

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & SMALL BUSIN

Held in Room 423-S, at the Statehouse at 10:00 a.m. a. m./p. m.,
on Thursday, March 19, 1981, 19 .

All members were present except: Senator Ross Doyen (Excused)

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 10:00 a.m. a. m./p. m.,
on Friday, March 20, 1981, 19 .

These minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, March 19, 1981, 19 were
considered, corrected and approved.


Chairman

The conferees appearing before the Committee were:

Representative Larry Erne
Representative Jim Lowther
John Miller, Committee of Farm Organizations
Alex Murphy, representing Legislative Board of the
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
Charles Gray, State Conservation Commission

Senator Kerr called the meeting to order. Senator Arasmith moved, seconded by Senator Karr, that the minutes of the March 17, 1981, meeting be approved. Motion carried. Senator Arasmith moved, seconded by Senator Warren, that the minutes of the March 18, 1981, meeting be approved. Motion carried.

HOUSE BILL 2046

Representative Erne, sponsor of this bill, stated the supplement note sets out the provisions of this bill which updates the population and assessed valuation brackets of a statute dealing with a 1/5 mill levy for certain county fair associations. The amendment makes the statute apply only to Montgomery County.

Senator Warren expressed the feeling since this bill was designed to specifically take care of the Interstate Fair Association in Montgomery County, he suggested the county be named therein. Representative Erne agreed.

HOUSE BILL 2142

Representative Jim Lowther, one of the sponsors of this bill, stated the bill would permit the county commissioners to make a tax levy of up to .5 of a mill or \$15,000, whichever is less, in addition to providing money from the county general fund for the operation of the conservation district. There is need for funds in a number of counties in order to secure necessary services of a planner, technician or secretary. At the present time county commissioners may pay the conservation district up to \$7,500 annually from the county general fund which is matched by state funds.

John Miller, Committee of Farm Organizations, stated his Committee has endorsed support of this bill and feels the supplement explains the bill.

Alex Murphy, representing KACD, had distributed Attachment "A" to original minutes which contains questions and answers to Lyon County Conservation District's resolution for change in the conservation district's law pertaining to amount of county fund appropriations to districts.

(MORE)

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.

Minutes of the SENATE AG Committee on Thursday, March 19, 1981 19

Mr. Murphy stated this enables soil conservation districts to go to the county commissioners and request needed funds to more efficiently perform their duties.

Senator Arasmith questioned if this levy would have to be made annually, to which Mr. Murphy answered, "Yes".

Senator Norvell stated he would like to add an amendment so as to give the option to protest the increase in the levy provided such a petition is signed by 5% of the people.

Charles Gray, State Conservation Commission, expressed his Commission's support for the bill.

Answering Senator Karr's inquiry as to how many counties would take advantage of this bill, Mr. Gray estimated probably not more than four or five at the present time. He named the following counties--Lane, Lyon, Logan, and Kingman.

Relative to Senator Karr's inquiry as to what impact will be felt due to a cutback of federal and state moneys, Mr. Gray stated budgets too would suffer and perhaps result in loss of support for some cost-share programs.

HCR 5010

No conferees appeared on this resolution.

HOUSE BILL 2457

John Miller stated his organization supports this bill. He stated Kudzu had been found in several parts of Eastern Kansas and he would like to see action taken to curtail its spread.

Senator Allen moved that House Bill 2457 be reported favorably, seconded by Senator Thiessen. Motion carried.

HCR 5010

Senator Karr moved that HCR 5010 be reported favorably, seconded by Senator Thiessen. Motion carried.

HOUSE BILL 2142

Senator Reilly made a conceptual motion that this bill be amended to incorporate the right for a 5% protest provision, seconded by Senator Norvell. Senator Arasmith felt there would be no need for such a protest petition, as did Senator Karr, since the request for additional funds would have to be made annually which he feels is quite different from assigning a permanent tax. Senator Kerr stated this bill did come from the House Local Government Committee and this question had not been raised therein, as far as he could determine. Motion failed.

Senator Thiessen moved that House Bill 2142 be reported favorably, seconded by Senator Karr. Motion carried.

HOUSE BILL 2046

Senator Warren moved, Senator Thiessen seconded that this bill be conceptually amended to insert the name of Montgomery County as appropriate. Motion carried.

Senator Gannon moved, Senator Thiessen seconded, that House Bill 2046 be reported favorably, as amended. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

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Lyon County Conservation District

P.O. Box 1105 - Emporia, Kansas 66801 - Telephone: (316) 343-2813

(ATTACHMENT "A" 3/19/81)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS TO LYON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S RESOLUTION FOR CHANGE IN THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S LAW PERTAINING TO AMOUNT OF COUNTY FUND APPROPRIATIONS TO DISTRICTS:

