

Held in Room 423-S, at the Statehouse at 9:00 a.m./p.m. on January 27, 1981

All members were present except:

- Rep. Fuller - Excused
- Rep. Knopp

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 9:00 a.m./p.m. on January 29, 1981

These minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 1981 were considered, corrected and approved.

[Handwritten Signature]

 Chairman

The conferees appearing before the Committee were:

Guy Gibson - Division of Water Resources

The meeting of the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee was called to order by Chairman Beezley. Vice-Chairperson Aylward stated her intention of introducing an Implied Warranty Bill again this year.

Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, Bill Duitsman, introduced Mr. Guy Gibson, Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources, who informed the Committee of the duties and responsibilities the Division of Water Resources has in carrying out most of the water laws. Mr. Gibson gave a short history of the Division, citing its creation in 1927, the number of laws administered, and its present location at 901 Kansas Avenue in Topeka. The four field offices are located in Stafford, Stockton, Garden City and Topeka. Among the many responsibilities the Division entails are maintaining streams and channels, levee construction, flood control, drainage districts, watershed districts, irrigation districts, boundary review, operational procedures, dam inspection, compacts and reciprocal agreements with other states and so forth. Mr. Gibson touched on many facets of the Division of Water Resources.

Asked by a Committee member about the makeup of the Water Resources Board, Mr. Gibson responded that the employees are civil service whereas the Secretary is an unclassified employee. The Water Resources Board is made up of seven persons appointed by the Governor. Mr. Gibson responded to Rep. Dempsey's question that the relations between the Water Resources Board and the Division of Water Resources are good to excellent.

Mr. Gibson stated a 1945 "vested right" claim that all water in the State of Kansas belongs to Kansans. The individual has a domestic right to water for household purposes, livestock and for farm operation.

The Division of Water Resources satisfies the downstream rights for an equitable distribution of water and is working as hard as possible to give Kansans as much water as possible.

Chairman Beezley stated that Rep. Aylward's bill would be taken up at a future time. Rep. Johnson moved the minutes be approved. Rep. Polson gave a second to the motion. The motion carried. Mr. John Miller reminded the Committee members of the Kansas Committee of Farm Organizations dinner this evening. Rep. Smith introduced Don Haber, a student at Baker University; Rep. Johnson introduced Mr. and Mrs. Sam Flora of Quinter, Ks.; Rep. Thomson introduced her husband, Leonard Brant. The meeting was adjourned.

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.