

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 22, 2003, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Showalter - Excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Cindy McAsey, Experience Works
John Moore, Lt. Governor and Secretary, Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing
Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing
Greg Krissek, Kansas Corn Growers Association
Ted Zielke, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission
Kent Lamb, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority
Clark Duffy, Director, Kansas Water Office

Others attending: See attached list

Minutes of the January 15 meeting were distributed. Members were asked to notify the committee secretary of any corrections or additions prior to 5:00 p.m. January 24, or the minutes will be considered approved as presented.

Chairman Johnson called for introduction of committee bills. On behalf of Representative Tom Sloan, the Chairman requested introduction of a committee bill concerning historic preservation of property in its relationship to agricultural land. Representative Powell moved to introduce this proposal as a committee bill. Seconded by Representative Feuerborn, the motion carried.

Representative Faber requested introduction of a committee bill to ban packer ownership of livestock in Kansas. Seconded by Representative Larkin, the motion carried.

Representative Faber requested introduction of a committee bill to move the Federal Packers and Stockyards Act back down to state statutes. Seconded by Representative Gatewood, the motion carried.

Representative Thimesch requested introduction of a committee bill, similar to a Minnesota law, to encourage gas stations to sell ethanol. Seconded by Representative James Miller, the motion carried.

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Cindy McAsey, Experience Works, requested introduction of a committee resolution in support of their competitive grant application to continue to operate the senior community service employment program in Kansas helping those 55 and older with limited income get training and employment. They are funded by the Department of Labor and for the first time in 30 years, their grant is up for competitive bid. Representative Powell, seconded by Representative Compton, moved to introduce this request as a committee resolution. The motion carried.

John Moore, Lt. Governor and Secretary, Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing, discussed the Kansas agriculture trade mission to Cuba in December 2002. He indicated that the department will be asking the committee to introduce a resolution urging Congress and the President of the United States to normalize trade relations with Cuba.

Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing, presented the division's Fiscal Year 2002 Annual Report, as well as an update for FY 2003. She discussed the division's various programs to help improve the economic conditions of Kansas agriculture producers while boosting the prosperity of rural communities through the Agricultural Value Added Center, the *From the Land of Kansas* trademark program, International Trade Development and Domestic Marketing programs. (Attachment 1) The department's entire FY 2002 Annual Report can be accessed on the internet at: <http://kdoch.state.ks.us/KDOCHdocs/AD/kdoch> annual report 2002.pdf.

Greg Krissek, Kansas Corn Growers Association, invited committee members to the Ethanol Education Seminar to be held Thursday, January 23, 2003, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and introduced the Chairman of the Kansas Corn Commission.

Ted Zielke, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission, presented the commission's annual report outlining their goals and objectives, highlighting major projects, and reviewing their budget and financial information. A copy of the commission's annual report, bylaws and operating procedures, roles and responsibilities, budget and financial information can be obtained from the Kansas Corn Commission or the Kansas Department of Agriculture. (Attachment 2)

Kent Lamb, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority, provided a roster of Kansas Water Authority members, reviewed Kansas Water Office and Kansas Water Authority responsibilities, discussed the Kansas Water Plan and the role of the Basin Advisory Committees. (Attachment 3)

Clark Duffy, Director, Kansas Water Office, discussed the organization of state water agencies, the water management process, key water issues, and legislative responsibilities. (Attachment 4) There was much discussion concerning federal actions necessary for the conservation and environmental preservation of the High Plains Aquifer and management of the Ogallala Aquifer in Kansas.

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2003.

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