

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on January 21, 2003 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Dan Thimesch - excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research  
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes  
Mary Ann Graham, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Kent Lamb, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority, RR1 Box 69,  
Macksville, Kansas 67557  
Clark Duffy, Director, Kansas Water Office, 901 SW Kansas  
Ave. Topeka, KS 66612-1249

Others attending: See attached sheet

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. She reviewed the committee agenda for Thursday, January 23. The Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board will give an overview of the history of the Remediation Board and annual report. Maurice Korphage, Director, Conservation Division, Kansas Corporation Commission, will give an update on Well Plugging and Remediation Activities. Also bill introductions.

The Chairperson asked if anyone had a bill request at this time. No one came forward.

Chairperson Freeborn welcomed Kent Lamb, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority, to the committee. He presented an overview on water issues. The Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority were established in 1981. The Kansas Water Office with 22.5 employees is the water planning, policy, coordination and marketing agency for the state. The Kansas Water Authority is statutorily within and a part of the Kansas Water Office. It advises the Governor, Legislature, and Director of the Kansas Water Office on water policy issues. The Kansas Water Authority is responsible for approving water storage sales, the State Water Plan, federal contracts, regulations and legislation proposed by the Kansas Water Office. The key responsibilities of the Kansas Water Authority are: (1) Consult with and be advisory to the Governor, Legislature and Director of the Kansas Water Office on water management issues. (2) Review plans of any state or local agency related to the water resources of the state. (3) Study laws related to water resources management issues and make recommendations on such issues to the Governor and Legislature. (4) Make recommendations to other state agencies and political subdivisions of the state for the coordination of their activities related to water resources management. (5) Review and furnish recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on program plans pertaining to the state's water resource of any agency of the state. (See attachment 1)

The Chairperson welcomed Clark Duffy, Director, Kansas Water Office. He introduced Gerald Blaine, Kansas Water Authority; Tracy Streeter, Director, Conservation Commission; Don Paxson and Craig Gibson,

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT at 3:30 p.m. on January 21, 2003 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Kansas Water Authority; Ken Grotewiel, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office, and Margaret Fast, Manager, Planning Unit, KWO, who were in attendance. Mr. Duffy gave an overview on water issues. The Mission and Responsibilities of the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority are: (1) To coordinate the water resource operations of agencies at all levels of government, and to achieve pro-active solutions for water resource issues of the state. (2) Develop a State Water Plan for the management, conservation, and development of the water resources of the state. (3) Consult with and be advisory to the Governor and Legislature. (4) Study and make recommendations on any law, plan or budget estimate pertaining to the State's water resources. (See attachment 2) Committee questions and discussion followed.

Chairperson Freeborn thanked Mr. Lamb and Mr. Duffy for their presentations and the committee and guests for their attention.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2003.