

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Tyson at 8:30 a.m. on March 12, 2001 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Derek Schmidt - excused

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Don Peterson, Water Protection Association of Central Kansas
(Water PACK)
Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association
Gordon Schmidt, Water PACK
Al LeDoux, Secretary, Kansas Water Authority
Director, Kansas Water Office

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Tyson opened the meeting with the continuation of the hearing on **HB 2047**.

The first conferee and proponent of the bill was Don Peterson (Attachment 1). Discussion and questions followed his testimony. Also, it was noted by Mr. Peterson that the water banking program is totally voluntary and has incentives built into it to encourage people to use it.

The question was asked if there can be more than one water bank in an area, and if so, can they have combined management. Staff of Legislative Research said the bill provides that there would only be one groundwater bank prior to July 1, 2002 and after that date there is authorization for one additional bank and that it could be a surface water bank, or a combination surface water and groundwater bank. In order for there to be more than two in the state, the legislation would have to be changed.

The second conferee and proponent was Mike Beam (Attachment 2).

Rex Buchanan, Kansas Geological Survey, said the KGS feels comfortable taking on the task to convene a team to evaluate the operation of the water bank.

Gordon Schmidt, board member of Water PACK, commented that the key to him is the coalition that is working on water banking concepts; the first coalition he has seen of environmental groups, recreation groups, the Division of Water Resources and irrigators actually working together. He said this banking bill is a crucial part in keeping the coalition together to proactively solve some of the problems in the Rattlesnake Basin.

The third conferee and neutral on the bill was Al LeDoux who represented both the Kansas Water Authority (Attachment 3) and the Kansas Water Office (Attachment 4). With Mr LeDoux was Brownie Wilson who walked the Committee through the Flexible Water Right Examples in Attachment 4.

Written testimony was submitted by Sharon Falk, Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 (Attachment 5) and by Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Farm Bureau (Attachment 6). Both were proponents of **HB 2047**.

Senator Tyson appointed a subcommittee consisting of Senators Taddiken (subcommittee chairman), Downey and Huelskamp to study proposed amendments to **HB 2047**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 423-S.