

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Ways and Means

The meeting was called to order by Bill Buntten at
Chairperson

1:40 ~~am~~/p.m. on Thursday, January 31, 1985 in room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representatives Rolf and Wisdom (excused)

Committee staff present: Gloria Timmer - Legislative Research
Laura Howard - Legislative Research
Jim Wilson - Office of the Revisor
Sharon Schwartz - Administrative Assistant
Nadine Young - Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Joseph F. Harkins, Director - Kansas Water Office

Meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Chairman Buntten.

Joseph Harkins presented a newly proposed state water plan. He said that anyone wishing to review the entire draft of the plan may find it available for inspection at the county extension office. There are three key words in legislation that directs the planning efforts of the state. They are: (1) comprehensive, (2) coordinated, and (3) continuous. They are all extremely important in directing and guiding the planning efforts.

He said that coordination of the different agencies in working together is essential in achieving a fundamental objective. Kansas shares the state's largest surface water supply with 10 other states...the Missouri River.

Comprehension is spelled out pretty well in the planning law and it gives us direction that this plan must deal with all the major issues related to water in the state.

Harkins cited four major areas to be dealt with. They are development, management, conservation and quality. A document was provided entitled "Final Draft-Kansas Water Plan" which is on file in Room 514-S. This document deals with all four of these major areas.

Chairman Buntten asked if the water plan covers the Cheyenne Bottoms situation. Mr. Harkins replied that he cannot say for sure at this point because we have not progressed that far, but it will be singled out. He said, "we have agreed to date that we will deal with the policy issue of wet lands management, so I am sure it will be dealt with." Chairman also asked if the water office would be a resource regarding the problem. Harkins replied, "we will attempt to bring together people to analyze that issue as part of the planning process; however, I don't believe any one agency has the resources, alone, to analyze that problem adequately".

Chairman Buntten also asked about the proposed \$200,000 to fund a study by a private group. He said, "it seems to me our own agencies would have the resources and also the final obligation to deal with it". Harkins said he was not familiar with the \$200,000 request.

Thirdly, Continuity is absolutely essential in achieving our final goal.

The following steps are taken in getting the plan before the legislature.

1. Kansas Water Authority approves the FINAL DRAFT
2. Public meetings are held throughout the State, in which suggestions and advice are given.
3. Plan is rewritten to encompass those suggestions.
4. Public hearings are held in November.
5. Plan is rewritten again and submitted to Kansas Water Authority who makes a decision on whether the plan is adequate. If they approve, then the plan is submitted to legislature.

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

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Ways and Means,
room 514-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on Thursday, January 31, 1985

The Kansas Water Authority is made up of 16 people, five agency heads from the state, then 11 other people. Two are appointed by legislative leaders. The chairman of the Authority is appointed by the Governor. Then one other person, at large, representing the public, who is also appointed by the Governor. Balance of the members represents special groups who have special interests.

Another dimension of the plan that goes beyond policies, involves special interest groups. For that purpose, the state is divided into 12 river basin areas for which advisory committees have been selected to identify major problems and prepare plans of what the state thinks is the appropriate thing to do those particular areas of Kansas.

In conclusion, Harkins pointed out there are 65 major recommendations and that it may very well take as much as five years to implement the plan if approved.

Chairman announced there would be no meeting tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.