1. Q: Our Conservation District does not receive the maximum allowed under the present law. Why should we support a change to increase the number of dollars a district can receive?
A: The proposed change is for "permissive legislation". This means that Conservation Districts will be allowed to budget more dollars than present legislation provides for. Some Districts need more funds. If your Conservation District does not need any more dollars, then it should budget only what it needs.
2. Q: Will the proposed change make it possible to get funds from both a Special levy and from the county's general fund?
A: Yes.
3. Q: Conservation Districts are presently allowed to receive \$7,500 annually from their respective counties. Why is additional money needed?
A: Some Conservation Districts are involved with several time-consuming programs. The present SCS staff in many Districts is not able to service all who need and request technical assistance. Additional funds are needed to hire part-time district technicians, to purchase survey equipment, to up-date district office equipment, and so forth.
4. Q: A budget based on a maximum levy is confusing to me. Why should Conservation Districts want something like this?
A: A Conservation District will prepare its annual budget in basically the same way as it has in the past. The main difference is that the bottom line presently cannot exceed \$7,500 for county funds. Under the Special levy the bottom line could not exceed 0.5 mil times the county's valuation, whatever that value is.
5. Q: How many dollars would a 0.5 Special levy bring in to a District's treasury?
A: This will vary from county to county. Some counties have a valuation as low as \$20 million. In this case, a District would be limited to budgeting \$10,000 or less. The average Kansas county has a valuation of around \$50 million. In this latter situation, the budget of a given Conservation District could not legally exceed \$25,000.
6. Q: Do Conservation Districts really have a need for \$10,000 or \$15,000?
A: Some do, and others probably will. Remember back 10 years or less. The legal limit was \$3,000. Today it takes nearly \$7,000 to "buy" the same items as \$3,000 did in 1970. By 1985 it will probably require \$12,000 to buy these items.

7. Q: How will the proposed change affect the state matching funds?
- A: The change is not intended to have any affect on the state matching fund program. The proposal is based on the concept that any county presently receiving the maximum of \$7,500 in state matching funds will obtain all of any increase in budget needs from their local county.
8. Q: Our Conservation District has been well supported by our county commissioners. We don't want to promote a change that will adversely affect this relationship?
- A: Obviously this is an important item to consider. Experience with county commissioners indicate that they prefer to have units of government obtain funds through a mil, or special, levy because it is readily identifiable.
9. Q: What action is needed to implement this change?
- A: The proposed change will require legislative action to change the budgeting process. Therefore, as with most legislative activity, local support by Districts, county commissioners, watersheds, and other affected groups and individuals play a big part in influencing legislative results. This is the reason that KACD is asked to endorse this change.
10. Q: When would the proposed change become effective?
- A: This depends on the state legislature. However, if the legislature acts favorably on the proposal this coming spring, the earliest it could become effective would be for calendar year 1982.

SENATE

AGRICULTURE AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

DATE Thursday, Mar. 19, 1981 PLACE: Room 423-S

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

GUEST LIST

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

<i>Albert Kientz</i>	<i>Emporia</i>	<i>Kansas Irrigators</i>
<i>Marion Shubert</i>	<i>Council Grove</i>	<i>F. F. M.</i>
<i>Donald B. Cress</i>	<i>Council Grove</i>	<i>Kansas A. A. M.</i>
<i>Alan M. Wood</i>	<i>Emporia</i>	<i>The Way College of Emporia</i>
<i>F. Nicola Quinn</i>	<i>Emporia</i>	<i>The Way College</i>
<i>James C. Ellis</i>	<i>Emporia</i>	<i>The Way College of Emporia</i>
<i>Leon D. Riffel</i>	<i>Emporia</i>	<i>Ko A A M</i>
<i>Jack Slutz</i>	<i>Junction City</i>	<i>F U</i>
<i>John O. Hill</i>	<i>Topeka</i>	<i>CISFO</i>
<i>Charles Gray</i>	<i>Topeka</i>	<i>State Conservation Commission</i>
<i>Verne Fort Meyer</i>	<i>Topeka</i>	<i>Kansas Association of Pers. Dist.</i>
<i>Jim Lowther</i>	<i>Emporia</i>	<i>Rep. 16th District, Legis.</i>
<i>Alf Murphy</i>	<i>Emporia</i>	<i> Lyon Co. Conservation</i>

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. PRESIDENT:

Your committee on Agriculture and Small Business

Recommends that House Bill No. 2457

"AN ACT declaring kudzu to be a noxious weed; amending K.S.A.
2-1314 and repealing the existing section."

Be passed.


_____ Chairperson

3-17-81

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

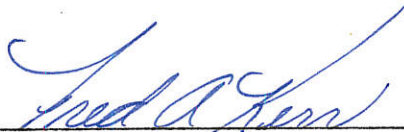
MR. PRESIDENT:

Your committee on Agriculture and Small Business

Recommends that House Concurrent Resolution No. 5010

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing the President and Congress of the United States not to threaten nor place trade restrictions on the export of agricultural products; or to threaten massive importations of foreign agricultural products."

Be adopted.


_____ Chairperson

3-19-81

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. PRESIDENT:

Your committee on Agriculture and Small Business

Recommends that House Bill No. 2142 (As Amended by House Committee)

"AN ACT concerning conservation districts; authorizing a special levy; amending K.S.A. 1980 Supp. 2-1907b, and repealing the existing section."

Be passed.



Chairperson

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. PRESIDENT:

Your committee on Agriculture and Small Business

Recommends that House Bill No. 2046

"AN ACT relating to certain county fair associations; amending K.S.A. 1980 Supp. 2-129g, and repealing the existing section."

Be amended:

On page 1, in line 23, by striking "any" and inserting in lieu thereof "Montgomery"; also in line 23, by striking all after "county" where it last appears; by striking all of lines 24 to 27, inclusive; in line 28, by striking all before "shall";

In the title, in line 17, by striking "certain" and inserting in lieu thereof "Montgomery"; also in line 17, after "county", by inserting "; tax levy for county"; also in line 17, by striking "associations" and inserting in lieu thereof "purposes";

And the bill be passed as amended.

Fred A. Hess Chairperson