

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Flower at 9:00 a.m. on January 27, 1998, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Freeborn - excused
Representative Lloyd - excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Richard Wenstrom, Water Protection Association of Central Kansas

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Flower asked committee members to review the minutes of January 14, 15, and 20. If there were corrections or additions, members were asked to contact the committee secretary before 5:00 p.m. or they will stand approved as presented.

Chairperson Flower called for requests for introduction of committee bills. There were none.

Richard Wenstrom, Water Protection Association of Central Kansas, addressed the committee providing an overview of their organization of 500 agricultural producers and businesses in south central Kansas. He said that Water PACK, formed in 1990, is an educational organization with a focus on irrigation and water management. He stated that their mission as a pro-active voice for irrigated agriculture is to promote, foster, and encourage the beneficial, economical, and sustainable use of quality water.

Mr. Wenstrom discussed the association's participation in the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources Subbasin Water Resources Management Program Middle Arkansas River Project. He detailed their active involvement with the Division of Water Resources, Groundwater Management District #5 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Quivira/Rattlesnake Basin Partnership to address water resource concerns and develop management strategies for the Rattlesnake basin. He also discussed the organization's involvement in the South Central Kansas Irrigation Scheduling and Water Management Demonstration Project, a five-year cooperative research project with K-State Research and Extension. (Attachment 1)

Chairperson Flower canceled the Wednesday meeting of the House Agriculture Committee so members could attend the funeral services for Representative Jim Long.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 1998.



**A REPORT TO THE
KANSAS LEGISLATURE,
AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

BY

WATER PROTECTION ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL KANSAS

JANUARY 1998

*House Agriculture Committee
January 27, 1998
Attachment 1*

Overview

Water Protection Association of Central Kansas, formed in 1990, is an organization of about 500 agricultural producers and businesses. The need for a pro-active voice for irrigated agriculture was the catalyst for the formation of the organization.

Mission:

To promote, foster, and encourage the beneficial, economical and sustainable use of quality water.

Objectives:

- educate our members and the general public about the management of sustainable irrigated agriculture and the long term benefits to our society
- develop and maintain relationships with government and non-government organizations at all levels to promote the wise use and conservation of our water resource
- develop our membership to enhance our pro-active approach and maintain an effective organization in Kansas and the nation
- develop and implement projects that complement our mission

Water Protection Association of Central Kansas is a pro-active voice for irrigated agriculture and takes an active role in water issues and works with other groups and government agencies to develop water policy.

**Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources
Subbasin Water Resources Management Program (SWRMP)
Middle Arkansas River Project**

This program is designed to address water resources issues that have been identified in the State Water Plan. The SWRMP began in 1993 in the Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin, the first of 12 subbasins selected for this program. Currently, the SWRMP is active in 8 of those subbasins in central and western Kansas. We are a partner with the Division of Water Resources, Groundwater Management District #5 and US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Quivira/Rattlesnake Basin Partnership. The Partnership's goal is to address water resource concerns and develop management strategies for the Rattlesnake basin. Three SWRMP projects are in the Water PACK area; Rattlesnake Creek, Pawnee-Buckner and Middle Arkansas Subbasins. The Quivira Coalition, of which our organization is a lead member, consists of other agricultural organizations, municipalities and environmental groups. The Coalition was successful in obtaining federal funds for Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. The funds will be used by US Fish and Wildlife Service to study ways to improve water management on the refuge.

Economic Impact

In South Central Kansas there are more than 758,800 acres of irrigated crops. These crops use \$159,830,000 worth of inputs and create \$280,659,000 worth of income from production. In addition to crops, this area has \$367,815,000 in livestock production. As you can see, this area has a substantial impact on the economy of Kansas.

South Central Kansas Irrigation Scheduling and Water Management Demonstration Project

