

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Faber at 3:30 P.M. on January 24, 2007, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Bill Otto, 9th District
Steve Adams, Natural Resource Coordinator, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Tom Thompson, Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introduction

Representative Elaine Bowers requested introduction of a bill for reorganization of the Cloud County Fair Board of Elections. By committee consensus, the committee accepted the request.

Hearing on HB 2052

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2052**, introducing Representative Bill Otto as a proponent. He said that the bill is an effort to address the Deer Creek Watershed Joint District #55's plan to build a lake at site #128; the District must first allow the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to review the plan, a requirement which the District interprets as onerous ([Attachment 1](#)).

Steve Adams, Natural Resource Coordinator, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, speaking on behalf of the Department, opposes **HB 2052** because of possible modifications of the Environmental Coordination Act. If enacted, this bill would set a precedent of possible exclusion of future public dialog ([Attachment 2](#)).

Tom Thompson, representing the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club, spoke in opposition to **HB 2052** ([Attachment 3](#)). He said small water projects are equally as important as larger projects and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' authority to protect ecological systems will be severely limited if this bill is enacted.

The Committee requested information be provided on mitigation plans and costs related to the Deer Creek Watershed Joint District #55. The Chair requested a complete list of the Kansas Endangered Species and the list of Threatened and Species in Need of Conservation.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2052**.

A preliminary sub-committee to gather information on inundation maps is being established by Vice-Chairman Knox and Minority Leader Svaty.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.