend meetings in sites other than Topeka, Raney Gilliland stated that he does not feel that meetings conducted electronically are satisfactory. Mr. Gilliland noted that it is a strain on the Department's budget when meetings are held in places across the state that require an overnite stay with meals for staff from the Legislative Research Department.

The hearing on **SB314** was closed.

Discussion & action on:

*Representative Moxley moved to suspend the rules and allow for discussion and possible action on **SB314**. Motion seconded by Representative Hibbard. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

*Representative Moxley moved to recommend **SB314** favorable for passage. Motion seconded by Representative Carlin. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

Presentation on:

Chairwoman Schwartz explained that she has had several requests for information on procedures being used to secure a water supply for the city of Wichita.

At the request of the Chair, Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department, provided background information on the issue. Mr. Gilliland noted the issue was brought forth as a result of the recent drought and the fact that the City of Wichita depends mainly on Cheney Reservoir for their water supply. In addition, the City of Wichita owns "vested water rights" in the Equus Beds Groundwater District #2. Because of the drought, there is a concern to insure that the City of Wichita is drawing down water in accordance with their "vested" rights from the Equus Beds.

Alan King, Director of Utilities, City of Wichita, appeared before the Committee, and presented a power-point presentation concerning Wichita's water supply currently and in the future ([Attachment 5](#)). Mr. King indicated that there has been continuing discussion as Wichita attempts to secure their future water supply as a result of the recent drought. At the present time, the City has sufficient water as they Mr. King noted that because of anticipated growth within the city of Wichita, the city feels it is important to address the situation to be prepared.

The Committee voiced concern that streams upstream from Cheney Reservoir are not running at the present time and ponds are down several feet. Mr. King noted that during non-drought periods, Cheney

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Reservoir has plenty of water. He also noted that the city is using less water at the present time as they work to modify demand.

Lane Letourneau, Program Manager for the Water Appropriation Program, Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources, appeared before the committee to provide information on the aquifer storage and recovery projects in Kansas and an overview of the status of the proposed amendment to statewide rules for such projects ([Attachment 6](#)) . Mr. Letourneau noted that the Department of Agriculture is in the process of updating the statewide rules and regulations and implementing changes specific to the Wichita aquifer storage and recovery.

Tim Boese, Equus Beds Groundwater Management District #2, appeared before the Committee to present a power-point presentation on the issues pertaining to the source of water for the City of Wichita. Mr. Boese noted that they continue to work with the City of Wichita in supplying sufficient water to the city as well as maintaining the level of the aquifer ([Attachment 7](#)).

Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office, appeared before the Committee to provide testimony concerning the water supply for the City of Wichita ([Attachment 8](#)). Mr. Streeter explained funding directed to the City of Wichita project at this time is approximately \$4 million, from the State Water Plan Fund. Mr. Streeter explained that the agency continues to work through the Water Vision Plan to identify the parameters of a sustainable Equus Beds Aquifer. Mr. Streeter noted that the goal is to maintain a water supply but not over-appropriate.

The conferees responded to questions from the Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is "on call of the chair".