

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Faber at 3:30 P.M. on January 28, 2008, in Room 783 of the DSOB.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Kristen Kellems, Revisor of Statutes
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Tom Sloan, District 45
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman welcomed Representative Tom Sloan, District 45, who submitted a petition for consideration of **HCR 5028 - Reservoir sustainability** ([Attachment 1](#)). He explained the resolution would extend the productivity of reservoirs in Kansas. Some reservoirs have been in existence for fifty years and siltation is an increasing problem that diminishes the water storage capacity as well as the water quality. Representative Sloan reported the Corps of Engineers does not have a long-term plan for the reservoirs. Representative Sloan distributed a map showing the sediment infiltration from a case study done at Lake Perry ([Attachment 2](#)). He said an estimated one thousand acres of surface area has been lost, 91.5 million cubic yards of sediment has accumulated, and 18 percent of water storage capacity has been lost.

Responding to questions, Representative Sloan said the resolution does not contain a fiscal note; however, a similar bill in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee does have a fiscal note. He noted further that the Corps of Engineers is releasing water from reservoirs in order to allow barges to operate on the Missouri River, and there is a funding mechanism in place for them. Representative Sloan said sedimentation shrinks storage capacity and there are various procedures which can be put in place to remedy the problem. He said the resolution defines the way we need to work with the Corps; regulations delineating operations to sustain reservoirs will help to preserve a quality of water for all future Kansans.

Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office (KWO), spoke as a proponent of **HB 5028** ([Attachment 3](#)). He stated the Federal government views reservoirs as having an expected life span of approximately one hundred years. The position held by KWO is one of ongoing support for the Kansas economy, which includes a viable future water supply for its citizens. He indicated by working cooperatively to make significant changes in both the state and federal views concerning the reservoirs, the agency can be prepared to meet the current and future needs for quality water.

Mr. Streeter responded to questions: more liability is assumed for water storage and the maintenance cost is passed along to customers; the Conservation Commission is working diligently to continue practices that will keep small watersheds from impacting the reservoirs; the Corps of Engineers works to dredge sediment from harbors, but are not dredging any lakes or reservoirs; small upstream communities would be the first to lose both quantity and quality of water in the event of major siltation; the cost annually just to keep up with sedimentation removal at Tuttle Creek would be \$22.4 million per year; Texas is building new reservoirs with some private funds; the state of Kansas controls the storage level of reservoirs.

The Chair closed the hearing on **HB 5028**. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2008.