

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Faber at 3:40 P.M. on January 16, 2007, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Jerry Williams- excused
Vaughn Flora- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Scott Carlson, Assistant Director, State Conservation Commission
Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Steve Swaffar, Director of Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau
Richard Cram, Director of Policy and Research, Kansas Department of Revenue (Written Only)
Tom Palace, Executive Director, Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Stores Association
Pat Lehman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
Rodney Vorhees, Chairman, State Conservation Commission
LaVern Wetzels, President, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
Connie Richmerier, District Manager, Finney County Conservation District
Kerri Harris, District Manager, Franklin County Conservation District
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office
Ron Brown, Resident of Bourbon County (Spoken from audience testimony only)
Wayne Lukert, Shawnee County Conservation District (Spoken from audience testimony only)

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2011**.

Scott Carlson, Assistant Director, State Conservation Commission (SCC), a proponent of the bill, discussed the Commission's responsibilities and recommendations for inundation mapping of private landowner's property, cities and county entities not included in the 86 organized districts in the state ([Attachment 1](#)). He outlined specific areas in which the SCC could assist in achieving successful implementation of the program and confirmed the support of SCC toward the mission of the state funded program.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, speaking as a proponent of the bill, explained the need for breach inundation maps ([Attachment 2](#)). Any development downstream from a dam breach could be inundated and loss of life and property would be significant. Breach inundation maps could be a pro-active approach to downstream development and provide a plan of safety for the public.

Matt Scherrer, Water Structures Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture, gave details regarding dam hazard classifications ([Attachment 3](#)). Over a three-to-five year period, safety inspections are routinely conducted on over 6,000 dams to determine the risk to human life and property in the event the dam fails. At present, 159 dams have been inspected through the SCC; there are 5,600 more to inspect, some of which are on private properties. The issue of ingress and egress onto private property is of concern to SCC; rules and regulations need to be in place rather than guidelines outlined within the statutes. Mr. Scherrer indicated the cost of preparing an inundation map per site is in the range of \$4,400, which would require \$24,873.878 from the State Water Plan Fund.

Steve Swaffar, Director of Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB), appeared before the committee as a proponent of the bill ([Attachment 4](#)). He stated that various members of the KFB own dams or have investments protected by dams. Mr. Swaffar advocated having reputable sources create inundation maps that will be available to both public and private landowners. One major purpose of these maps is to provide information to the SCC in planning strategies for dam repair and upgrades where necessary.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 P.M. on January 16, 2007, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

There being no opponents to the bill, Chairman Faber closed the hearing and opened testimony on **HB 2013**.

Richard Cram, Director of Policy and Research, Kansas Department of Revenue, brought written testimony in support of the bill (Attachment 5).

Tom Palace, Executive Director of the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas (PMCA of Kansas), speaking as a proponent of the bill, stated that amending current language to exclude bonding requirements for persons who are blending biodiesel fuels for personal use would provide greater opportunity for promoting alternative fuels (Attachment 6).

There being no opponents to the bill, Chairman Faber closed the hearing and opened testimony on **HB 2048**.

Pat Lehman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), spoke briefly as a proponent of the bill and then introduced various county supervisors who serve on the Board of Directors of KACD (Attachment 7).

Ron Vorhees, Chairman of the State Conservation Commission (SCC), appeared as a proponent of the bill, explaining the benefits of increasing State Aid, also known as Matching Funds, to various Conservation Districts (Attachment 8). Those funds have remained at the current level since 1994 and an increase such as this bill provides will continue to assist in implementing programs to protect natural resources in Kansas.

LaVern Wetzel, President, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), a proponent of the bill, gave an overview of the history of partnerships among local, state, and federal entities for the purpose of establishing standards for conservation of natural resources (Attachment 9). The continuation of these practices will assure future generations continued access to these natural resources.

Connie Richmeier, District Manager, Finney County Conservation District, brought testimony as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 10). Ms. Richmeier presented background information on the establishment of Conservation Districts. She explained each district has a governing body whose responsibilities involve policy making, being involved with local government agencies, and assisting land managers in the conservation of natural resources. With the increase of additional funding, the work of the Conservation District can continue to be successful.

Kerri Harris, District Manager, Franklin County Conservation District, appeared as a proponent of the bill to say the presence of volunteer supervisors is vitally important for the distribution of information to landowners who are looking for assistance and information on conservation practices (Attachment 11). Receiving the State Aid in the proposal of this bill is vital to the survival of each county conservation office.

Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office (KWO), testified as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 12). He stated that Conservation districts have the responsibility of administering State Water Plan Programs, and, matching county funds with state general funds is imperative for each of Kansas 105 counties.

The Chairman asked if any other person attending the hearing wished to speak. Ron Brown, a citizen from Bourbon County, spoke in favor of the bill. Wayne Lukert, of Shawnee County Conservation District, also came forward to testify in favor of HB 2048.

There being no opponents, Chairman Faber closed the hearing on HB 2048.

The Chairman recognized Representative Doug Gatewood for introduction of a bill regarding testing and certification of fuel pumps on bulk delivery of petroleum products.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.