

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 17, 2001, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
 Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
 Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Steven Graham, Assistant to the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Kansas State University
Dr. William Hargrove, Director, Kansas Center for Ag Resources and the Environment, K-State
Milton Krainbill, Upper Delaware Watershed Specialist, Jackson County
Tracy Streeter, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission
Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association
Al LeDoux, Director, Kansas Water Office
Kent Lamb, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority
Cliff Mayo, Member, Kansas Water Authority
Jerry Blain, Member, Kansas Water Authority
Clark Duffy, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office

Others attending: See attached list

Steven Graham, Assistant to the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of K-State Research and Extension at Kansas State University, presented K-State Research and Extension's Annual Report highlighting examples of work being done in each of the four core mission theme areas: Agricultural Industry Competitiveness; Natural Resources and Environmental Management; Food, Nutrition, Health, and Safety; and Youth, Family, and Community Development. ([Attachment 1](#))

Dr. William Hargrove, Director, Kansas Center for Ag Resources and the Environment at Kansas State University, reported on K-State Research and Extension's new initiatives and ongoing programs aimed at helping citizens meet Total Maximum Daily Load requirements in Kansas under a voluntary compliance approach. K-State Research and Extension plays a key educational role in making producers aware of water quality issues, evaluating and identifying management options for improving water quality, educating citizens about best management practice options, and identifying sources of technical and financial assistance. ([Attachment 2](#))

Milton Krainbill, Upper Delaware Watershed Specialist from Jackson County, explained how the five K-State Research and Extension Watershed Specialists work with landowners and farmers within the watersheds to develop action plans based on the concerns within the watersheds. They provide management expertise and develop educational program activities, including on-farm demonstrations, workshops, seminars, and other teaching methods.

Tracy Streeter, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission, reported that since the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads, the Commission's targeted areas for water quality improvement have been narrowed to the watersheds designated high priority for TMDL implementation. He reviewed major activities relative to TMDL implementation. ([Attachment 3](#))

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association, discussed the TMDL Agriculture Working Group, composed of major agriculture organizations, and their efforts to inform and assist farmers and ranchers in implementing this new water quality initiative. He reported that meetings have been held at various locations in each of the river basins affected by TMDLs. ([Attachment 4](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

Representative Schwartz moved to introduce a committee bill to reclassify all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) as implements of husbandry, making them sales tax exempt. Seconded by Representative Feuerborn, the motion carried.

Al LeDoux, Director, Kansas Water Office, provided an introductory overview of the Kansas Water Authority, its members, policies, and programs. (Attachment 5, Pages 1 - 4)

Kent Lamb, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority, discussed the water planning process. He reported that each of the twelve river basins in the state has its own identifiable needs and resources to be addressed. He indicated that further delineation and definition of unique areas within each basin is necessary for planning purposes in the development of appropriate and workable management practices. (Attachment 5, Pages 5 and 6)

Cliff Mayo, Member, Kansas Water Authority, discussed groundwater management, specifically, the Ogallala portion of the High Plains Aquifer which is being withdrawn much faster than it is being recharged. He said the dilemma is conserving the High Plains Aquifer, while preserving the economy of western Kansas. (Attachment 5, Pages 7 - 11)

Jerry Blain, Member, Kansas Water Authority, discussed the public water supply in Kansas, including municipal water suppliers, rural water districts, wholesale water districts, and assurance districts. Kansas has approximately 900 public water suppliers. (Attachment 5, Pages 12 - 14)

Clark Duffy, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office, outlined Kansas Water Authority recommendations to the 2001 Legislature: 1) Amend the Multipurpose Small Lakes Act; 2) Establish a Source Water Development Fund; 3) Assist Watershed Districts administratively; 4) Transfer collection responsibility for the State Water Plan Fund; 5) Stabilize rate for water marketing; and 6) Re-establish the Water Assurance Fund. Two resolutions in support of Federal Action on High Plains Aquifer and the Reallocation of John Redmond Reservoir were recommended. Kansas Water Authority expenditure recommendations for FY 2002 were also reviewed. (Attachment 5, Pages 17 - 19)

Key water documents were distributed: Purpose and Process - Kansas Water Plan; HydroGRAM; Report to the Governor and 2001 Legislature; Executive Summary for House Substitute for SB 287; Committee Report - High Plains Aquifer; State and Federal Water Programs; and the Kansas Water Plan - FY2002. Copies of these reports can be obtained from the Kansas Water Office.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2001.