

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on February 17, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bill Light- excused
Representative Dan Thimesch- excused
Representative Tom Sloan- excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ken Grotewiel, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office, 901 SW Kansas, Topeka, KS 66612-1249
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director, State Conservation Commission, 109 SW 9th Street, Suite 500, Topeka, KS 66612-1215
Steve M. Swaffar, Director, Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau, 2627 KFB Plaza, Manhattan, KS 66503-8155
Tom Bogner, Landowner, SW Kansas
Don Paxon, Landowner, NW Kansas
Patrick Lehman, Northwest Groundwater Management District #4, PO Box 3510, Lawrence, KS 66046
Mary Jane Stankiewicz, Kansas Grain & Feed Association and Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, 816 SW Tyler, Topeka, KS 66612
Leslie Kaufman, Director, Governmental Relations, Kansas Cooperative Council, 816 SW Tyler Ste. 300, Topeka, KS 66612

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order. She announced that the committee will not be meeting Thursday, February 19. The next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, February 24. **HB2480** - Membership of Kansas Water Authority, will not have final action today.

The Chairperson opened hearing on **HB2620**.

HB2620: Irrigation transition assistance loan program for water right owners converting to non-irrigation land use.

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department, reviewed the bill and distributed "Disposition of Money Recovered by Kansas from Colorado as the Result of Water Litigation". (See attachment 1)

Ken Grotewiel, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office, was welcomed to the committee. He presented testimony in support of the bill which he believes creates a state program to provide irrigation transition assistance grants to irrigators who convert to non-irrigated land use. The proposed legislation is one part of an on going effort to implement the State's policy in the Kansas Water Plan on the management of the Ogallala Aquifer. (See attachment 2)

Scott Carlson, Assistant Director, State Conservation Commission, testified in support of the bill. This bill is the result of recommendations from two ad-hoc committees of the Kansas Water Authority charged with providing options for extending the life of the Ogallala Aquifer. A recommendation of these