

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Powell at 8:30am on Thursday, January 14, 2016, 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Michael O'Donnell – Excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Keith Sexton, Wildlife Park and Tourism  
Chad Depperschmidt, Wildlife Park and Tourism  
Jim Pitman, WAFWA

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

**Possible bill introductions**

Chairman Powell called for bill introductions by Susan Metzger, Department of Agriculture.

- \*Multi Year Flex Accounts
- \*Civil penalties per water reports
- \*Plant toxicants
- \*Conservation reserve enhancement program

Introductions were accepted with no opposition.

**Presentation on: Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency**

Keith Sexson and Chad Depperschmidt, Kansas Wildlife, Park and Tourism; and Jim Pitman, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency, presented general information pertaining to an annual update of the program. There are 206 agreements in 177 companies with 11 million enrolled acres, 1,944 projects submitted with a total financial status of \$49,335,813 in the fund. ([Attachment 1](#))

Contract Status:

Include 13 contracts, \$1.8 million paid to date, \$13.8 million committed, with total acres of 101,967 contracted.

Discussion continued that helicopters are used for bird count with a goal of 67,000 birds. An allowance

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Natural Resources at 8:30am on Thursday, January 14, 2016 in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

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of 20% error rate in collection of information is considered. No federal or state money is involved in the program. Drones are not currently used in the count. A court ruling decision could have an effect for participants in the program, and should be delivered through the court next week.

Information on Wildlife and Park Land Acquisition and Lease Renewal for Cloud County shows a purchase of approximately 157 acres. The tract was purchased for \$717,000 with appraisal of \$816,000. Linn County purchase was 145 acres by the Conservation Fund. Both purchases will remain on the county tax rolls. Concerns from committee were expressed over the purchase prices making it impossible for farmers or ranchers to compete. Appraisals were done by an authorized appraiser on behalf of the State.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 20.