

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Powell at 8:45am on Thursday, March 19, 2015, 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Michael O'Donnell – Excused

Senator Tom Hawk – Excused

Committee staff present:

Mark Savoy, Legislative Research Department

Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department

Toni Beck, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Richard Ranzau, Sedgwick County Commissioner

Jason Luginbill, KS Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Zack Pistora, Sierra Club

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Hearing on: SB268 — Changes to stream maintenance and obstruction requirements.**

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on the bill.

Tamera Lawrence presented an overview.

Richard Ranzau presented testimony in support of the bill commenting Sedgwick County stream maintenance projects are exempt from all state, federal and local agency permit requirements except Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. ([Attachment 1](#)) Additional photos of projects from Jester Creek, Little Arkansas, Cowskin, Clearwater and Dry Creeks were provided. ([Attachment 2](#))

Jason Luginbill presented testimony in opposition to the bill stating 91% of residents agreed that the Department should continue to protect habitat critical to the existence of threatened and endangered species. ([Attachment 3](#))

Zack Pistora presented testimony in opposition to the bill commenting it is crucial that staff biologists maintain statutory authority to protect in-stream wildlife from activities which local governments might consider routine maintenance. ([Attachment 4](#))

Rob Manes submitted written testimony in opposition to the bill stating it would severely undermine the application of sound science and public policy for stream maintenance. ([Attachment 5](#))

Steve Sorensen submitted written testimony in opposition to the bill commenting it would move Sedgwick County from zone one, to zone two, allowing their watershed drainage limit to be doubled.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Natural Resources at 8:45am on Thursday, March 19, 2015, 159-S of the Capitol.

(Attachment 6)

Discussion:

Daniel Schrant, Sedgwick Stormwater Engineer, stated the ground along the water streams is sowed with a custom seed for growth after work is completed. Lane Letourneau, KS Department of Agriculture, commented additional research would be necessary to study prevention of water flooding issues and how it would effect those down stream to the project.

Chairman Powell closed the hearing on the bill.

**Hearing on: HB2063 — Amending the definition of project in the public water supply project loan program.**

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on the bill.

Tamera Lawrence provided an overview.

Tracy Streeter provided written testimony in support of the bill commenting a strategy in the Kansas Water Authority Vision is to allow for the transfer of water supplies between basins where feasible and cost effective. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Powell closed the hearing on the bill.

Chairman Powell turned the Committee's attention to **SB275-Concerning water, relating to water conservation areas.**

*Senator Kerschen moved, Senator Francisco seconded **SB275** be favorably recommended for passage. Motion adopted. Senator Francisco moved to reconsider the committee action on the bill. Senator Kerschen seconded. Motion adopted.*

*Senator Arpke moved, Senator Francisco seconded the contents of **SB275** be inserted into **HB2177** as a Substitute. Motion adopted.*

*Senator Arpke moved, Senator Francisco seconded **Substitute HB2177** be passed favorably as recommended. Motion adopted.*

There being no further business, Chairman Powell closed the last meeting of the Senate Natural Resources Committee for the 2015 Legislative Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.