

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Schwartz at 8:00 A.M. on February 21, 2007, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Representative Tom Sawyer - excused
- Representative Kevin Yoder - excused
- Representative Ty Masterson - excused
- Representative Jason Watkins - excused

Committee staff present:

- Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department
- J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
- Becky Krahl, Legislative Research Department
- Audrey Dunkel, Legislative Research Department
- Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department
- Susan Kannarr, Legislative Research Department
- Aaron Klaassen, Legislative Research Department
- Michael Steiner, Legislative Research Department
- Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
- Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
- Shirley Jepson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

- John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Presentation by John Paul Woodley

Chair Schwartz recognized Mike Hayden, Secretary, Department of Wildlife and Parks, who introduced John Paul Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, who appeared before a joint meeting of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee for the purpose of testifying on matters related to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' (Corp) operation of the Kansas Reservoir System (Attachment 1).

Some concerns voiced by the Committee and Mr. Woodley's response to questions included:

- Deviations from the Master Manual are rare but have been done in the past. Any deviation would have to be thoroughly documented and not be long-standing.
- With regard to recreation areas on Corp land, Mr. Woodley felt that the State should manage recreation land and would promote further discussion in this area.
- Concerning the inability to get 404 permits in a timely manner, related to Watershed Districts, Mr. Woodley stated that the federal government has increased the budget in order to get more resources in recognition of the backlog of permit requests and the fact that the agency is not processing the permits in a timely manner.
- With regard to the Turkey Creek Redevelopment Flood Control project in Kansas City area, Mr. Woodley indicated that he plans to visit the site during his time in Kansas. Currently, some construction is being done; however, a Committee member voiced concern that too many studies have been done without sufficient work to correct the flooding problem.
- The Committee voiced concern about water being released from State reservoirs during a holiday or vacation period when citizens are using the recreation areas.
- Concern that the amount of water released from a reservoir in the upper regions of the State has little effect on the navigation level in Missouri.
- Kansas has the option of purchasing additional water storage from the Corp.
- Concern that the Corp should do a better job in public relations on issues effecting reservoirs within the State.
- Low level of barge traffic in the Atchison area is due to the drought affecting Kansas and

CONTINUATION SHEET

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surrounding states.

- Tuttle Creek Reservoir should be refilled within the next year or two.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2007.

Sharon Schwartz, Chair