

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:40 A.M. on January 17, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Jay Emler - excused
Senator Laura Kelly - excused
Senator Steve Morris - excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Kristen Clarke Kellems, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Steve Irsik, Chair, Kansas Water Authority
Don Paxson, Chair, Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee
Tracy Streeter, Secretary Kansas Water Authority and Director, Kansas Water Office

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger opened the meeting with a briefing by the Kansas Water Authority.

Steve Irsik, Chair, Kansas Water Authority, presented information regarding the Water Authority (Attachment 1). Last year they addressed the following items and their thinking is long term.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
Water Transition Assistance Program
Watershed Protection and Restoration
Small Lake Restoration

Don Paxson, Chair, Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee, presented budget information. He noted that there are statewide water issues that they have to track. The Authority's recommendations for the FY 2009 State Water Plan Fund closely mirror the FY 2008 appropriations approved last year by the Legislature.

Tracy Streeter, Secretary, Kansas Water Authority and Director, Kansas Water Office, mentioned that he had addressed the Kansas Reservoir Summit. Mr. Streeter noted that the Neosho Basin has the most concern and the supply is going down. The Neosho Basin will be under consideration and more accurate figures regarding it will be attained.

Aquifer Resource Efforts. There have been congressional efforts regarding funding. The benefits are for a more stable water level and water quality. A list of Water Plan Fund Programs are provided in one of the charts in the written testimony. Committee questions and discussion followed.

In closing, Mr. Irsik noted that there are no more spots to drill wells. The reservoirs are appropriate, but they are losing water space due to siltation. The amount of money needed to fund water in Kansas is a drop in the bucket. Kansas is fortunate to have the water authority to strategically look at things along with the water office. Chairman Umbarger noted that the Committee considers the water issues seriously.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 10:30 A.M. on January 17, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Copies of the Kansas Water Authority 2008 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature were distributed to the Committee and copies of the report are available with the Kansas Water Office.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The next meeting was a Joint Meeting with the House Appropriations Committee the same day, January 17, 2008, beginning at 12:00 p.m.