

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VISION 2020 COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Sloan at 9:00 am on Wednesday, March 04, 2015, 218-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Representative Shannon Francis – 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:

- Kent Askren, Director of Public Policy, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Presentation on: Kansas Farm Bureau and the State Water Fund**

Kent Askren, Director of Public Policy, Kansas Farm Bureau, commented on Kansas Farm Bureau's (KFB) policy regarding priorities for and funding of the Kansas Water Plan (KWP). The Bureau supports expenditure's for cost-sharing of land treatment for highly erodible lands and riparian areas, livestock waste management facilities, grazing land management, plugging abandon wells and upgrading rural septic systems. However, the KWP benefits all Kansans and should be funded through the State General Fund (SGF) or dedicated statewide revenue sources. Askren noted that for years the statutory requirement of a \$6 million demand transfer from the SGF to the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) has not occurred.

Farm Bureau members, he stated, contribute to the water protection fee as well as pay tonnage fees on fertilizer purchases and for registering pesticides. These fees comprise the majority of the revenue going into the SWPF. Failure to fund the KWP, he observed, leaves Bureau members and Kansas vulnerable to federal mandates, downstream neighbors and third party lawsuits. He stressed that without statewide funding, agriculture continues to bear the financial brunt of funding the water plan with no way to pass along these added expenses. Askren concluded encouraging the State to fund the KWP for the benefit of all Kansans. ([Attachment 1](#))

Many questions were asked and comments made following his presentation. Participants included Chairman Sloan and Representatives O'Brien, Curtis, Campbell, Francis, Bollier, and Rooker. Earl Lewis, guest, responded to questions directed to him and Kent Askren expounded further on the Ogallala Aquifer.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Vision 2020 at 9:00 am on Wednesday, March 04, 2015, 218-N of the Capitol.

Representatives Bollier and Rooker introduced their shadows, gifted students from their respective Districts.

Chairman Sloan thanked Mr. Askren for his presentation today and for responding to the Committee's many questions.

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

The next meeting will be Monday, March 9, 2015.