

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Powell at 8:30am on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Mark Savoy, Legislative Research Department
Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department
Toni Beck, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mark Rude, Groundwater Management District 3
Mike Beam, KS Livestock Association
Chris Beightel, Department of Agriculture
Lane Latourneau, Department of Agriculture
Kent Askren, KS Farm Bureau

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Intruductions

Chairman Powell introduced members from the Young Stockmen Kansas Livestock Association attending with Wendy Harms at today's Resources meeting. The members introduced themselves and the towns they represent.

Hearing on: SB156 — Allowing certain expenditures from the Arkansas river gaging fund.

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on the bill.

Tamera Lawrence presented an overview.

Mark Rude presented testimony in favor of the bill stating clarification is necessary for the Groundwater Management District #3 for gage sites funded by the Arkansas River Gage Fund. Total cooperative cost share expense to the fund this year is \$10,664. ([Attachment 1](#))

Mike Beam presented opposition to the bill stating the existing source of funding for the livestock market reports could be lost. State funding for market reports are important to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Feeder Cattle Index to determine the cash settlement index. ([Attachment 2](#))

Chris Beightel presented neutral testimony on the bill stating it authorized expenditures from the Arkansas River gaging fund to pay for groundwater monitoring sites, but limits such expenditures to monitoring sites along the Kansas state border. ([Attachment 3](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Discussion:

The Kansas delegation is trying to be diplomatic under the compact but a stance is necessary and appropriate. Managing the resource coming through the river is a tool to manage the supply. Gaging is to gather flow and water levels of the ground water. Funding is necessary for the gaging over a number of years long term in support of the program. Raising the cap in this bill by \$20,000 would settle the concerns of opposition. The Department has the power to install the gages at this time, but the budget does not allow for this until after this bill is passed. The division of Water Resources has an ongoing study on the issue.

Chairman Powell closed the hearing on the bill.

Hearing on: SB227 — Local enhanced management areas; due consideration; corrective control measures.

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on the bill.

Tamera Lawrence presented an overview.

Lane Letourneau presented testimony on behalf of the bill stating as the 50 Year Water Vision progresses, Kansans agree they should not be penalized for implementing conservation measures prior to establishing a LEMA program. ([Attachment 4](#))

Kent Askren presented testimony in favor of the bill commenting the bill grants the chief engineer authority to give "due consideration" to past water management and conservation when implementing Local Enhanced Management Areas (LEMA) corrective controls. ([Attachment 5](#))

Sean Miller submitted written testimony to the committee stating water reductions already taken by water users may eliminate current roadblocks that stand in the way of future LEMA discussions. ([Attachment 6](#))

Discussion:

The LEMA District had a public hearing process where users commented they were forced into the decision. No court challenges are evident as of yet. Resentment toward users not in the LEMA project surfaced during the public hearing process, as opposed to users wanting participation to share the regulations and restrictions in the conservation program.

Chairman Powell closed the hearing on the bill.

Because of time limitations for the committee members, possible action on bills previously heard:

SB120-Exception to the limitations of wildlife, parks and tourism authority to purchase land

SB124-Eliminating the sunset landspreading of oil and gas drilling waste

SB125-Allowing NORM and TENORM to be eligible for disposal in Kansas landfills

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

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will be in the Senate Natural Resources Committee, Thursday, February 19.

There being no further information discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.