

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Faber at 3:40 P.M. on January 16, 2007, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Jerry Williams- excused

Vaughn Flora- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes

Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Scott Carlson, Assistant Director, State Conservation Commission

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Steve Swaffar, Director of Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau

Richard Cram, Director of Policy and Research, Kansas Department of Revenue (Written Only)

Tom Palace, Executive Director, Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Stores Association

Pat Lehman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

Rodney Vorhees, Chairman, State Conservation Commission

LaVern Wetzel, President, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

Connie Richmerier, District Manager, Finney County Conservation District

Kerri Harris, District Manager, Franklin County Conservation District

Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office

Ron Brown, Resident of Bourbon County (Spoken from audience testimony only)

Wayne Lukert, Shawnee County Conservation District (Spoken from audience testimony only)

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2011 - Requiring preparation of certain inundation maps for dams by the State Conservation Commission**

Scott Carlson, Assistant Director, State Conservation Commission (SCC), a proponent of the bill, discussed the Commission's responsibilities and recommendations for inundation mapping of private landowner's property, cities and county entities not included in the 86 organized districts in the state (Attachment 1). He outlined specific areas in which the SCC could assist in achieving successful implementation of the program and confirmed the support of SCC toward the mission of the state funded program.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, speaking as a proponent of the bill, explained the need for breach inundation maps (Attachment 2). Any development downstream from a dam breach could be inundated and loss of life and property would be significant. Breach inundation maps could be a pro-active approach to downstream development and provide a plan of safety for the public.

Matt Scherrer, Water Structures Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture, gave details regarding dam hazard classifications (Attachment 3). Over a three-to-five year period, safety inspections are routinely conducted on over 6,000 dams to determine the risk to human life and property in the event the dam fails. At present, 159 dams have been inspected through the SCC; there are 5,600 more to inspect, some of which are on private properties. The issue of ingress and egress onto private property is of concern to SCC; rules and regulations need to be in place rather than guidelines outlined within the statutes. Mr. Scherrer indicated the cost of preparing an inundation map per site is in the range of \$4,400, which would require \$24,873.878 from the State Water Plan Fund.

Steve Swaffar, Director of Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB), appeared before the committee as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 4). He stated that various members of the KFB own dams or have investments protected by dams. Mr. Swaffar advocated having reputable sources create inundation maps that

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 P.M. on January 16, 2007, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

will be available to both public and private landowners. One major purpose of these maps is to provide information to the SCC in planning strategies for dam repair and upgrades where necessary.

There being no opponents to the bill, Chairman Faber closed the hearing and opened testimony on **HB 2013 - Motor vehicle fuels, licenses, blending fuels, exception.**

Richard Cram, Director of Policy and Research, Kansas Department of Revenue, brought written testimony in support of the bill (Attachment 5).

Tom Palace, Executive Director of the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas (PMCA of Kansas), speaking as a proponent of the bill, stated that amending current language to exclude bonding requirements for persons who are blending biodiesel fuels for personal use would provide greater opportunity for promoting alternative fuels (Attachment 6).

There being no opponents to the bill, Chairman Faber closed the hearing on **HB 2013** and opened testimony on **HB 2048 - Conservation districts, funding; increasing State Conservation Commission budget request limitations..**

Pat Lehman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), spoke briefly as a proponent of the bill and then introduced various county supervisors who serve on the Board of Directors of KACD (Attachment 7).

Ron Vorhees, Chairman of the State Conservation Commission (SCC), appeared as a proponent of the bill, explaining the benefits of increasing State Aid, also known as Matching Funds, to various Conservation Districts (Attachment 8). Those funds have remained at the current level since 1994 and an increase such as this bill provides will continue to assist in implementing programs to protect natural resources in Kansas.

LaVern Wetzel, President, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), a proponent of the bill, gave an overview of the history of partnerships among local, state, and federal entities for the purpose of establishing standards for conservation of natural resources (Attachment 9). The continuation of these practices will assure future generations continued access to these natural resources.

Connie Richmeier, District Manager, Finney County Conservation District, brought testimony as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 10). Ms. Richmeier presented background information on the establishment of Conservation Districts. She explained each district has a governing body whose responsibilities involve policy making, being involved with local government agencies, and assisting land managers in the conservation of natural resources. With the increase of additional funding, the work of the Conservation District can continue to be successful.

Kerri Harris, District Manager, Franklin County Conservation District, appeared as a proponent of the bill to say the presence of volunteer supervisors is vitally important for the distribution of information to landowners who are looking for assistance and information on conservation practices (Attachment 11). Receiving the State Aid in the proposal of this bill is vital to the survival of each county conservation office.

Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office (KWO), testified as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 12). He stated that Conservation districts have the responsibility of administering State Water Plan Programs, and, matching county funds with state general funds is imperative for each of Kansas 105 counties.

The Chairman asked if any other person attending the hearing wished to speak. Ron Brown, a citizen from Bourbon County, spoke in favor of the bill. Wayne Lukert, of Shawnee County Conservation District, also came forward to testify in favor of HB 2048.

There being no opponents, Chairman Faber closed the hearing on **HB 2048.**

The Chairman recognized Representative Doug Gatewood for introduction of a bill regarding testing and certification of fuel pumps on bulk delivery of petroleum products.

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MINUTES OF THE House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 P.M. on January 16, 2007, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2007.

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

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DATE: January 16, 2007

NAME	REPRESENTING
Robyn Horton	KS motor carriers Assoc.
Carole Jordan	KDA
Gina Thompson	Wilson County Conservation District
Wayne Zorbye	Douglas Co. Court Dist.
Mark Him	SCC
Matt Scherer	KDA
Hakim Saadi	SCC
Lindsey Douglas	Heia Law Firm
Steve Swaffar	Ks Farm Bureau
Don M. Rezac	KACD
Rod Vorhees	SCC
Scott Coelton	SCC
Jon Brown	KACD
Stephon Payne	Rush Co. Conservation Dist.
MARK BOZANYAK	CAPITOL STRATEGIES
Gene Alber	KACD
WAYNE LUKERT	SHAWNEE CO. CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Dave Epp	Lincoln Co. Conserv. Dist.
Connie Richmeier	Finney Co. Conservation Dist.



