

Approved: Carl Dean Holmes
Date 1-25-96

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carl Holmes at 3:30 p.m. on January 9, 1996, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Joann Flower - Excused
Representative Steve Lloyd - Excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Marcia Ayres, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Llyle Fries, Cheney Lake Watershed Project Office
Keith Allen, Cheney Lake Citizens Management Committee
Sig Collins, Cheney Lake Citizens Management Committee
Brad Horchem, Hillsdale Water Quality Project Manager
Marilyn Appleby, Hillsdale Water Quality Project
Dick Nellor, Hillsdale Water Quality Commission

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Holmes distributed the following handouts to committee members: a Land Acquisition Report by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and a Status of Drycleaning Environmental Response Act from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The Chair asked Representative Krehbiel to introduce the citizens who were present from the Cheney Lake Water Quality Project and the Hillsdale Water Quality Project.

Presentation on Cheney Lake:

Llyle Fries of the Cheney Lake Water Project Office introduced Keith Allen and Sig Collins of the Citizen's Management Committee who distributed pamphlets entitled *Best Management Practices: Citizens Working for Clean Water*. They also showed a video about the watershed project at Cheney Lake. Discussion followed.

Presentation on Hillsdale Lake:

Brad Horchem, Project Manager for the Hillsdale Water Quality Project, introduced Marilyn Appleby who gave testimony regarding the purpose and goals of the Hillsdale Water Quality Project that was formed by citizens in 1993 as a watershed protection program. (Attachment #1)

Mr. Horchem showed a video about the Hillsdale Water Quality Project. Mr. Horchem introduced Dick Nellor, a local farmer, who operates and implements a totally confined waste management operation. Discussion followed.

The Chair halted questions due to the hour. Chairperson Holmes reminded the members of the hearing on two bills tomorrow.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 1996.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 9, 1996

NAME	REPRESENTING
Keith Allen	CMC Cheney W/S
Jim Collins	CMC Cheney W/S
Jyle D. Fries	Cheney Lake W/S Proj. Co.
Don Sneathen	KDHE - Bureau of Water
Brad Horchem	Hillsdale Water Quality Project
Rick Shuy	Hillsdale Water Q. Project
Linda Probst	Hillsdale Water Quality Project
Marilyn Appleby	Hillsdale Water Quality Project
Rick Porter	Lake Region RCTD
Margaret Fast	Ks Water Office
Dee L. Turner	State Construction Comm.
Sally Nellor	Local Farmer, Jo. Co. Farm Bureau & Hillsdale Water Quality Comm.
Dick Nellor	Local Farmer & State NER Comm. for Kansas Farm Bureau
DICK DILSAVER	The COLEMAN Company
ED SCHAUB	WESTERN RESOURCES INC.
SUSAN REID SHIPMAN	KANSAS FARM BUREAU
Leslie J. Kaufman	Kansas Farm Bureau
BILL R. FULLER	Kansas Farm Bureau

Hillsdale Water Quality Project
Kansas House
Energy and Natural Resources Committee Meeting
January 9, 1996

The Hillsdale Water Quality Project is a unique and innovative watershed protection program that was initiated by citizens from Johnson, Miami and Franklin counties in 1993. Through citizens involvement and the efforts of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, a five-year grant for \$714,500 was obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The watershed lies in Johnson and Miami counties and extends into Franklin and Douglas counties. Traditionally a rural area, development and the population have moved into the southern part of the Kansas City metropolitan region. The watershed is affected by point and nonpoint source pollution from agricultural areas, growing urban/suburban areas, and business and industrial parks. All of these areas affect Hillsdale Lake, the primary drinking water source, making the care of this water source more critical.

Current drinking water usage for Hillsdale Lake is 1.5 million gallons per day. In approximately 12 - 18 months, the usage will increase by another one million gallons per day when the City of Gardner begins to obtain water from Hillsdale Lake. In addition, the City of Spring Hill is allowed an allotment of .3 million gallons per day if necessary. The City of Olathe has applied to the Kansas Water Office to obtain 6 million gallons of water per day from Hillsdale Lake. At this time, no decision has been reached about the feasibility of this option to serve the city's growing southern area.