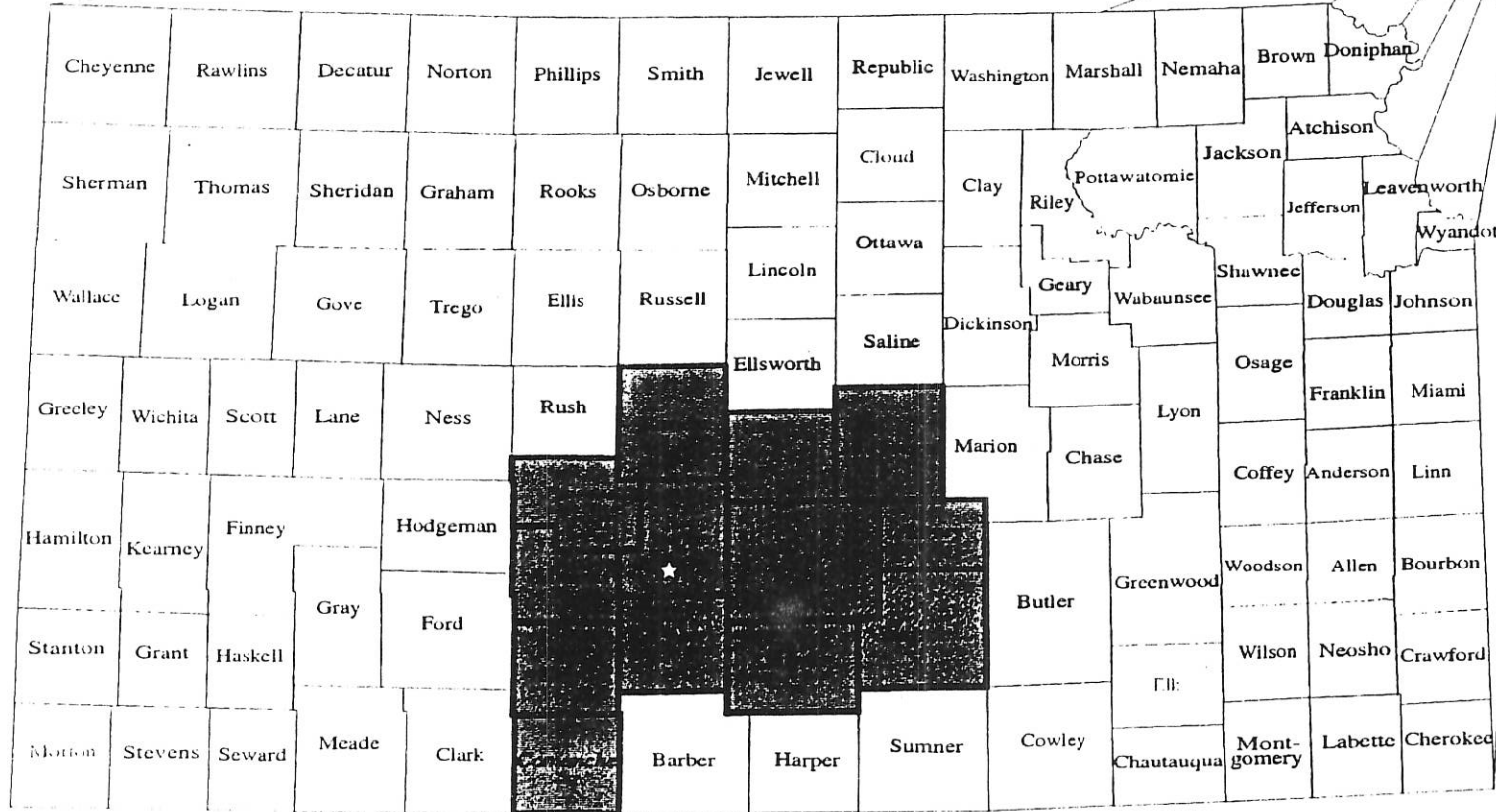
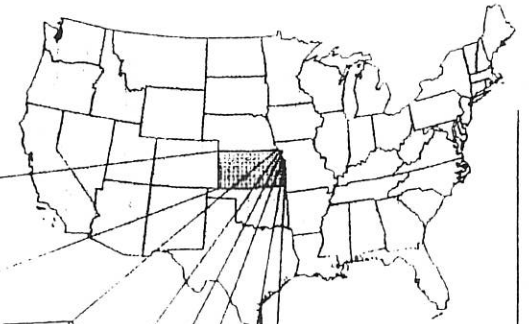
The Project is a five year cooperative effort between Kansas State University (K-State) Research and Extension and Water Protection Association of Central Kansas. The goal of this project is to increase the understanding, adoption, and use of improved irrigation management and scheduling procedures by using current technology and climatic forecasting with field feedback of crop growth, soil moisture, applied water, and rainfall. The research is on target for this specific area of Kansas. We are intermediate in rainfall with wetter conditions to the east and dryer conditions to the west. Unique in Kansas, this area has predominately sandy soils with high infiltration rates. With proper management, our water resource is totally renewable.

Water Protection Association of Central Kansas is an educational organization with a focus on irrigation and water management. We would welcome the opportunity to share our knowledge and experience with those making policy decisions effecting water users throughout Kansas.

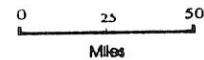
“When the well’s dry, we know the worth of water.”

-- Benjamin Franklin

Kansas State University Water Protection Association of Central Kansas Irrigation Water Management Project



Primary Counties Benefiting from Sandyland



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