

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 P.M. on January 10, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Representative Steven Luckert- excused

Committee staff present:  
Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Pam Shaffer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Chairperson Freeborn called the meeting to order, she announced that Representative Thull had been replaced on the committee for this year by Representative Luckert. Chairperson Freeborn then announced the agenda for the meeting was for bill requests.

Chairperson Freeborn introduced David Brenn of the Kansas Water Congress Mr. Brenn introduced Mr. Kent Lamb, chair of the Kansas Water Congress Legislative Committee who submitted for introduction the Water Right Transition Assistance Program. (see attachment 1) Representative Johnson moved to introduce this as a committee bill, Representative Flora seconded, motion carried. Chairperson Freeborn made note that this was a rough draft or summary.

Representative Johnson introduced a committee bill to add water to the statute that states theft of services is a misdemeanor. Representative Johnson moved to introduce this bill, Representative Sloan seconded, motion carried. Chairperson Freeborn made note that this was conceptual.

Representative Sloan introduced two bills and a resolution 1)add the Water Assurance District as a member to the Kansas Water Authority. 2) deals with the problem of feral hogs, the bill would move responsibility for control and eradication of feral hogs to the Department of Wildlife and Parks from the Animal Health Department. Representative Sloan also introduced a resolution asking the Army Corp of Engineers to partner with the State to address the siltation issues at major reservoirs. Representative Sloan moved to introduce these bills, Representative Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Representative Schwartz introduced a conceptual bill to reduce the fuel tax on E85. Representative Schwartz moved to introduce this bill, Representative Light seconded. Motion carried.

Chairperson Freeborn announced the joint committee tomorrow, January 11 at 3:30 in the Old Supreme Court Room, the meeting will be a seminar on water issues. This meeting will replace the Environment Committee meeting for Thursday, January 12, she encouraged all Environment Committee members to attend.

Chairperson Freeborn adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, January 17.