

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on March 23, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland Legislative Research Department  
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes  
Mary Ann Graham, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending: See Attached List.

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order. She asked if anyone wished to make a motion to approve committee minutes for February 10, 17, and 24, which had been distributed to committee members offices earlier in the week.

Rep. Mary Compton made a motion the committee minutes for February 10, 17, and 24, be approved. Rep. Gary Hayzlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Chairperson called the committee's attention to Fiscal Notes that had been distributed for **SB 463** and **HB 2919** for review.

Chairperson Freeborn opened **SB 463** for committee discussion.

**SB 463:      Exception to perfection of water rights concerning beneficial use.**

Rep. Tom Sloan made a motion to amend **HB 2480** (An act concerning membership of the Kansas Water Authority) into **SB 463**. Rep. Vaughn Flora seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Tom Sloan made a conceptual motion that ex officio members may not be allowed to make motions, second motions, or vote in regard to the Kansas Water Authority. Rep. James Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Tom Sloan made a motion to change the effective date to be upon publication in the Register. Rep. James Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Tom Sloan made a motion **SB 463** be passed favorably as amended. Rep. Joshua Svaty seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rep. Tom Sloan will carry the bill on the House Floor.

Chairperson Freeborn opened **HB 2919** for committee discussion.

**HB 2919:      Concerning the beneficial use of groundwater.**

Committee discussion followed.

Rep. Larry Powell made a motion **HB 2919** be passed Rep. Sharon Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rep. Larry Powell will carry the bill on the House Floor.

Written testimony in opposition to the bill was submitted by Steve Irsik, Chair of the Kansas Water Authority. The KWA met and approved a motion that expresses its opposition to the bill that essentially removes sand and gravel operations from the regulation of water consumption under the Kansas Water Appropriation Act. The Authority in its motion stated that it "opposes **HB 2919** as currently written due to the potential impact on water management in Kansas". (See attachment 1)

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. No further committee meetings are scheduled.