

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Kerschen at 8:30pm on Monday, February 08, 2016, 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Garrett Love – Excused

Senator Carolyn McGinn – Excused

Committee staff present:

David Wiese, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Fran Lusk, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Kyle Hamilton, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Bud Estes, Representative, State Of Kansas

Others in attendance:

No list available

### **Informational briefing:**

#### **A Proposal to Reduce Water Usage for Irrigation in Kansas By Developing Renewable Energy**

Joining the Senate Agriculture Committee are members from the Senate Natural Resources Committee and House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Kansas has experienced four to five years of moderate to extreme drought, and dwindling water resources are the norm for any entity that relies on water in Kansas. In the forefront are the western Kansas farmers that rely on water for irrigation, but the bigger picture includes many other parts of the Kansas economy.

This Proposal is intended to explore a renewable energy development possibility for individual farmers who choose to voluntarily reduce their irrigation water consumption by 25% from current levels.

#### **How this Proposal would work:**

- 1.) A farmer, or group of farmers, would voluntarily agree to reduce their use of water for irrigation by 25%.
- 2.) The lost revenues and increased cost associated with the reduced use of water in Step 1 would be replaced or abated with development of wind energy or solar energy resources.
- 3.) The renewable energy facilities would be located nearby and sized to serve the energy requirements

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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.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Agriculture at 3:30pm on Monday, February 08, 2016 in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

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of their farming operation.

4.) Policy changes will be needed to accommodate delivery of the renewable energy created by the participating farmers and to allow the energy not used by the farmers to be used by the distributive cooperatives.

The ultimate goal of this Proposal is to reduce water used for crop irrigation for the long-term viability of Kansas farming operations. This Proposal is an attempt to begin a cost benefit analysis of replacing the lost revenues associated with irrigation farming practices that use 25% less water, with cost savings, new revenues and other benefits that could be achieved with renewable energy production.

[\(Attachment 1\)](#)

Representative Estes stood for questions from the Committee.

Chairman Love closed meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.