

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joann Freeborn at 3:30 P.M. on February 22, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Legislative Research Department
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office
Pam Shaffer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairperson Freeborn called the meeting to order. Guests were reminded to sign the guest log. The agenda for next Thursday, March 3rd's meeting is a presentation by the Kansas Water Office. Fiscal notes for **HB 2390 - Allows the Kansas Corporation Commission to increase financial assurance responsibilities for operators drilling wells after 1996 and HB 2400 - Establishes the irrigation transition assistance program** were passed out to all Committee members. A written "rebuttal testimony" from John Fierro on **HB 2393 - Controlling the release of water from Cedar Bluff Reservoir** also was passed out to each Committee member. (See attachment 1)

Chairperson Freeborn opened **HB 2390** for final action.

Representative Sloan motioned and Representative Johnson seconded recommending **HB 2390** favorable for passage. Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research explained the bill. Committee discussion followed. Motion carried. Representative Light will carry the bill.

Chairperson Freeborn opened **HB 2400** for final action. A proposed balloon was passed out to each committee member (See attachment 2) Representative Sloan motioned and Representative Johnson seconded the motion to adopt the balloon. Motion carried.

Representative Schwartz made a motion to strike from the bill the sentence dealing with rules and regulations in place on April 1, seconded. Committee discussion followed. Motion failed.

Representative Sloan made a motion to provide that there would be no prohibition for land being irrigated by another source even if the water right originally associated with the land was dismissed and returned to that state. Representative Johnson seconded, Committee discussion followed. Motion carried.

Representative Hayzlett made a motion, seconded by Rep Olson to limit this to the Rattlesnake Creek area. Committee discussion followed. Motion failed.

Representative Powers motioned to table **HB 2400**, Representative Thull seconded the motion. Motion failed.

Representative Johnson motioned, seconded by Representative Sloan to recommend **HB 2400**, as amended favorable for passage. Motion carried. Chairperson Freeborn will announce later who will carry the bill.

Representative Freeborn adjourned the meeting at 4:46. The next meeting is scheduled for March 3.