

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 12, 2010, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kristen Kellems, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees:

Joshua Svaty, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken noted that this is a new committee room with microphones. He also noted Legislative Coordinating Committee has requested there be no food or drink in the spectator section. He said that food and drink will be allowed by Committee members, but cautioned them to be careful with the new facilities.

Joshua Svaty, was named Acting Secretary, KDA, by Governor Mark Parkinson when former Secretary Polansky accepted an appointment to a federal office.

Acting Secretary Svaty commended the KDA staff for their dedication to the agriculture industry. He then introduced the following KDA senior staff:

Dave Starkey, Chief General Counsel
Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary
Stacey Wollington, Chief Fiscal Officer
Erik Wisner, Policy and Program Analyst
Katie Howard, Environmental-Laboratory Issues Director

Acting Secretary Svaty also introduced his spouse, Kimberly.

He stated that Kansas had an extraordinary 2009 (Annual Report on file in Senator Taddiken's office) because it had been a very wet year which created some problems for agriculture as well as great opportunities. It was a record year for corn and soybeans production. It was also a record year for milo production even though the milo acreage was reduced last year.

The stream flow was up for many of the rivers that are monitored, especially the Republican River.

Kansas has the highest amount of temporary grain storage permitted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) ever in the state's history at 44, 000,000 bushels.

It was a difficult year for the hog market and dairy farmers.

Mr. Svaty said the beef industry continues to be a very strong part of the Kansas agriculture economy and looks forward to the livestock industry swinging back strong in 2010.

Due to the efforts of Senator Brownback, some animal health research will be moved from a Wyoming facility to the federal grain research group in Manhattan and has been named the Center for Grain and Animal Health Research.

Kansas received a \$274,000 federal grant which was used for a stop stock movement exercise. The purpose of this exercise was to test interstate coordination to stop and screen livestock transporters during an infectious disease outbreak affecting cattle and swine.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:30 a.m. on January 12, 2010, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

Acting Secretary Svaty said the books have been closed on nearly two decades of litigation with Colorado on the Arkansas River Compact.

On June 30 the arbiter in the Republican River Compact case ruled that the compliance plan Nebraska submitted is inadequate, the state should further reduce its groundwater withdrawals and provide a firm source of water during times of shortage.

The KDA administered over \$214,000 in federal grants for speciality crops which included the conifer research program at K-State. A portion of this grant was used to lease a mechanical harvester for grape growers.

The Washington County Farm Bureau received a grant to market specialty crops and set up farmers' markets where none existed. This grant benefitted not only Washington County but five other county Farm Bureaus.

Acting Secretary Svaty noted that the KDA has cut almost \$2,000,000 from this year's projected budget. He said there is a department wide vacancy rate of 26%. He said the legislature has requested that state agencies do only what is statutorily required. In response to a request to cut spending by \$303,000 positions have been cut, left vacant or employees laid off.

Acting Secretary Svaty took questions from the Committee.

Dave Starkey, Chief General Counsel, KDA, answered questions from the Committee.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, KDA, requested the introduction of a bill regarding dairy fees for the dairy inspection program. Senator Lee moved the introduction of a bill regarding dairy fees for the dairy inspection program; seconded by Senator Barnett. Motion carried.

The second bill requested by the KDA regards the laboratory equipment fee fund. Senator Francisco moved the introduction of a bill concerning the laboratory equipment fee fund; seconded by Senator Lee. Motion carried.

Mr. Cotsoradis requested the introduction of a bill which would provide an opportunity for a hearing which will be more efficient and bring the KDA in line with the Administrative hearing rules. Chairman Taddiken moved the introduction of a bill which would allow an opportunity for a hearing; seconded by Senator Francisco. Motion carried.

KDA requested the introduction of a bill regarding the materials used for pesticide training. This bill would allow the use of training materials for pesticide education other than material from K-State. Motion to introduce the bill was made by Senator Lee; seconded by Senator Barnett. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 144-S

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 12, 2010

NAME	REPRESENTING
John Donley	KS Livestock Assn
Heslie Kaufman	Ks Co-op Council
Glenn Quene	LAS
Kimberly Saty	GAPA
Joe Morison	PNCS
CV Cotso radis	KDA
Erik Wisner	KDA
Dave Starkey	KDA
Stacey Woolington	KDA
Katie Howard	KDA
JOHN BOTTENBERG	KPA
SEAN MILNER	CAPITOL STRATEGIES
Chris Cardinal	Sierra Club
Steve Switzer	KFB
Ron Seebor	KGFA/KARA