

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on January 30, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:      Representative Dennis McKinney - excused  
   Representative Clay Aurand - excused

Committee staff present:              Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
   Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statute's Office  
   Mary Ann Graham, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:      Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean/Director, College of Agriculture,  
   Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506  
   Dr. Joseph Harner, Professor/Extension Agricultural  
   Engineer, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506  
   Dr. Bill Hargrove, Director, KCARE, Kansas State University,  
   Manhattan, KS 66506  
   Doug Musick, Watershed Specialist, Kansas State Extension,  
   Haskell University, 155 Indian Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66046-  
   4800  
   Terry Duvall, Kansas Water Office, 901 S. Kansas, Topeka,  
   KS 66612-1249

Others attending:              See Attached Sheet

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. She welcomed the large group of guests attending the meeting and had committee members introduce themselves and identify the district they represent. She announced that today is the last day in this committee to request bills and opened the floor for bill introductions.

Bill Fuller, Kansas Farm Bureau, spokesperson; Richard Jones, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts; and John Strickler, Interested Citizen, requested a bill to create the Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance. (See attachment 1)

Rep. Dan Johnson made a motion the bill requested by Bill Fuller be introduced. Rep. Jeff Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ron Klataski, Audubon of Kansas, requested a bill that would change Prairie Dog statutes 80-1201 thru 80-1208. (See attachment 2)

Rep. Don Myers made a motion the bill requested by Ron Klataski be introduced. Rep. Dan Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Theresa Hodges, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, requested a bill for the Elimination of Requirement to Publish Policies and Guidelines. (See attachment 3)

Rep. Sharon Schwartz made a motion the bill by KDHE be introduced. Rep. Bill Light seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Chair asked if there were other bill requests. She closed the floor for bill requests.

Chairperson Freeborn welcomed Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean/Director, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University,

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, Room 231-N of the Capitol at 3:30 p.m. on January 30, 2001.

to the committee. Dr. Johnson and staff gave a briefing on K-State Research and Extension programs in Water Conservation and Management, which has a team comprised of Irrigation Engineers, Agronomists, Agricultural Economists, and County Agents. The outcomes for which they strive include: (1) Optimize the utilization of water for irrigation, through improved methods, scheduling, and equipment. (2) Increase economic water use efficiency through crop selection, management, and technology adoption; and by minimizing water losses. (3) Increase use of alternative water resources, such as wastewater. (4) Protect groundwater quality through utilization of integrated crop, pest, nutrient, and water management that will optimize crop production while not impairing water quality. (5) Conduct policy review and analysis, and educate decision makers. (See [attachment 4](#))

Dr. Johnson announced that Dr. Chuck Rice, Department of Agronomy, was scheduled to attend today's briefing, but was ill and could not appear. He was scheduled to brief the committee on Sources of Fecal Coliform in Kansas Surface Waters. Bacteria contamination is one of the primary or secondary contaminants in the majority of the twelve major river basins in Kansas. Microbial contamination of water resources results in impaired use due to the increased risks to humans and the degradation of recreational and drinking water quality. Fecal Coliform limits in surface water vary depending on the intended use. (See [attachment 5](#))

Dr. Bill Hargrove, Director, KCARE, was welcomed. He briefed the committee on K-State Research and Extension's programs aimed at meeting water quality standards in Kansas. A voluntary compliance approach to meeting TMDLs is being utilized in Kansas by the Governor's Water Quality Initiative and KDHE. Fundamental to the success of a voluntary compliance approach in agriculture are several key steps: (1) Producers are aware of and understand water quality issues related to their operation. (2) Producers have management options (based on scientific information and evaluation) for changing practices to address issues and enhance water quality. (3) Producers have access to technical and financial assistance to implement practices. A statewide TMDL communications plan has been developed. The goal of the communications plan is to provide objective, science-based information, that will inform citizens on: (1) what are TMDLs; (2) their responsibility in meeting TMDLs; and (3) how to improve water quality and help them meet TMDL requirements on a local and voluntary basis. (See [attachment 6](#))

Doug Musick, watershed specialist, was welcomed to the committee. K-State Research and Extension is boosting its water quality initiative with the appointment of five new watershed specialists. These specialists will provide watershed management expertise and develop watershed educational program activities in multi-county areas. They will be working with landowners and farmers within the watersheds to develop action plans, based on the concerns within the watersheds. The specialists will strive to improve water quality through educational programs, including on-farm demonstrations, workshops, seminars and other teaching methods. (See [attachment 7](#))

Dr. Joseph Harner, Professor/Extension Agricultural Engineer, was welcomed to the committee. He addressed Environmental Concerns in Dairy Production. Preliminary evaluation of the Black Vermillion watershed indicated 37 dairies were located within the 216 square mile watershed. These dairies ranged in herd size from 30 to 150 cows. Many of the dairies had small lagoons for complying with regulations to control milk parlor discharges. The dairy environmental cooperative mission is to control manure and effluent nutrients leaving a farmstead and to effectively manage controlled nutrients with cropping practices. The overall objective of the project is to reduce the runoff of nutrients, fecal coliform and sediment from dairies in the Black Vermillion and adjacent watersheds. (See [attachment 8](#)) Committee discussion and questions followed.

Dennis Metz, Wellington, Kansas, a dairyman in attendance, responded to the issue raised concerning the type of chemicals used in the cleaning process of dairy parlors. He indicated the product he uses is equivalent to ordinary dish soap and is biodegradable.

Chairperson Freeborn thanked Dr. Johnson and staff members from K-State for their presentations. She welcomed Terry Duvall, Kansas Water Office to the committee.

Terry Duvall, KWO, briefed the committee on Water Marketing Contracts. Under the State Water Marketing Program, created in 1974, municipal and industrial water supply users may contract with the State of Kansas for

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, Room 231-N of the Capitol at 3:30 p.m. on January 30, 2001.

water supply from state-owned storage space in large federal reservoirs located in the eastern half of the state. The reservoirs currently used for the Water Marketing Program include: Big Hill, Clinton, Council Grove, Elk City, Hillsdale, John Redmond, Marion, Melvern, Milford, and Perry. There are currently 34 contracts with municipal and industrial users for water supply from these reservoirs. Each time a new contract is negotiated with a water user, the Kansas Water Authority must review and approve the contract. The statutes also require that new contracts be submitted to the Kansas Legislature. The Legislature has 30 days to adopt a concurrent resolution to disapprove a contract. A map on Public Water Supply Lakes in Kansas was displayed and discussed . (See attachment 9) Questions and discussion followed.

Chairperson Freeborn thanked Ms. Duvall for the presentation. She asked if there was a motion to approve minutes of January 11, 16, and 18 committee meetings that had been distributed to committee members.

Rep. Jonathan Wells made a motion the minutes be approved. Rep. Jeff Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2001.