

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VISION 2020 COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Sloan at 9:00 am on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 218-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Jarrod Ousley – Excused
Representative Connie O'Brien – Excused
Representative Randy Garber – Excused
Representative Roderick Houston – Excused

Committee staff present:

Scott Abbott, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department
Natalie Teemer-Washington, Legislative Research Department
Mary Koles, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Renae Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mike Tate, Director, Bureau of Water, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Presentation on:

Mike Tate, Director, Bureau of Water, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), addressed the agency's priorities for water, desired action regarding those priorities and suggestions for funding the Water Plan. KDHE receives funding for four areas:

- **Contamination Remediation** - operation and maintenance of Superfund remediation projects, cleanups are measured in years, and orphaned sites
- **Total maximum Daily Load Initiatives** - identify and rectify watersheds impaired by pollutants, focus on nutrient pollution and expect continued remediation efforts into the future, potentially 20 to 40 years
- **Nonpoint Source Pollution** - funds match Federal Clean Water Act under section 319 funds and the entire grant is used for local WRAPS activities; the focus is on nutrient and sediment pollution remediation of most watersheds and will take 20 to 40 years
- **Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)** - funds support locally-led groups, a majority of the funds support statewide goals of sediment and nutrient reduction in state waters, again another 20 to 40 years will pass before remediation at the current funding level is successful

Remediation projects in each of these areas will require years, even decades, to be complete and some efforts will need to be continued. Superfund cleanups are often measured in terms of often many decades, not days, months, or years.

Tate noted the original State Water Plan Fund provided for a mix of state funds and user fees which is

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MINUTES of the Committee on Vision 2020 at 9:00 am on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 218-N of the Capitol.

not being met. He says it would take legislative action to establish policy direction for the fund size, the sources of fees directed to the fund and the contribution from each of these sources to the fund. He offers conceptual ideas regarding where fees could focus and he is clear that these are not being promoted by KDHE, they are simply funding options.

The fees that directly impact KDHE or KDHE permittees include: WRAPS and Nonpoint Source to reduce nutrients and sediment; Contamination Remediation, relieve funding limitations at superfund and orphan sites; and Municipal Water Use, increase the fees or, offer an incentive to systems that are at or below their regional per capita water use. A chart shows KDHE funding for the four target areas for FY 2006-2014 and depicts a general downhill trend.

Tate also addressed the impact of federal water requirements on small communities. The Kansas landscape encompasses 1011 public water supply (PWS) systems. The median population served is 400, 95% of Kansans receive water from a public water supply, 96% of PSW users receive water that meets all Maximum Contaminate Levels (MCLs) and 88% of PWS users had no MCLs violations. He reported the three major contaminants are arsenic, uranium and nitrate. He mentioned treatments, treatment costs and some locations where MCL levels are high or have dropped. The most common problem is nitrates. He also mentioned Congressional Mandates and the Davis-Bacon Act. ([Attachment 1](#))

Following his presentation, questions were asked and comments made by Chairman Sloan and Representatives Francis, Campbell, and Bollier. Chairman Sloan requested additional information regarding costs for centralized treatment at several small drinking water systems and more information regarding local entities cost-sharing on cleanup projects. ([Attachment 2](#))

Chairman Sloan thanked Mr. Tate for his comments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m..

The next meeting will be March 4, 2015.