Greg A. Foley, Executive Director

KANSAS
State Conservation Commission

Kathleen Sebelius, Governor

Testimony on the HB 2011 relating to Dams

to

The House Committee of Agriculture and Natural Resources

**by Scott Carlson
Assistant Director
State Conservation Commission**

January 16, 2007

Chairman Faber and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2011. I appear before you today to discuss State Conservation Commission (SCC) implementation roles and responsibilities along with a few agency recommendations.

The Department of Agriculture has just briefed the Committee on the technical issues related to dams as a coordinated prelude to implementation issues of the proposed effort. The SCC currently implements the Watershed Dam Construction Program (WDCP) exclusively through the Kansas Watershed Districts. The Watershed Districts (WD) are statutorily authorized with many powers and authorities under the Watershed District Act. Their primary function is to develop a comprehensive general plan for a watershed that will provide flood protection for the residents and landowners within the organized hydrologic boundaries. The Current program effort can provide cost-share assistance for inundation mapping, however, only on the dams sponsored by organized Watershed Districts. There are 86 organized districts encompassing approximately 35% of the total land mass within the state. This is where HB 2011 comes into play. Maps for dams outside those districts or not included as part of the flood protection general plan need the same planning tool for private landowners, cities and county governments.

In FY 2007 the SCC has entered into contracts for the development of 159 inundation maps to provide 70% cost-share. The project sponsors of the mapping efforts were the Watershed Districts. The State's share of that effort was \$494,525. The total cost for the mapping effort is estimated at \$706,464. These are the only figures that we have relative to mapping costs, however, they should give an estimate for future needs. If the SCC offers a contract on a larger scale, the per dams costs could decrease. The SCC would propose to work with stakeholders to develop priority or highest-risk areas and develop strategically planned regional contracts.

Testimony on the HB 2011

January 16, 2007

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Respectfully, the SCC would offer the following administrative comments that we believe could assist in achieving successful program implementation:

Topics to Consider:

- ❖ The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (DWR) is proposing draft regulations that construction of new dams require inundation mapping.
- ❖ The SCC recommends that only dams that exist on the effective date of this act be eligible.
- ❖ The SCC requests that the Kansas legislature or Chief Engineer provide guidance and/or assistance for selecting priority areas.
- ❖ In order to implement this proposal, the SCC will need ingress/egress authority.
- ❖ The SCC requests clarification of Legislative intent pertaining to instances or particular sites in which a landowner does not want inundation mapping performed on his or her property. Most other SCC programs are voluntary in nature.

In conclusion, the SCC supports the mission of a state funded program to provide inundation maps and will work diligently to provide the most efficient and cost-effective program possible.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2011. I do have staff available for technical questions and we will stand for questions at the pleasure of the committee.



KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ADRIAN J. POLANSKY, SECRETARY

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

Testimony on HB 2011
to
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

by Constantine V. Cotsoradis
Deputy Secretary
Kansas Department of Agriculture

January 16, 2007

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Constantine Cotsoradis, deputy secretary of agriculture. I am here to testify in support of House Bill 2011.

HB 2011 would, subject to appropriations, require the State Conservation Commission to develop breach inundation maps for dams that do not have one. Breach inundation maps show the area that would be affected if a dam were to break. They are an important tool for ensuring public safety and preventing the reclassification of low-hazard dams to either significant- or high-hazard due property development downstream of them.

Development below a dam within the breach inundation zone not only poses a risk to human life and property, it also can create a financial burden on the dam owner whose dam may require upgrades to meet a higher hazard classification. Upgrading a dam from low hazard to significant or high hazard can cost thousands dollars, if not tens of thousands dollars.

Unfortunately, many dam owners cannot afford to make these upgrades. To correct a serious deficiency, we may take an enforcement action that could end up in court. These steps are costly to the state and delay necessary repairs that can protect the public. While breach inundation maps alone do not prevent downstream development, they are a proactive tool that could influence decisions about where to locate homes. They may help prevent below-dam development and, ultimately, protect human life. For these reasons we support HB 2011.

I will answer questions at the appropriate time.

Dam Hazard Classification

Dams are assigned a hazard classification to categorize the risk they pose to human life and property if they should fail. There are three classifications:

Classification	Meaning
“A” or Low Hazard	Failure is unlikely to cause injury or loss of life. Damage would be limited to farm buildings, agricultural land, county, township or private roads.
“B” or Significant Hazard	Failure would likely endanger a few lives. Damage would occur to isolated homes, secondary highways, or minor railroads. Failure might interrupt relatively important public utilities.
“C” or High Hazard	Failure would likely cause extensive loss of life. Serious damage would occur to homes, industrial or commercial facilities, major highways or major railroads. Failure might interrupt important public utilities.

What does hazard classification mean to the dam owner?

Safety Inspections: By statute high and significant hazard dams must be periodically inspected by a professional engineer. Starting this fiscal year, the agency is conducting those inspections.

