

Approved: 3-26-98
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on March 23, 1998 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Steve Lloyd - excused
Rep. Dennis McKinney - excused
Rep. Don Myers - excused
Rep. Peggy Palmer - excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Mary Ann Graham, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. She announced that committee minutes for March 16 and 17 had been distributed. The minutes for today will be delivered to committee members' offices as soon as possible, after reviewing them if you have any corrections please notify the committee secretary by noon on Thursday, March 26, or they will be considered approved as written. She brought attention to a memorandum from Jere White, Executive Director, Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association and Kansas Corn Growers Association, in support of **SB523**. (See attachment 1) Kansas agriculture has teamed with state and federal agencies for many years in an effort to improve the quality of the environment in Kansas through voluntary incentive based programs, as well as research and education. They believe the provisions of **SB523** are consistent with the spirit of that teamwork and will create an ideal atmosphere for field scale quantification of Best Management Practices or BMP's.

The Chairperson opened **SB523** for discussion.

SB523: **An act concerning conservation; relating to the Kansas water quality buffer initiative; amending K.S.A. 2-1915 and repealing the existing section.**

Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes, distributed a balloon to the bill. (See attachment 2) She, along with Jamie Clover-Adams, Legislative Liaison, who proposed the amendment, explained the changes to the committee.

Rep. Tom Sloan made a motion to adopt the balloon as proposed. Seconded by Rep. Sharon Schwartz. Motion carried.

Rep. Tom Sloan made a motion to pass **SB523** as amended. Seconded by Rep. Marti Crow. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

No future meeting is scheduled.

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 3-23-98

NAME	REPRESENTING
Katie Gillin	_____
Jean Barber	Drainage District
Kelli Ludlum	shadow - Sharon Schwartz



MEMORANDUM

TO: Kansas House Energy Committee
FROM: Jere White, Executive Director
DATE: 16 March 1998
SUBJECT: S.B. 523

The Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers wish to submit this written testimony in support of SB 523, commonly known as the Governor's Buffer Strip Initiative.

Kansas agriculture has teamed with state and federal agencies for many years in an effort to improve the quality of the environment in Kansas through voluntary incentive based programs, as well as research and education. The provisions of SB 523 are consistent with the spirit of that teamwork. SB 523 will create an ideal atmosphere for field scale quantification of Best Management Practices or BMPs.

One friendly suggestion that we believe could improve SB 523 would be to consider the standpipes or immediate drainage areas of tiled outlet terraces to be the same as stream banks. There is certainly a valid argument to be made that these structures can provide a direct conduit for runoff into the local streams. In the target areas, this type of land treatment is quite common. We urge the committee to make this change.

I regret that our schedule has my leadership and I in Washington DC for today's hearing. Please know that we strongly support this bill and urge the approval of the committee.

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*House Environment
3-23-98
Attachment 1*

(d)(1) Subject to appropriation acts ~~therefore~~ therefor, the state conservation commission shall develop the Kansas water quality buffer initiative. ~~The purpose of the initiative shall be to improve water quality by~~ for the purpose of restoring riparian areas using best management practices. The executive director of the state conservation commission shall ensure that the initiative is ~~complimentary~~ complementary to the federal conservation reserve program.

(2) There is hereby created in the state treasury the Kansas water quality buffer initiative fund. All expenditures from such fund shall be made in accordance with appropriations acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the executive director of the state conservation commission or the executive director's designee. Money credited to the fund shall be used for the purpose of making grants to install water quality best management practices pursuant to the initiative. ~~A buffer, as used in this section, shall be defined as an area of streamside vegetation consisting of tame or native grass which may include forbs and woody plants along any perennial or intermittent stream including the stream bank and adjoining floodplain that is a minimum of 66 feet wide and a maximum of 150 feet wide.~~

~~(e)~~ (3) The county or district appraiser shall identify and map ~~the buffers created by this section, provided such buffers~~ total riparian buffers consisting of at least one contiguous acre per parcel of real property located in the appraiser's county. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, ~~the buffers created by this section~~ riparian buffers shall be valued by the county or district appraiser as ~~tame or grass land, native grass land or waste land, as appropriate.~~ As used in this subsection (3), "riparian buffer" means an area of stream-side vegetation that: (A) Consists of tame or native grass and may include forbs and woody plants; (B) is located along a perennial or intermittent stream, including the stream bank and adjoining floodplain; (C) is created pursuant to the Kansas water quality buffer initiative; and (D) is a minimum of 66 feet wide and a maximum of 150 feet wide.

[reletter subsections (f) and (g) accordingly]

House Environment
3-23-98
Attachment 2