

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Powell at 8:30am on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Toni Beck, Committee Assistant
Mark Savoy, Legislative Research
Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor
Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research
Mike Heim, Office of Revisor

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

No list available

Introduction of Committee members and staff

Chairman Powell reported to the Natural Resources Committee that Senator Ostmeyer is recovering nicely from surgery and plans to return to committee next week. Committee Rules were provided in the committee members folders.

Possible bill introductions

Chairman Powell called for bill introductions, of which none were introduced.

Presentation on:

Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office, presented, State of the Water Resources to the committee members. Vision of the department reads for the state to support social, economic and natural resources needs for current and future generations. ([Attachment 1](#)) ([Attachment 2](#))

The mission is to provide Kansans with the framework, policy and tools, developed in concert with stakeholders, to manage, secure, and protect a reliable, long-term state-wide water supply while balancing conservation with economic growth. Water conservation emphasizes information and education regarding the importance of water and conservation practices. In so doing, this will reduce barriers and increase development of locally driven conservation and management plans. Conservation will increase adoption of watershed practices that reduce future water supply loss. Technology promotes irrigation efficiency technologies, and increases utilization of less water intensive crop varieties. Additional sources of supply would allow for the transfer of water supplies between basins where feasible and cost effective.

Presentation on:

Secretary McClaskey presented information to the committee on current water related issues of

CONTINUATION SHEET

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conservation and goals to complete the process by next year, 2016. ([Attachment 3](#))

Multi-year flex accounts would allow participants who re-enroll in a new MYFA to carry over any unused quantity in the amount of up to one year's allocation. The priority for the use of the funds will continue to be applied toward assisting communities with safe drinking water quality requirements. Adopting the definition change removes a barrier to encourage cooperative public water supply projects. Protecting conservation efforts in future actions would provide for the protection of water rights in future voluntary and involuntary reductions in water use. ([Attachment 4](#))

Discussion:

Senator Pyle questioned if water upstream is reserved for irrigation, would Kansas be curtailing development? Mr. Streeter responded Milford and Perry have water reservation rights. Both come into play for serious drought and in storage usage. Milford has 1974 water rights, but are using the current level of development to sell and administer. Senator Pyle questioned if cost analysis would be possible for better storage at 1/2 the price. Mr. Streeter responded this would be an alternative option, but construction skyrocketed to \$300 million currently from a cost of \$15 million previously. Senator McGinn questioned if Multi-Year Flex Account was a repeat of the current bill or a roll over. Secretary McClaskey commented the five year period allows for a 1 1/2 year carryover of water. This is based on the original appropriation. Senator Kerschen questioned if the cost of construction is \$300 million, what would that equal per year? Mr. Streeter responded it would depend on the yearly amortization schedule which is unknown at this time.

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.