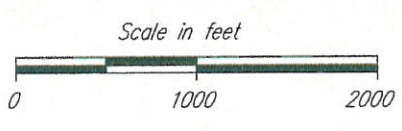
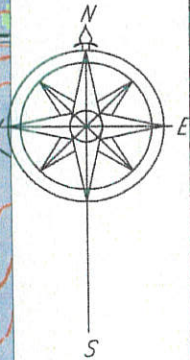
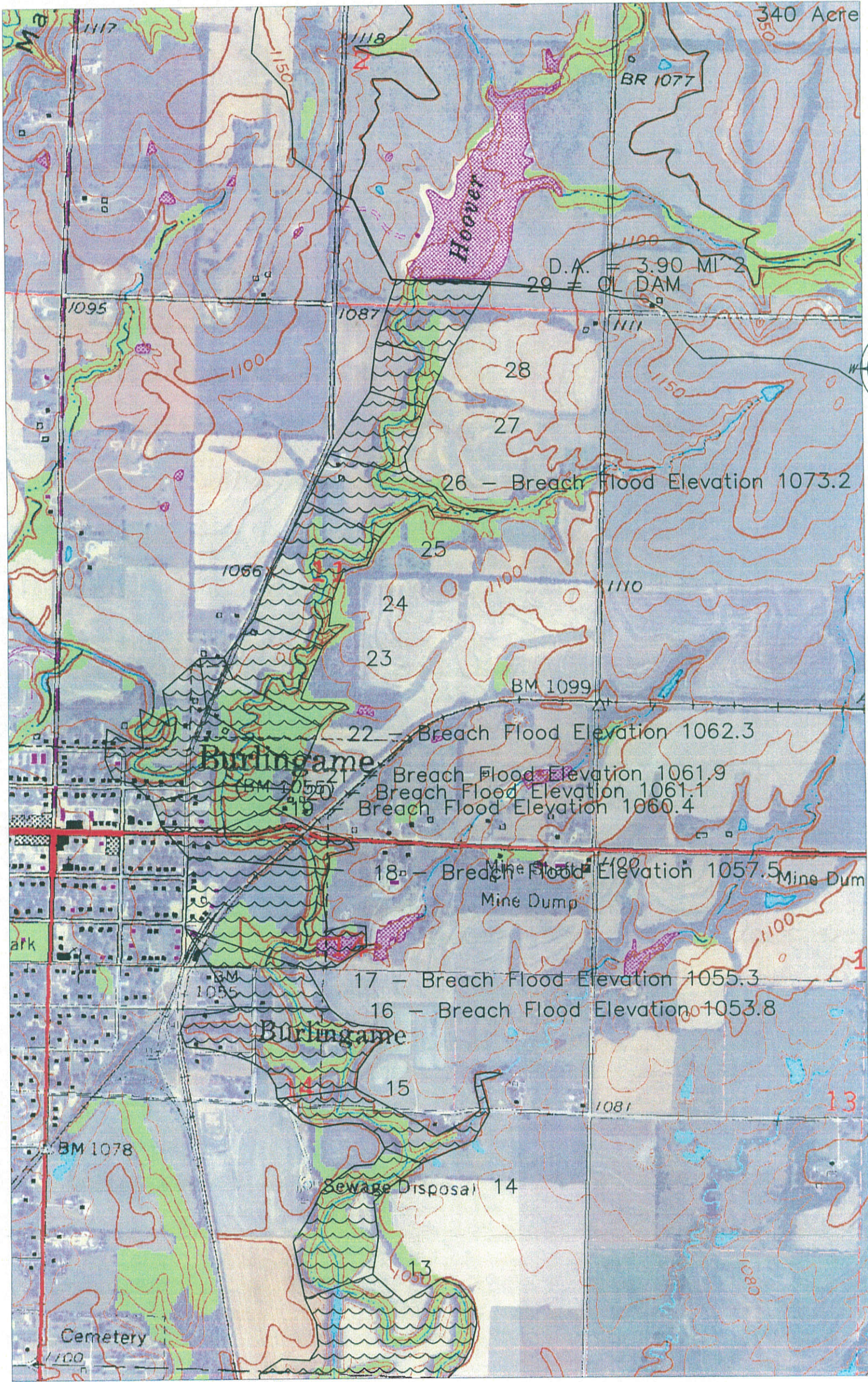
Classification	Safety Inspection Schedule
“A” or Low Hazard	Not required.
“B” or Significant Hazard	An inspection by an engineer once every five years.
“C” or High Hazard	An inspection by an engineer once every three years.

Dams considered unsafe must be inspected annually by engineers from the Department of Agriculture’s Division of Water Resources.

Design and Construction Standards: The higher the hazard classification of dams of the same size, the more stringent the requirements are for its design and construction. Soils and foundation testing requirements are higher for high- and significant-hazard dams than for low-hazard dams. High- and significant-hazard dams must have emergency spillways with larger capacities than low-hazard dams. During construction, high- and significant-hazard dams must have more thorough inspection than low-hazard dams.

Upgrade Requirements: If a dam’s hazard classification changes to a more stringent classification, the owner may be required to modify the dam to meet some or all of the standards that a new dam of the more stringent classification would have to meet. Upgrade requirements are limited to those changes deemed necessary to protect public safety.

Alternatives to Upgrading: There may be alternatives to physically upgrading a dam. The alternatives depend on circumstances specific to each dam. Alternatives might include removal of the dam or moving or protecting the facilities that would be at risk if the dam failed.



DATE APPROVED	REVISIONS	TITLE
1/11/07 15:17		
Sheet 1 of 1		



SWITZLER CREEK WATERSHED
FRD 7
OSAGE COUNTY, KANSAS

		Date
Designed	EWR	7/8/2005
Drawn	EWR	7/8/2005
Checked		
Approved		

Kansas Farm Bureau
POLICY STATEMENT

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

**HB 2011, an act concerning the state conservation commission,
relating to dams**

January 16, 2007

Submitted by:

Steve M. Swaffar

Director of Natural Resources

Chairman Faber and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony today on House Bill 2011. I am Steve Swaffar, Director of Natural Resources for the Kansas Farm Bureau. KFB stands in support for HB 2011.

Dam safety, inspections, upgrades, maintenance and inundation zone mapping are topics that were discussed often last legislative session and during interim committees this fall. KFB has been engaged in these discussions because many of our members are either dam owners, members of watershed districts or benefactors of watershed structures; simply, our members have investments in dams and investments protected by dams. For this reason, KFB believes it is important that adequate but not overly burdensome regulatory oversight be given to these structures and the investments of our members protected.

KFB believes knowledge of and establishment of flood inundation zones in case of failed dams is the foundation for the safety of dams and protections of life and property below dams. The maps of these zones are also a key to the regulatory program that establishes hazard classifications and the maintenance and inspections requirements administered by the Division of Water Resources. Inundation zone mapping will ensure that dams are properly classified in the 3 hazard classes and that cost-share dollars made available through the State Conservation Commission (SCC) for dam repair and upgrades are spent wisely.

