

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VISION 2020 COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 1:30 p.m. on January 28, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Joe Seiwert- excused

Committee staff present:

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Mary Koles, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Robert Atkinson, PhD, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

Steve Irsik, Kansas Water Authority

Mark Jakubauskas, PhD, Kansas Biological Survey

Tracy Streeter, Kansas Water Office

Mike Hayden, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan welcomed the conferees to the final day of the committee's education about State water issues and the opportunity to hear Dr. Robert Atkinson who was hosted by KTEC. Chairman Sloan introduced Dr. Atkinson.

Robert Atkinson, PhD, President and Founder of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), a Washington, DC-based technology policy think tank, and author of *The 2008 State New Economy Index: Benchmarking Economic Transformation in the States* spoke briefly. His research places Kansas 8th in the nation for "Gazelle Jobs," among the top ten states in attracting new knowledge workers, and reveals that Kansas is a "Top Mover" in two other areas. He congratulated Kansas for its strong performance on the index ([Attachment 1](#)) and noted that Kansas' pipeline program is good. The index was distributed to each committee member. It is available from ITIF, is currently online at itif.org, and is filed with the Legislative Research Department.

Representative Sloan opened the meeting for questions from the committee. Questions were asked by Representative Sloan and Representatives Doug Gatewood and Tom Hawk; Dr. Atkinson responded.

The following conferees provided a collaborative PowerPoint presentation ([Attachment 2 and Attachment 3](#)) focusing on a long-term commitment to protecting our public water supply infrastructure.

Steve Irsik, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority, discussed the work of the Kansas Water Authority and the Basin Advisory Committees: strategic planning and the Kansas water plan. He noted that sixty percent of Kansans receive water from Kansas reservoirs and that impaired reservoirs limit both economic and population growth ([Attachment 2, pages 1-4](#)).

Mark Jakubauskas, PhD, Research Associate Professor, Kansas Biological Survey, addressed integrated data collection and management to provide a reservoir information system for Kansas ([Attachment 2, pages 5-23](#)).

Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office, addressed the need to develop a reservoir maintenance and reclamation strategy. Current practices and potential options to address the problems were discussed as well as issues that need to be addressed ([Attachment 3, pages 1-8](#)).

Mike Hayden, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and a former Governor, reviewed the salient issues and actions presented by the previous conferees. He stressed the need to plan ahead to ensure (1) that our water infrastructure will continue to meet the demands of today as well as those of

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future generations and (2) that Kansas is positioned to finance the necessary projects. He proposed that ten percent of the funds from the Expanded Lottery Act Revenues Fund be set aside for water infrastructure projects and debt reduction (Attachment 3, pages 9-14).

The documents distributed to committee members on January 21, 2009, have continued relevance: Sedimentation In Our Reservoirs: Executive Summary; Sedimentation in Our Reservoirs (book); and Kansas Water Authority, 2009 Annual Report.

Following the presentations, Chairman Sloan opened the meeting for questions from the Committee. Questions were asked by Representative Sloan and Representatives Tom Hawk, Don Hineman, and Lee Tafañelli.

Responses were provided by the appropriate conferees.

Representative Sloan thanked the conferees for their presentations during the last three meetings. He requested that they or their agencies collaborate and formulate an Action Plan to present to the committee on February 25, 2009. Priorities are to be established during the summer and fall and presented to the committee in January, 2010.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.