

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Energy and Natural Resources

The meeting was called to order by Senator Charlie L. Angell at
Chairperson

8:00 a.m. ~~XXXX~~ on Wednesday, January 19, 1983 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~XXXX~~:

Committee staff present:

Ramon Powers, Research Department
Don Hayward, Revisor's Office
LaVonne Mumert, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Joseph Harkins, Director, Kansas Water Office

Senator Kerr moved that the minutes of the meeting of January 18, 1983 be approved. Senator Gannon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Chairman Angell announced the appointment of a subcommittee: Senator Werts, Chairman, Senator Hess and Senator Feleciano, to make recommendations on the Kansas Water Authority's recommendation that a statewide master implementation and development plan and a related statewide master research plan be developed.

Joseph Harkins stated that existing law contained long range goals for water policy planning: (1) develop and meet the anticipated future needs of the people of the state, (2) reduction of damaging floods, (3) protection and improvement of the quality of water supplies, (4) sound management of water supplies, (5) prevention of waste of water supplies, (6) prevention of pollution of water supplies, (7) efficient and economical distribution of water resources and (8) sound coordination of water resources. Mr. Harkins said there is no state water policy plan now. He pointed out there are some 1,500 to 2,000 organizations that are involved in planning the use of water resources of Kansas and more than 100 hydrologists working on projects affecting Kansas. He said the first major step in the planning process is pulling together all of these organizations and developing a process where all of the planners are connected. Using a map of Kansas, Mr. Harkins described problems of different regions of Kansas, including depletion of groundwater, flood control, interbasin transfers, weather modification, research and data needs, reservoir depletion, minimum streamflows, mineral intrusion, water supplies and potential pollution problems. He mentioned that only about 22% or 23% of the water in reservoirs for which Kansas pays the federal government is being sold to users. Mr. Harkins explained the problem the community of Spring Hill is experiencing because a contract cannot be negotiated until the issue of water pricing is resolved. He went on to say the Water Office intends to ask the Legislature to take action on the Spring Hill contract when it is finalized.

Chairman Angell asked what time frame would be involved in pulling together all of the organizations concerned with water and when this would be initiated. Mr. Harkins replied that it has already been initiated. He has met with all of the federal entities involved and all of the water agencies' directors. He said the response has been remarkable with manpower being allocated from other agencies and technical assistance being offered. The Water Office is approaching this with the concept that the planning process can't be separated from the doing process. Mr. Harkins stated the plan will be ready a year from now. He said the Water Office will be moving within 90 days to the Mills Building where the Division of Water Resources is located. He stated they intend to take the plan to a certain stage of development and then take it to the public with hearings, with the Water Authority working with the Water Office at each stage. After the hearings, the Water Office will finalize the plan and present it to the Water Authority. After the Authority screens and approves the plan, it will be presented to the Legislature and Governor. Mr. Harkins pointed out there has been some confusion that the water planning law is the state plan, but that is not the case. In answer to a question from Senator Chaney, Mr. Harkins stated the Water Office will identify the problems while the Legislature will be the ultimate policy maker. The Water Office will then look at the options with the Water Authority prioritizing the options to the Legislature. He suggested this process would be facilitated with the participation of an interim committee. Mr. Harkins said the plan to be presented next year will contain a cost benefit analysis comparing the transfer of water from Milford Lake for the Wichita area to the development of a reservoir.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Energy and Natural Resources,
room 123-S, Statehouse, at 8:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on Wednesday, January 19, 1983

Mr. Harkins then turned to the subject of the Kansas Water Authority's report, "Kansas Water Resources Programs". He said the Water Authority criticized the Water Office for not developing a comprehensive policy plan. Mr. Harkins said the Water Office accepts that criticism and agrees that it is correct. Mr. reiterated that they will be dealing with that area this year. In answer to a question from Chairman Angell, Mr. Harkins said that, right now, the Water Office has an awkward relationship with the Water Authority and has not achieved a satisfactory relationship in terms of the Water Office providing the Water Authority complete logistical support. Mr. Harkins stated that the budget for the Water Office was developed during a time when the Water Office was in a transition period and final decisions about the planning effort and the scope of the planning effort had not been made. The current budget is not reflective of the program as outlined. Mr. Harkins said the Governor has said he is willing to submit a budget amendment to take care of this matter. Mr. Harkins told the Committee the federal government has a computer system containing water studies and information, and this is available through a terminal in Lawrence. The Water Office will be adding their reports and data to this system. He said the Water Office has been offered models from various sources. Answering queries from Senator Feleciano, Mr. Harkins said the Kansas Legislature has the authority, and no one else, to say what the priorities are.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m. by the Chairman.

The next meeting of the Committee will be at 8:00 a.m. on January 20, 1983.

Senate Energy & Natural Resources

Jan. 19, 1983

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Tatiana Gorham	KCC
Lee Wright	Ks. Water office
Joe HARKINS	KANS. WATER OFFICE
Deb Miller	Gov
Darlene Sarsel	KDHE
Roy D. Sheikel	N.C.P. & W. Co.
John Blythe	KFB
Rob McNeely	KIN
Jerry Conrad	KGE
Paul E. Fleener	Kansas Farm Bureau
John A. Henderson	Kansas Water Office
DALE BAJEMA	Ks Geol. Survey
Don Schuck	KIOGA
Jim Aiken	KDHE
James Power	KDHE
DON JACKA	Ks STATE BOARD of Agriculture
Jim Edwards	KACI
Lon STANTON	KPL
Ken Daches	KACI