I would like to expand just a bit on my previous point. In order to establish the hazard classification of a particular dam, DWR must assess the area downstream of that dam for potential damages to property or loss of life. How can that be done if a zone of inundation hasn't been established? DWR has improved its technology to assess and establish these areas over the years, but having a well-established map developed by a reputable source that can be accessed by the public and private landowners will make this process more transparent.

One of the challenges for dam owners and watershed districts is development downstream of dams after dam construction that results in upgrades to dam's hazard classification and increased inspection requirements. In many of these cases, the dam owner does not own the property where development occurs, so through not fault of their own the dam gets reclassified and the dam owner becomes financially responsible for the upgrades and increases in inspection and maintenance costs with no way to recoup the expenses. In this situation, a good inundation zone map attached to the deed of the property where potential development may occur could discourage development within the inundation zone. Appropriate mapping may even provide some mechanism for watershed districts, counties, townships or other authorities to assign financial responsibility for the upgrades to a developer, assuming adequate notice and knowledge has been provided.

These maps also should assist the SCC in developing strategies for allocating cost-share dollars for dam repairs and dam upgrades. A dam where an inundation zone map has been created can provided SCC with information where the greatest risks of life and property occur, where development is likely to occur and where steps to limit development have been taken. This type of information can assist SCC in ensuring state dollars are being spent wisely.

KFB believes the creation of inundation zone maps are a significant step towards solving a growing problem with the infrastructure of bodies of water providing livestock watering, flood control, public water supply and recreation across the State. We encourage the committee to support HB 2011. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Richard Cram

House Bill 2013

Representative Faber, Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Department supports House Bill 2013, introduced by the Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, which would make a change recommended by the Department to K.S.A. 79-3403, the motor-vehicle fuels licensing statute, adding the following language:

No motor-vehicle fuels or special fuels manufacturer's license shall be required for any consumer who is blending motor-vehicle fuel or special fuel purchased for such consumer's own use, and not for resale, from a distributor or retailer who is the holder of a valid, unsuspended and unrevoked motor-vehicle fuels or special fuels distributor's or retailer's license.

The definition of "manufacturer" in K.S.A. 79-3401(j) also includes any person who is blending motor-vehicle fuels or special fuels, for the person's own use, sale or delivery. Inserting the above language in K.S.A. 79-3403 will clarify in statute that a consumer purchasing biodiesel, blending it with regular diesel, and consuming it for the individual's own use would not need to be licensed and bonded as a manufacturer. This change is also consistent with the policy stated in our recently published Notice 06-06, which provides that dyed biodiesel sold to a consumer for off-road use would not be subject to motor fuel tax, and we are not requiring the consumer to be licensed as a biodiesel manufacturer, even though technically, the consumer will probably be blending the biodiesel with regular diesel fuel before use, and that activity falls within the statutory definition of "manufacturing." If the biodiesel is sold clear in the above circumstances, it will be subject to motor fuel tax.

With me today are Edie Martin, manager of our motor fuel tax section, and Cindy Mongold, administrator in the motor fuel tax section, to assist in answering questions.



Memo To: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
From: Thomas M. Palace
Date: January 16, 2007
Re: HB 2013

Mr. Chairman and members of Senate Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Tom Palace. I am the Executive Director of the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas (PMCA of Kansas), a statewide trade association representing over 300 independent Kansas petroleum distribution companies and convenience store owners throughout Kansas.

Please accept my written testimony in support of HB 2013.

Basically, this legislation allows a consumer to blend biodiesel for his/her own consumption...not for resale...without having to obtain a manufacturer's license or bond. This would be an exception to the current statute that requires a manufacturer's license and bond when blending taxable fuels.

This proposal amends current language which states "any person who is blending motor-vehicle fuels or special fuels, for the person's own use, sale or delivery must be bonded and licensed as a manufacturer." In other words it won't require hundreds of users to post a \$5000 bond for blending biodiesel with diesel for their own use.

If Kansas is truly interested in promoting alternative fuels, any obstacles to practical acceptance of such fuels should be eliminated. For this reason, we stand today in support of House Bill 2013.

Thank You

Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas

115 SE 7th • Topeka, KS 66603
PO Box 678 • Topeka, KS 66601-0678
785-233-9655 • Fax: 785-354-4374

**HS AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
1-16-2007
ATTACHMENT 6**



Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

Representing Local Conservation Districts

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resource
By Pat Lehman
Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
Testimony – HB 2048
January 16, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Pat Lehman, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. I am here in support of HB 2048.

Today is Conservation Day at the Capitol, an annual event promoting conservation in Kansas. I trust you had a chance to visit the displays on the first floor of the rotunda.

First of all, I would like to thank Rep. Powell for introducing HB 2048, a bill aimed at increasing aid to conservation districts. I would also like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for providing a hearing on this bill today.

Conservation districts in Kansas are divided into five areas. Each area elects a county supervisor to be a director who serves on the Board of Directors of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. Four of the five directors are here today: LaVern Wetzel from Kinsley, president; Gene Albers from Cunningham, vice president; Ronald Brown from Fort Scott, secretary/treasurer; and all of you know former State Representative Don Rezac from Emmett, director. Jon Starns from Brewster, immediate past president and now director, could not be here because of too much snow and too many cattle.

I will let the other conferees explain the specifics of the bill. I ask that you pass HB 2048 favorably, and I will be glad to answer any questions.



Greg A. Foley, Executive Director

KANSAS
State Conservation Commission

Kathleen Sebelius, Governor

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

by

Rod Vorhees

Chairperson

State Conservation Commission

January 16, 2007

Chairman Faber and members of the committee, I am Rod Vorhees, the Chairman of the State Conservation Commission (SCC). I was elected to the SCC by the elected county conservation district supervisors. I am here to provide testimony on HB 2048 which will increase the amount of state and county financial aid to county conservation districts. The SCC is supportive of a proposal by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts to increase the amount of funds conservation districts are able to receive under State Aid to Conservation Districts as it is vital to successful implementation of state and federal financial assistance programs.

