

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Tyson at 8:30 a.m. on March 22, 2001 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: all present

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Krase, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

John Strickler, private citizen, Manhattan Kansas
Richard Jones, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD)
Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau
Tracy Streeter, State Conservation Commission
Ron Klataske, Audubon of Kansas

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Lee moved that the minutes from the March 15, 16 and 19 meetings be approved, seconded by Senator Umbarger. The motion passed.

Senator Tyson asked the Committee to work **HB 2198**, concerning the Kansas water pollution control revolving fund. Staff of Legislative Research reviewed the bill.

Senator Lee moved that **HB 2198** be passed favorably, seconded by Senator Taddiken. The motion carried.

Senator Tyson opened the hearing on **HB 2471**. Staff of Legislative Research explained the bill. Raney Gilliland said that the bill would create the Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance. He also said the charge under the bill for the Alliance would be to develop a vision for the state's natural resources that would assure economic development, natural resource protection, opportunities for natural resource and environmental education, and a healthy environment and quality of life for Kansans.

The first conferee and proponent of **HB 2471** was John Strickler from Manhattan, Kansas. Mr. Strickler said the Alliance created by **HB 2471** would be an attempt to take a pro-active look at these areas and develop a long range plan to identify and address future environmental and natural resource priorities and needs (Attachment 1).

The second conferee and proponent was Richard Jones, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. He said the Alliance would provide conservation districts a better opportunity set priorities at the local level that fit into a state long range plan, direct local natural resource programs to meet the objectives identified in a long range plan, and inform and educate local citizens on the importance of protecting local resources (Attachment 2).

The third conferee and proponent of **HB 2471** was Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Farm Bureau (Attachment 3).

The fourth conferee and proponent of the bill was Tracy Streeter, State Conservation Commission. Mr. Streeter said this bill represents an unprecedented effort and opportunity to draw on the collective wisdom and vision of the Governor, the Kansas legislature, state agencies, private organizations and private individuals to build the foundation for future natural resource management in Kansas. (Attachment 4). Questions and discussion followed.

Senator Tyson noted that in the bill the landowner was not addressed as being part of the group that would be on the Legacy Alliance.

The fifth conferee and proponent was Ron Klataske, Audubon of Kansas. Mr. Klataske said the Alliance would help to build partnerships between rural and urban constituencies and they are committed to that approach ([Attachment 5](#)).

Written testimony was submitted by Alan Pollom, State Director, Kansas Chapter of the Nature Conservancy ([Attachment 6](#)), Terry DeWeese, Kansas Recreation and Park Association ([Attachment 7](#)), Barth Crouch, Pheasants Forever Inc. ([Attachment 8](#)), and Jim Wallace, Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association ([Attachment 9](#)).

Committee discussion occurred regarding the makeup of the Alliance, and there was interest in reconfiguring the Alliance to reflect landowner concerns. Also, concerns were expressed on whether the Alliance needed to be dictated by law or whether it could be organized in the private sector.

Senator Tyson closed the hearing on **HB 2471**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.