

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 February 11, 2008, in Room 783 of the DSOB.

All members were present except:

Representative John Grange- excused
Representative Tom Moxley- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ryan Hoffman, Kansas Legislative Research
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Kristen Kellems, Revisor of Statutes
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Fred Cholick, Dean of Agriculture, Kansas State University
Dean Buchholz, Associate Director of Cooperative Extension
Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Brandon Helk, Allen, Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

Brandy Carter, Kansas Cattlemen's Association, requested a resolution in regard to the beef check-off. There being no objection, the resolution will be introduced.

The Chair welcomed Dr. Fred Cholick, Dean of Agriculture, Kansas State University, who reported on the work of the Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops, an initiative to assist family farmers and ranchers and enhance rural communities (Attachment 1). He stated that the Center is used by producers, professionals, and organizations and provides aid in increasing farm income through value-added products, through establishing farmers' markets, and by conserving natural resources.

Daryl Buchholz, Associate Director, Kansas State University Research and Extension, explained that Research and Extension has offices in every Kansas county and is a member of the Extension Disaster Education Network. These facts allowed Extension and Research to play a key role during the past year's multiple disasters in Kansas. He listed ways in which his office provided assistance throughout the state (Attachment 2).

Without objection, the Chair brought **Substitute for SB 89** off the table for consideration and then opened the hearing on **HB 2748 - tagging of big game and wild turkey**.

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, spoke as a proponent for **HB 2748**, (Attachment 3). He said wild turkeys are one of the great stories of successful conservation in Kansas; a high population for hunting exists in every county in the state, obviating the need for tagging carcasses.

Steve Swaffar, Director of Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau, provided written testimony in support of the bill (Attachment 4).

Brandon Houck, Certified Wildlife Biologist with the National Wild Turkey Federation, speaking as a neutral person, recommended several changes to management and law enforcement before addressing the bill: without carcass tags, population balance in the four different units of Kansas will be difficult to manage and maintain without the statistical assistance that tagging provides, especially in southeast Kansas, where the population is declining (Attachment 5).

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2748** and re-opened the discussion on **Sub for SB 89** - Republican River, disposition of litigation moneys. Two documents showing the Interstate Water Litigation Reserve

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 11, 2008, in Room DSOB 783 of the Capitol.

Fund/Account from the Kansas Water Office were distributed to the committee (Attachments 6 & 7).

A motion was made by Representative Powell, seconded by Representative Aurand, to amend the bill, capping the fund at \$20 million, with two-thirds of the proceeds going to the affected areas, and one-third to the State Water Fund.

After some discussion, Representative Knox made a motion to table the issue until drafted amendments were complete. Representaive Powell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.