

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ralph Ostmeyer at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present, except:

Senator Terry Bruce-excused

Committee staff present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Abigail Boudewyns, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Stephanie Gray, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Tom Sloan, District 45
Earl Lewis, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office (KWO)
Greg Foley, Ks Dept. of Agriculture, Div. of Conservation
Mark Schreiber, Director of Public Affairs, Westar Energy, KCP&L, KEPCo
Darci Meese, Water District #1, Johnson Co.
Galen Biery, Water Assurance Districts #1 & #3

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Ostmeyer opened the hearing on **HB2685 –reservoir improvement districts.** Tamera Lawrence, assistant revisor, referred to her memo as she gave background on this bill. (Attachment #1)

Representative Tom Sloan gave supportive testimony for **HB2685.** He stated his background with the development of this bill. He made a request for the Committee to consider his amendment suggestions for the bill by including the components of **HB 2096** as amended by the Vision 2020 Committee. He described the proposed balloon amendments with insert suggestions. (Attachment #2)

Earl Lewis, KWO Assistant Director, spoke as a proponent of **HB2685.** It would create the ability for local water users to create a new district for the purpose of implementing projects and practices that improve or preserve a reservoir. (Attachment #3)

Greg Foley, KDA, Div. of Conservation, supports the **HB2685.** His office believes this bill has the potential to compliment the current activities to reduce sedimentation in high priority reservoirs. (Attachment #4)

Questions from the Committee followed with the proponents of the bill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes for the Natural Resources Committee at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

Mark Schreiber, Director, Public Affairs, Westar Energy, gave neutral testimony to **HB2685**. The bill allows for the formation of reservoir improvement districts by eligible water right holders in a reservoir. (Attachment #5)

Darci Meese, Government Affairs Coordinator, WaterOne, made neutral comments for **HB2685**. But, she respectfully urged the Committee to delay action on this bill until such time as all the parties have had a chance to discuss further the implications of the bill. (Attachment #6)

Galen Biery, Kansas River Water Assurance District #1 and Cottonwood & Neosho River Basins Water Assurance District #3, gave neutral testimony on **HB2685**. He is concerned about the wording of the bill. He provided examples within the bill that need to be considered. (Attachment #7)

Mr. Biery answered questions from the Committee.

Senator Teichman moved to approve committee minutes for January 27, February 3, and February 9. Senator Abrams seconded. Motion carried.

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