

Approved: 1-28-98
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on January 27, 1998 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Tim Huelskamp (Excused)
Senator Robert Tyson (Excused)

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Nancy Kippes, Committee Secretary

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

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Downey made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21 and January 22 meetings as submitted. Senator Umbarger seconded. The motion carried.

Senator Umbarger made a motion to introduce a bill which would rescind the sunset on the Agriculture Products Development Division and leave the Division in the Department of Commerce and Housing. Senator Downey seconded. Motion carried.

Richard Wenstrom, President, Water Protection Association of Central Kansas (PACK), provided an overview of the Water PACK's organization, mission, objectives and current projects (Attachment 1). He stated their objectives are to educate members and the general public about management of sustainable irrigated agriculture and the long term benefits to society; to develop and maintain relationships with government and non-government organizations at all levels to promote wise use and conservation of our water resource; to develop their membership to enhance their pro-active approach and maintain an effective organization in Kansas and the nation; and to develop and implement projects that complement their mission.

Among the projects Mr. Wenstrom addressed was a program designed to address water resources issues identified in the State Water Plan, which was begun in 1993 in the Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin as the first of 12 subbasins selected for the program. The partnership of Water PACK, the Division of Water Resources, Groundwater Management District 5 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a goal to address water resource concerns and develop management strategies for the Rattlesnake basin. Another project is the five year cooperative effort between Kansas State University Research and Extension and Water PACK to increase the understanding, adoption, and use of improved irrigation management and scheduling procedures.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 1998.



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

BY

WATER PROTECTION ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL KANSAS

JANUARY 1998

*Senate Agriculture
1-27-98
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

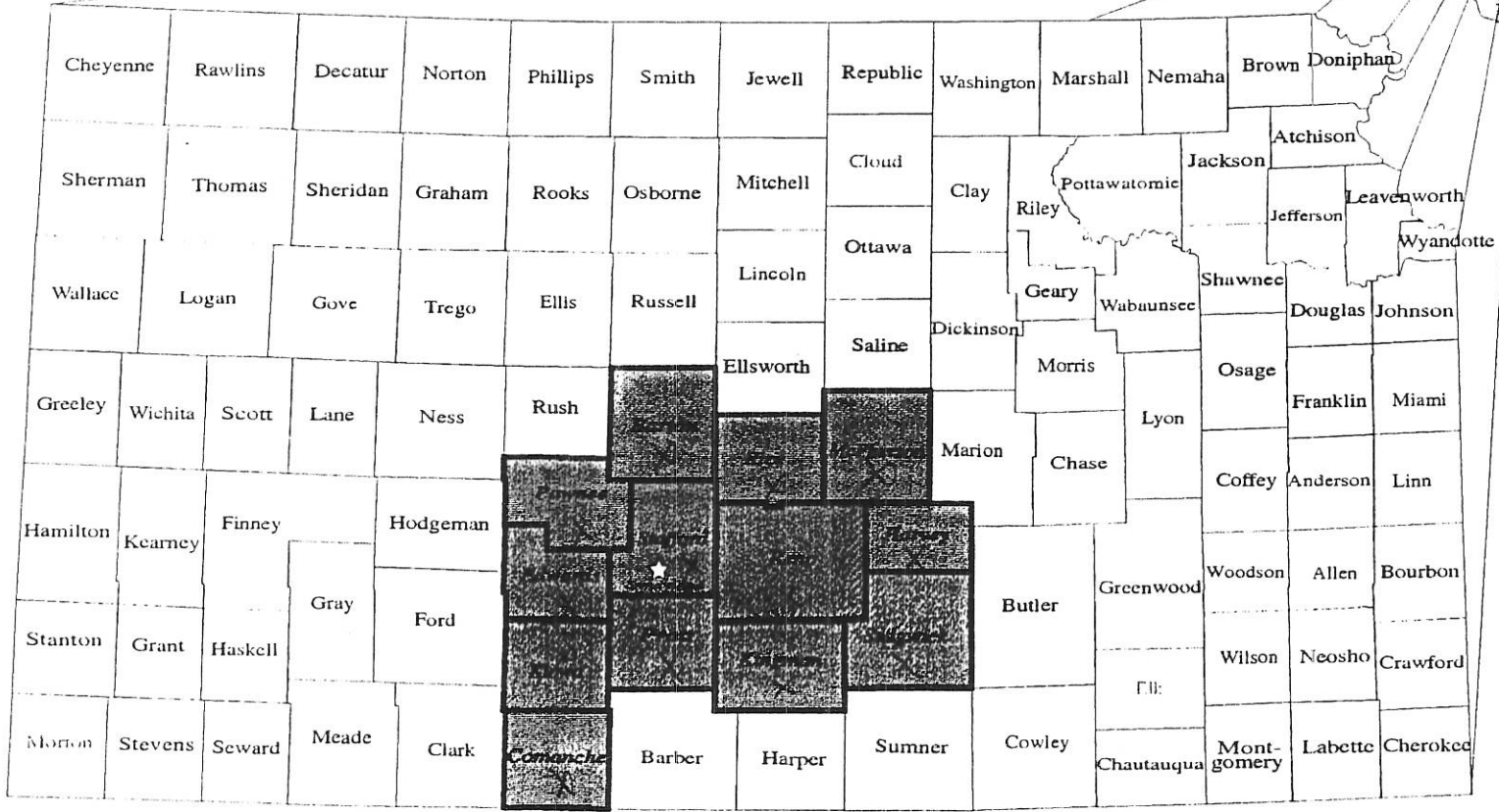
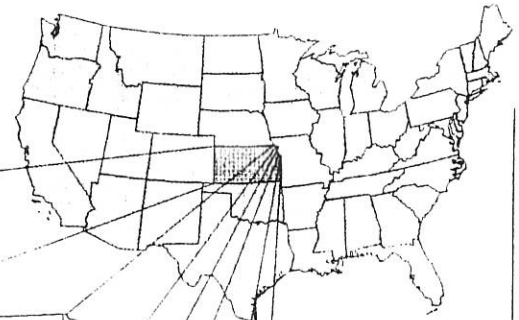
The Project is a five year cooperative effort between Kansas State University (K-State) Research and Extension and Water Protection Association of Central Kansas. The goal of this project is to increase the understanding, adoption, and use of improved irrigation management and scheduling procedures by 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.

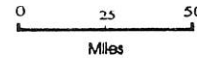
“When the well’s dry, we know the worth of water.”

-- Benjamin Franklin

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



Primary Counties Benefiting from Sandyland



1-5

1-5