The concern that initiated this project in 1993 has grown steadily. Since that time, a Citizens Management Committee (CMC) and six implementation committees to study the watershed's resources have been established. In all, 42 watershed residents and landowners are involved with the project in a local decision-making capacity. The volunteer aspect of this project is perhaps its' most innovative feature. Local people are making resource decisions, rather than a regulatory agency setting guidelines and procedures.

To date, volunteers have contributed 5,610 hours of their time equating to \$82,740. This has been time spent on tasks to distribute educational information about water quality to residents, to work with others on the establishment of pollution control practices in the watershed and to develop a long-term plan for the watershed's protection. It is anticipated that over the next several months, developing a long-term plan will be the volunteers' focus. The EPA grant funds are scheduled to end as of July 1, 1997. Therefore, volunteers are exploring the best manner in which to carry on the project after that date.

ENR
Attach. #1
1-9-96

The Hillsdale project continues to conduct a water monitoring study to determine the levels of nutrients and pesticides affecting both the lake and tributary streams. Project staff and volunteers have coordinated this effort with the assistance of EPA and the Johnson County Environmental Department. In coordination with the project, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have assisted with additional monitoring. These two agencies have underwritten those additional costs of approximately \$140,000 since 1993. These monitoring studies have assisted with determining the areas in the watershed with the highest levels of pollutant loads entering the streams and lake.

Beginning this year, additional monitoring will be conducted in areas where pollution control practices have been implemented. This will assist with determining the rate of pollution reduction.

Project volunteers have assisted with the development of a total Resource Management System (RMS) plan. The first step of the plan was the identification of resource concerns. The committees have taken into consideration all the resources in the watershed and their interdependence. This will enable volunteers to map out goals for the protection of resources as they relate to water quality.

In addition to the development of a resource plan for the watershed, a coordinated effort has been made to work with state and federal agencies and landowners to implement a variety of pollution control practices for the protection of water quality. To date, three livestock waste systems have been constructed and a wetland is being built. Land treatments such as terraces, waterways, and seeding to grass on 1,200 acres have also been implemented to reduce erosion, sedimentation and nonpoint source runoff from cropland. Another unique feature of the Hillsdale project has been the emphasis on voluntary preventive measures to protect water quality. The project continues to work with additional landowners on the installation of livestock waste systems and other practices.

Support for the project has gained steadily. Spring Hill, Gardner, Rural Water Districts Numbers 2 and 7 and the Johnson County Wastewater District have contributed funds toward increased water monitoring and have been supportive on a number of issues such as the wetland development. Attendance and community donations to the annual meeting have doubled each year. Two stream teams have been formed to conduct water monitoring. People have gained an interest in the project and use their talents to assist.

The project's goals through July 1997 include:

- Continue to coordinate water monitoring and other activities with local, state and federal agencies to provide incentive based cost-share assistance for the implementation of pollution control practices in all sectors of the watershed.
- Create a stable funding source for continued protection of the watershed.

- Work with the Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Wildlife and Parks, the State Conservation Commission and the Division of Water Resources to further develop innovative guidelines for voluntary protection programs for watersheds.
- Work with local, state, and federal agencies to provide incentives for urban/suburban water quality protection.
- Continue educational efforts to promote water conservation and protection in order to enhance local decision-making.

Programs such as the Hillsdale Water Quality Project could benefit with the following types of assistance from the state:

- Recognition by state agencies for increased levels of funding for water quality prevention programs, especially the State Conservation Commission's Water Resource Plan and Nonpoint Source programs.
- Continue reliance on voluntary measures with incentives rather than regulatory measures.
- Work together for innovative ideas to promote water quality statewide. Recognition by state agencies that natural resources plans may have to more flexible to accommodate local decision making for water quality and quantity.
- Recognition by state agencies that projects of this nature are fueled by volunteers with a strong interest in their communities; and therefore, they should be communicated with and involved in the decision making for resource issues.