State Aid to Conservation Districts, also known as Matching Funds, is a grant program providing financial assistance to Kansas conservation districts. The K.S.A. 2-1907c, as amended July 1, 1994, authorizes the state to match up to \$10,000 per district of the annual amount allocated to conservation districts by the board of county commissioners. These funds assist the 105 county conservation districts to effectively deliver local and state natural resource programs as prescribed under the Conservation District Law (K.S.A. 2-1901 et seq.).

Financial assistance enables conservation districts to:

- ⇒ Hire administrative and technical staff.
- ⇒ Acquire office supplies and equipment.
- ⇒ Coordinate various conservation programs.
- ⇒ Implement state financial assistance programs at the local level.
- ⇒ Carry out information and education campaigns promoting conservation.

A local five-member board, known as district supervisors, governs each conservation district. District supervisors are elected public officials who serve without pay. The 525 district supervisors donate nearly 50,000 hours per year establishing local priorities, setting policy, and administering programs to conserve natural resources and protect water quality.

This county matching program provides a \$10,000 match to county provided funds for conservation district operation to implement state financial assistance and other programs. Currently, the Aid to Conservation Districts allocation is \$1,048,000. State appropriations supplement county allocated funds and are utilized by conservation districts for operational expenses as listed above but also provide personnel for clerical support to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in exchange for providing office space and equipment to implement state financial assistance programs.

An additional \$1,086,154 is requested for state fiscal year 2008 to increase the state appropriations to match county supplied funds, not to exceed \$25,000 per district, contingent on statutory change. The Kansas Water Authority supports legislative actions in revising K.S.A. 2-1907c to increase the state financial assistance to conservation districts to match county supplied funds, not to exceed \$25,000 per district. The provisions of K.S.A. 2-1907c authorizing state appropriations to match county supplied funds, not to exceed \$10,000 per district has been at the current funding level since 1994.

The increase will provide 96 county conservation districts with additional operating funds to assist with implementing natural resource programs to protect and enhance Kansas' natural resources. The attached table lists the FY 2007 county appropriations for each conservation district, eligible FY 2008 match from the state, and the FY 2008 Proposed Match figures. Furthermore, the increase in matching funds will illustrate to county commissioners the states' commitment to conservation, and provide an opportunity for counties to take advantage of increased matching funds from the state.

Additionally, in the past year, the USDA Farm Services Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service announced plans to close around 11 of its offices in Kansas due to federal budget cuts. Most Kansas conservation districts are commonly collocated with the federal offices, allowing cost savings and improved delivery of services and technical assistance to federal and state assistance programs. The proposed closure of USDA offices would eliminate many Kansas conservation districts' ability to exist in these areas. Subsequently, office closures reduce the effective delivery and implementation of state financial assistance programs. Conservation district operational expenses will increase without the co-location support of a USDA presence.

Also, in the FY 2008 budget request the SCC requests \$2,000 for Elk County Conservation District to match FY 2008 county appropriations. If the state match is approved all conservation districts will receive the maximum \$10,000 state match in the history of the program.

On behalf of the State Conservation Commission, I respectfully request legislative support of this proposal for FY 2008.

2008 SCC Budget- Aid to Conservation Districts

DISTRICT	CO. GENERAL FUND	CO. SPECIAL MILL LEVY	COUNTY OTHER	COUNTY TOTAL	STATE MATCHED	TOTAL	PROPOSED MATCH
ALLEN		\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000
ANDERSON		\$ 25,500		\$ 25,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 35,500	\$ 25,000
ATCHISON		\$ 23,000		\$ 23,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 23,000
BARBER	\$ 22,500			\$ 22,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 32,500	\$ 22,500
BARTON	\$ 27,810			\$ 27,810	\$ 10,000	\$ 37,810	\$ 25,000
BOURBON	\$ 41,000			\$ 41,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 25,000
BROWN		\$ 22,500		\$ 22,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 32,500	\$ 22,500
BUTLER	\$ 33,000			\$ 33,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 25,000
CHASE	\$ 15,500			\$ 15,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,500	\$ 15,500
CHAUTAUQUA	\$ 15,000			\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,000
CHEROKEE	\$ 25,000			\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 25,000
CHEYENNE	\$ 14,000			\$ 14,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 14,000
CLARK	\$ 12,500			\$ 12,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 22,500	\$ 12,500
CLAY	\$ 28,925			\$ 28,925	\$ 10,000	\$ 38,925	\$ 25,000
CLOUD		\$ 18,098		\$ 18,098	\$ 10,000	\$ 28,098	\$ 18,098
COFFEY	\$ 35,000		\$ 30,125	\$ 65,125	\$ 10,000	\$ 75,125	\$ 25,000
COMANCHE	\$ 15,000			\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,000
COWLEY	\$ 28,200			\$ 28,200	\$ 10,000	\$ 38,200	\$ 25,000
CRAWFORD	\$ 23,912	\$ 10,000		\$ 33,912	\$ 10,000	\$ 43,912	\$ 25,000
DECATUR		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
DICKINSON	\$ 30,000			\$ 30,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 25,000
DONIPHAN		\$ 22,000		\$ 22,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 22,000
DOUGLAS	\$ 93,500			\$ 93,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 103,500	\$ 25,000
EDWARDS	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
ELK		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
ELLIS	\$ 70,242			\$ 70,242	\$ 10,000	\$ 80,242	\$ 25,000
ELLSWORTH	\$ 29,000			\$ 29,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 25,000
FINNEY	\$ 45,000			\$ 45,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 25,000
FORD	\$ 42,000			\$ 42,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 52,000	\$ 25,000
FRANKLIN	\$ 10,855	\$ 35,145		\$ 46,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 56,000	\$ 25,000
GEARY	\$ 24,000			\$ 24,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 24,000
GOVE	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
GRAHAM	\$ 20,500			\$ 20,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,500	\$ 20,500
GRANT	\$ 31,000			\$ 31,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 41,000	\$ 25,000
GRAY		\$ 23,599		\$ 23,599	\$ 10,000	\$ 33,599	\$ 23,599
GREELEY	\$ 11,303			\$ 11,303	\$ 10,000	\$ 21,303	\$ 11,303
GREENWOOD	\$ 16,500			\$ 16,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 26,500	\$ 16,500
HAMILTON	\$ 25,000			\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 25,000
HARPER	\$ 10,000		\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 25,000
HARVEY		\$ 15,300		\$ 15,300	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,300	\$ 15,300
HASKELL	\$ 22,000			\$ 22,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 22,000
HODGEMAN	\$ 16,000			\$ 16,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 16,000
JACKSON	\$ 51,909			\$ 51,909	\$ 10,000	\$ 61,909	\$ 25,000
JEFFERSON	\$ 45,000			\$ 45,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 25,000
JEWELL	\$ 19,250			\$ 19,250	\$ 10,000	\$ 29,250	\$ 19,250
JOHNSON	\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000
KEARNY	\$ 10,000	\$ 55,000		\$ 65,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 25,000
KINGMAN	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
KIOWA	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
LABETTE	\$ 13,000			\$ 13,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 13,000
LANE	\$ 6,000	\$ 29,500		\$ 35,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 45,500	\$ 25,000
LEAVENWORTH	\$ 37,000			\$ 37,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 47,000	\$ 25,000
LINCOLN	\$ 14,000			\$ 14,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 14,000

