

Approved: 02/21/12
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 24, 2012, in Room 159– S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Steve Abrams- excused

Committee staff present:

David Wiese, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Abigail Boudewyns, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dale A. Rodman, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Dale A. Rodman, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), reported that the state of Kansas agriculture is strong. (Attachment 1) He also reported that agricultural retail, wholesale and manufacturing in Kansas accounts for approximately \$50 billion in economic activity annually. He said that Kansas exports more than \$4.9 billion of agriculture products annually – making agriculture the state's largest exporter. Secretary Rodman said that Kansas has the advantages of geography, climate and valuable resources. Another advantage is that Kansas has the right leaders to provide government support at the right time. He reported that participants at the Governor's Economic Summit on Animal Agriculture identified the challenges to Kansas agriculture as federal and state regulations, animal welfare activism, labor shortages, limited water availability and changing state demographics. The state's dependence on agriculture makes weather challenges even more significant. Secretary Rodman reported that some promising industries include dairy, dairy processing, swine and poultry production. He also noted that Kansas will work towards the future by embracing technology and precision agriculture. Secretary Rodman mentioned some major changes in the KDA: capitalizing on human talent, focusing on customer service, simplifying processes, increasing cooperation between departments and agencies and being open for business. He said the Legislature will have an opportunity to address the issues of agriculture labor, corporate agriculture, animal care laws and water this session. Secretary Rodman took questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken reopened the hearing on **SB 272–Water rights; multi-year flex accounts; application for division of water right; fee.**

Dale Goter, Government Relations Manager, City of Wichita, appeared in support of **SB 272** but expressed some concerns. (Attachment 2) The City of Wichita urges the Committee to consider some of the unique concerns regarding the Equus Beds aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) project which is a

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primary water source for Wichita residents. He also stated that an alternative approach would be to give the ASR permits the senior right to all the water pumped into the aquifer. Mr. Goter took questions from the Committee.

There being no additional proponents or any opponents to appear on **SB 272**, Chairman Taddiken closed the hearing.

Senator Teichman made a motion to change the effective date from publication in the statute book to the publication in the Kansas register. Motion seconded by Senator Francisco. Motion carried.

Mr. Barfield reviewed an amendment (Attachment 3) to add in Sec. 2 (E) immediately following the word “subsection: “except when the base water right is suspended due to the issuance of a two-year term permit in a designated drought emergency area for 2011 and 2012”. He noted that those enrolled in drought emergency term permits who do NOT enroll in a multi-year flex account (MYFA), would still be required to live within the terms of the drought emergency term permit (reduced 2012 use). Also unchanged is that under this language, anyone who overused in 2011 but did NOT apply for a drought emergency term permit may still apply for a MYFA. They would have to pay the \$600 fee and the MYFA would be reduced by their 2011 overuse.

Discussion will be continued on **SB 272**.

Chairman Taddiken said that a hearing on **SB 289-Amending the veterinary practice act** will be held tomorrow.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2012. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.