

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Senator Ralph Ostmeyer at 8:30 a.m. on January 19, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members present, except:
Senator Steve Morris, excused.

Committee Staff present:
Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Abigail Boudewyns, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Stephanie Gray, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Chris Tymeson, Chief Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
Gary Harshberger, Chairman of Kansas Water Authority
Tracy Streeter, Director of Kansas Water Office, Topeka

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman Ostmeyer introduced members of the committee and staff.

He asked for bill introductions. Chairman Ostmeyer introduced Chris Tymeson, Chief Counsel of KDWPT.

Chris Tymeson, KDWPT, requested three bill introductions. The first bill was the technical bill concerning updating references and other technical changes to the statutes due to ERO No. 36 (the trailer bill). The second bill is the one allowing alcohol on KDWPT property. The third bill concerns the 65+ hunting/fishing/hunting licenses. Senator Terry Bruce moved to introduce the three bills, seconded by Senator Carolyn McGinn. Motion carried.

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer requested the introduction of the local enhanced management ground water management bill. Senator Ralph Ostmeyer moved to introduce the bill on local enhancement management areas, seconded by Senator Marci Francisco. Motion carried.

Chairman Ostmeyer announced that the committee will meet this Friday to possibly introduce more bills.

Gary Harshberger, Chairman of Kansas Water Authority, presented his recommendations for water issues for this year. Information from *Kansas Water Authority: 2012 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature* (on file at the Ks. Water Office) was explained.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Natural Resources Committee at 8:30 a.m. on January 19, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

This year was a year of extremes, which has put much stress on the water resources in Kansas. On July 21 the KWO and the KDA formed the Ogallala Task Force at the Governor's Economic Summit. The Ogallala Aquifer Advisory Committee (OAAC) was appointed in 2011 by the KWA to make recommendations. Four important proposals are: LEMA, "use it or lose it" provision, flex accounts, and the water banking system. When all these items put together, it will change our water consumption culture in western Kansas to water conservation. The recommendations on the Ogallala Aquifer are explained further on page 16 of the annual report. Other water concerns are nutrient sedimentation and algae problems in reservoirs and streams.

Gary Harshberger answered questions from the committee.

Tracy Streeter, Director of Kansas Water Office, presented information from the *Kansas Water Authority: 2012 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature* (on file at the Ks. Water Office). The Water Authority's budget vision for 2013 was similar to previous years. The State General Fund Transfer has not been made in the last three years. They need the full \$6,000,000 to be placed in the fund. They would like to enhance the nutrient and sediment reduction package.

Water Authority has proposed that 10% ELARF (Expanded Lottery Act Revenue Fund) will be provided for water projects. There are a variety of proposals in the budget for projects.

Attention was given to the John Redmond Reservoir sedimentation problem. It has one of the highest sedimentation rates in the state. It is the backup water supply for the nuclear Wolf Creek power plant. John Redmond's level was reduced 50% this summer.

The Water Authority also spent time looking at aquatic nuisance species. Zebra mussels are a primary concern because of their ability to clog water intakes. Asian carp is another concern in our rivers and tributaries. It is a matter of time before they appear in our federal reservoirs. Funding would target education and inspections to reduce the spread of these nuisance species.

The annual report shows drought and flood as the centerfold because this was a year of extremes. Flooding affected us from May until September along the Missouri River. The levee at the Kansas Correctional Facility was breached. It impacted Leavenworth's water supply and needed repair. Flooding might reoccur if our infrastructure is not repaired this year before the runoff season, which starts in March.

Mr. Streeter concluded his report by comparing the Water Authority budget recommendations and the Governor's budget recommendations.

Questions and discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.