2008 SCC Budget- Aid to Conservation Districts

DISTRICT	CO. GENERAL FUND	CO. SPECIAL MILL LEVY	COUNTY OTHER	COUNTY TOTAL	STATE MATCHED	TOTAL	PROPOSED MATCH
LINN	\$ 28,500			\$ 28,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 38,500	\$ 25,000
LOGAN	\$ 14,500			\$ 14,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 24,500	\$ 14,500
LYON	\$ 24,500			\$ 24,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 34,500	\$ 24,500
MARION	\$ 28,790			\$ 28,790	\$ 10,000	\$ 38,790	\$ 25,000
MARSHALL	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,480		\$ 30,480	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,480	\$ 25,000
McPHERSON	\$ 27,000			\$ 27,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 25,000
MEADE	\$ 16,000			\$ 16,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 16,000
MIAMI	\$ 47,947			\$ 47,947	\$ 10,000	\$ 57,947	\$ 25,000
MITCHELL		\$ 16,615	\$ 1,559	\$ 18,174	\$ 10,000	\$ 28,174	\$ 18,174
MONTGOMERY	\$ 30,000			\$ 30,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 25,000
MORRIS	\$ 18,500			\$ 18,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 28,500	\$ 18,500
MORTON		\$ 32,000		\$ 32,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 25,000
NEMAHA		\$ 27,000	\$ 5,400	\$ 32,400	\$ 10,000	\$ 42,400	\$ 25,000
NEOSHO	\$ 16,750			\$ 16,750	\$ 10,000	\$ 26,750	\$ 16,750
NESS	\$ 18,000			\$ 18,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 18,000
NORTON	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
OSAGE	\$ 28,000			\$ 28,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 38,000	\$ 25,000
OSBORNE		\$ 14,000		\$ 14,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 14,000
OTTAWA	\$ 17,000			\$ 17,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 27,000	\$ 17,000
PAWNEE	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
PHILLIPS	\$ 14,000			\$ 14,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 14,000
POTTAWATOMIE	\$ 10,000	\$ 55,000		\$ 65,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 25,000
PRATT	\$ 13,000			\$ 13,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 13,000
RAWLINS	\$ 15,000			\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,000
RENO	\$ 39,000			\$ 39,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 25,000
REPUBLIC	\$ 33,000			\$ 33,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 25,000
RICE	\$ 29,000			\$ 29,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 25,000
RILEY	\$ 66,086			\$ 66,086	\$ 10,000	\$ 76,086	\$ 25,000
ROOKS	\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000
RUSH	\$ 29,000			\$ 29,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 25,000
RUSSELL	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000		\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 25,000
SALINE	\$ 19,549			\$ 19,549	\$ 10,000	\$ 29,549	\$ 19,549
SCOTT	\$ 21,500	\$ 12,500		\$ 34,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 44,000	\$ 25,000
SEDGWICK	\$ 67,007			\$ 67,007	\$ 10,000	\$ 77,007	\$ 25,000
SEWARD	\$ 49,064			\$ 49,064	\$ 10,000	\$ 59,064	\$ 25,000
SHAWNEE	\$ 27,000			\$ 27,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 25,000
SHERIDAN	\$ 11,000			\$ 11,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 11,000
SHERMAN	\$ 22,000			\$ 22,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 22,000
SMITH	\$ 15,000			\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,000
STAFFORD	\$ 12,500			\$ 12,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 22,500	\$ 12,500
STANTON	\$ 29,000			\$ 29,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 25,000
STEVENS	\$ 32,020			\$ 32,020	\$ 10,000	\$ 42,020	\$ 25,000
SUMNER		\$ 22,341		\$ 22,341	\$ 10,000	\$ 32,341	\$ 22,341
THOMAS	\$ 47,500			\$ 47,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 57,500	\$ 25,000
TREGO	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
WABAUNSEE	\$ 25,000			\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 25,000
WALLACE	\$ 14,000			\$ 14,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 14,000
WASHINGTON	\$ 17,500			\$ 17,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 27,500	\$ 17,500
WICHITA	\$ 18,000			\$ 18,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 18,000
WILSON	\$ 19,290			\$ 19,290	\$ 10,000	\$ 29,290	\$ 19,290
WOODSON	\$ 17,000			\$ 17,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 27,000	\$ 17,000
WYANDOTTE		\$ 59,974		\$ 59,974	\$ 10,000	\$ 69,974	\$ 25,000
TOTALS	\$ 2,187,909	\$ 594,552	\$ 57,084	\$ 2,839,545	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 3,889,545	\$ 2,138,154



Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

Representing Local Conservation Districts

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resource
By LaVern Wetzel
President, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
Testimony – HB 2048
January 16, 2007

Thank you, Chairman Faber and members of the committee; I am LaVern Wetzel, President of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. I am testifying in favor of HB 2048.

In the 1930s, a severe drought across the Great Plains led to one of the darkest periods in Kansas history. Minimal rain and poor soil management resulted in huge black dust storms. The worst such storm in memory occurred on April 14, 1935, a day that came to be known as “Black Sunday.” On that day, an estimated 300 million tons of soil blew from the land.

But just as every cloud has a silver lining, the clouds of dust were no exception. Out of that disaster was born a commitment to soil conservation, which led to the passage of legislation establishing the Erosion Control Service as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The ECS later became the Soil Conservation Service and then the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which today continues to provide technical assistance to private landowners and managers to help them conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources.

In a letter to all state governors in February 1937 urging them to set up conservation districts, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, “The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself.” The Kansas Legislature took that admonition to heart, and a month later Governor Walter Huxman signed a bill into law that created conservation districts in Kansas. The bill also provided for the creation of a state soil conservation committee as an agency of the state, whose purpose was to assist in the formation of conservation districts and to coordinate their affairs.

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), a voluntary, nongovernmental, nonprofit organization, was established in 1944 to support programs designed to advance the conservation and orderly development of Kansas land, water, and related resources. Its members are the conservation districts located in the state’s 105 counties.

Thus were forged key partnerships among federal, state, and local entities all committed to a common goal: wise and efficient conservation practices to protect the state’s natural resources. These partnerships spanning more than six decades have been highly effective and mutually beneficial, allowing for shared space, equipment, and knowledge.

Because of the mutual benefit afforded by these partnerships, what impacts one also impacts the others. The Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been given the challenge to prepare for major budget reductions that threaten not only that agency's programs and services but local conservation districts offices as well. The level of budget cuts NRCS currently faces, and therefore local conservation district offices face as well, is particularly challenging for committed conservationists.

In a state well-accustomed to fiscal constraints associated with its agricultural economy, belt tightening is nothing new. Kansans understand tough economic conditions all too well. We at KACD believe in a strong commitment to conservation practices that define Kansas and preserve the state's natural resources for future generations.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of KACD I urge your support of HB 2048 and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

LaVern Wetzel
President
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
By Connie E. Richmeier
Finney County Conservation District Manager
Testimony – HB 2048
January 16, 2007

Chairman Faber and members of the committee, I am Connie Richmeier; District Manager of the Finney County Conservation District. I also serve as a Representative of the Kansas Association of Conservation District Employees Organization and Treasurer of the National Conservation District Employees Association.

I am testifying in favor of HB 2048 and to ask for your support. But first, let me give you a brief background of the Conservation Districts.

Conservation Districts were established in the 1930's when Congress, in response to national concerns over mounting erosion, floods and the sky-blackening dust storms that sweep across the country enacted the Soil Conservation Act of 1935.

The Act stated for the first time a national policy to provide a permanent program for the control and prevention of soil erosion. To encourage local participation in programs, President Roosevelt sent all state governors A Standard State Soil Conservation District Law, with the recommendation to enact legislation along these lines. By 1938, 27 States enacted legislation including Kansas

In the 1950's & 1960's state laws were modified to allow Districts to meet emerging resource needs. This increase in responsibility and authority caused District officials to assume a greater leadership role in resource use and development in their communities.

Each of the 105 Conservation Districts in Kansas carry out programs for the use and development of soil, water and related natural resources. Conservation Districts are resource management agencies, coordinating and implementing resources and environmental programs at the local level in cooperation with federal and state agencies. Each District has a governing body made up of local public elected officials who share their talents, experience and knowledge of community needs and resources to guide districts in setting policies, goals and priorities for carrying out resource programs.

They work with land managers, local government agencies and other local interested organizations in addressing a broad spectrum of resource concerns, erosion control, flood prevention, water conservation and use, wetlands, ground water, water quality and quantity, non-point source pollution, forest land protection, wildlife, recreation, waste water management and community development. Such work varies according to the resource needs of each district.

Conservation Districts also administer conservation educational programs for students, and adults, addressing topics on conservation of natural resources in rural and urban areas.

You may even say that the Conservation Districts bridge the gap between Federal, State and Local conservation efforts.

Conservation Districts have been successful in working with groups of motivated people in addressing local resource needs for the future. By increasing Conservation District funding, our work can continue. Conservation Districts realize that we only have this moment to conserve our natural resources for they are non-renewable and will be needed for generations to come. A second chance to conserve our natural resources is a luxury that we do not have.

In closing, remember success is planning today for tomorrow. Not only do we have this moment to conserve but we have this moment to plan a successful future of our natural resources for future generations.

Thank you for your support for HB 2048 and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Connie Richmeier, District Manager
Finney County Conservation District
2106 E. Spruce Street
Garden City, Kansas 67846



FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

107 East 23rd, Suite 2

Ottawa, Kansas 66067-9536

Phone 785/242-1109

Your Conservation Partner Since 1941

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

by

Keri Harris

District Manager

Franklin County Conservation District

January 16, 2007

Chairman Faber and members of the committee, I am Keri Harris, District Manager for the Franklin County Conservation District. I have served as the District Manager for the Board of Supervisors of the Franklin County Conservation District since April 2001. I am here to give testimony on HB2048, which proposes an increase to the amount of state funding received by county conservation districts.

The Franklin County Conservation District was formed in 1941. During the last 66 years, we have reached countless landowners and agriculture producers with the message of conservation while building a strong partnership with our local government and partnering agencies. We are the people the officials and the residents come to for answers about natural resource issues. Since 1941 we have also provided assistance with the implementation of effective conservation practices through our various programs including youth and public education, state funded cost share programs, grant programs for additional cost share related to water quality improvement and many other programs. All of these programs are vital to the continuation of conservation of the natural resources in Kansas.

Kansas is fortunate to have a conservation voice with a strong presence in every county. Through this statewide network the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and the State Conservation Commission are able to effectively reach landowners "locally" with their conservation message. While the dedication to conservation is strong, the funding to support it is not always as available in one county as it is in the next. An increase in State Aid to Conservation Districts would mean different opportunities for every county. To some county conservation district the increase in funding would mean the assurance of the continuation of services. Other counties may utilize portions of the additional funding to purchase updated equipment and office supplies to increase the efficiency of program implementation. Many counties may use the additional funds to expand upon the programs they already provide such as building a bigger and better community outreach programs through their information and education program. While at the same time an increase in funding would allow some counties to hire additional administrative and technical staff to assist with rising demand for program delivery.

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RESOURCES COMMITTEE

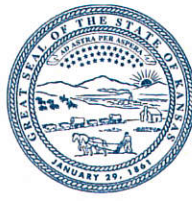
1-16-2007

ATTACHMENT 11

District supervisors volunteer their time to govern each county conservation district. As the District Manager I am in the office each day as the boards' representative. For many landowners in Franklin County I am the first contact they have with conservation. From this position, I can testify as to how important it is to all county conservation districts and to the residents we serve that we receive this increase in state aid.

Everyday landowners come through our office doors to ask questions about water quality; look for assistance with conservation; inquire about a cost share program; rent equipment to implement conservation practices; order grass seed to improve wildlife habitats; plus countless others. These are the requests that I, and district employees in 104 other counties, deal with everyday. Without this increase in funding many county conservation districts may be faced with reducing staff and services, or even closing the doors completely leaving the landowners with no one to turn to for assistance with conservation.

The work we do as conservation employees is not always easy, but at the end of the day I know we truly are making a difference in the quality of life for all Kansans. It is with that dedication to conservation, agriculture and all natural resources that I would respectfully ask for legislative support of the proposal in HB2048 for FY2008.



K A N S A S

TRACY STREETER, DIRECTOR

KANSAS WATER OFFICE

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

**Testimony on House Bill 2048
Conservation District Funding**

**Presented to
The House Agriculture & Environment Committee**

**Tracy Streeter
Kansas Water Office
January 16, 2007**

Chairman Faber and members of the Committee, I am Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office. I appreciate the opportunity to appear this afternoon to testify in support of House Bill 2048.

Conservation districts are responsible for the local administration of several State Water Plan Programs, including the Water Resources Cost-Share, Non-Point Source Pollution Control, Riparian and Wetland Protection and the Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative. The state's ability to delivery these statewide programs hinges on the capability of conservation districts in each of the 105 counties.

The Kansas Water Authority meeting has expressed its support for enhanced State General Funds to match county funding for conservation districts and the legislation necessary to enable increased matching funds. A letter of support from the Water Authority is attached.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear today. I would be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.

**HS AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
1-16-2007
ATTACHMENT 12**

KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY

901 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1249 (785) 296-3185



Steve Irsik, Chairman

5405 Six Road, Ingalls, KS 67853

(620) 335-5363 - steve@ucom.net

January 10, 2007

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The Kansas Water Authority has developed FY2008 Budget Recommendations in its Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature for your consideration. Subsequent to these recommendations being approved, the Authority was presented with an issue by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts because of funding cuts being made at the federal level.

Late last year, the USDA Farm Services Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service announced plans to close 11 of its offices in Kansas due to federal budget cuts. The Kansas Conservation Districts are commonly co-located with the federal offices, allowing cost savings and improved delivery of services and technical assistance to federal and state assistance programs. The proposed closure of USDA offices would eliminate many State Conservation Districts' ability to exist in these areas, subsequently reducing the effective delivery and implementation of state financial assistance programs. Conservation district operational expenses will increase without the co-location support of a USDA presence.

The proposal by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts increases the amount of funds Conservation Districts are able to receive under State Aid to Conservation Districts. This county matching program provides a \$10,000 match to county provided funds for conservation district operation to implement state financial assistance and other programs. Currently, the Aid to Conservation Districts allocation is \$1,048,000. State appropriations supplement county allocated funds and are utilized by conservation districts for operational expenses including, but not limited to, salaries and wages; office supplies; equipment; information and education activities; and district supervisor and staff travel expenses. It also enables conservation districts to implement state cost-share conservation programs and other conservation programs.

The KWA is supportive of a proposal by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. An additional \$1,086,154 is requested from State General Fund for state fiscal year 2008 to increase the state appropriations to match county supplied funds, not to exceed \$25,000 per district, contingent on statutory change. The Kansas Water Authority supports legislative actions in revising K.S.A. 2-1907c to increase the state financial assistance to conservation districts to match county supplied funds, not to exceed \$25,000 per district. The provisions of K.S.A. 2-1907c authorizing state appropriations to match county supplied funds, not to exceed \$10,000 per district has been at the current funding level since 1994.

The increase will provide 96 county conservation districts with additional operating funds to assist with implementing natural resource programs to protect and enhance Kansas' natural resources. See the table (pages 49 & 50 of the SCC FY2008 Budget Request) listing the FY2007 county appropriations for each conservation district, eligible FY2008 match from the state, and the FY 2008 Proposed Match figures. Furthermore, the increase in matching funds will illustrate to county commissioners the state's commitment to conservation and provide an opportunity to take advantage of increased matching funds from the state.

This request would dovetail with a major proposal in the KWA's FY2008 Budget Recommendations which includes shifting funding for the State Conservation Commission's Aid-to-Conservation Districts to the State General Fund from the State Water Plan Fund. This shift in funding is part of a larger request that would make the same shift of funding for the KDHE Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP); the KDHE Contamination Remediation Program; and the KDA, DWR Interstate Water Issues to the State General Fund. These funding recommendation shifts an additional \$4 million to be re-directed to address priority water projects across Kansas.

On behalf of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, the Kansas Water Authority respectfully requests legislative support of this proposal for FY2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Irsik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Irsik
Chairman