

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on January 26, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Pat Matzek, Committee Assistant  
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Lane Russell, Chairman, Kansas Sunflower Commission  
Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
Woody Moses, Managing Director, Kansas Aggregate Producers' Association  
Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director, Kansas Farm Bureau  
John Donley, Assistant General Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association  
Lane Letourneau, Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Department of Agriculture

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Powell opened the meeting by introducing intern Jarah Costen.

Chairman Powell spoke briefly on a conference he attended in San Diego, California; the State Agricultural and Rural Leaders 2009 Agricultural Chairs Summit, and a tour of the San Diego County Agriculture production hosted by Eric Larson, San Diego County Farm Bureau. Throughout the day, there were breakout discussions on various topics such as Organic Farming, Genetics and the Future of Food and Family Farm Viability.

Next on the agenda, Lance Russell, Chairman of the Kansas Sunflower Commission, spoke on the sunflower industry in Kansas and the Commission's use of check-off dollars authorized by the Legislature as well as some changes made over the last 12 months (Attachment 1). As required by law, attached to Mr. Russell's testimony was Kansas Sunflower Commission's annual audit report (Attachment 2). This year there were no irregularities found in the financial statement. Some of the projects that were funded from dollars sent to the National Sunflower Association (NSA) included studies on planting dates, planting rates, and harvest aid treatments for sunflowers in Kansas. The Sunflower Commission is pushing NSA to fund more research that will help high plains sunflower producers in addition to northern plains producers versus sending more money to do research in the Dakotas and Minnesota. Additional information can be found on its website at [www.kssunflower.com](http://www.kssunflower.com).

**Hearing on:**

**HB 2050 - Adjusting fees for water rights, applications for term permits for appropriating water.**

At the conclusion of Mr. Russell's presentation, Chairman Powell introduced Raney Gilliland, Assistant Director, Legislative Research, who gave an explanation of **HB 2050**. Mr. Gilliland provided background information on this particular bill regarding fees being adjusted and fees being changed dealing primarily with activities of divisional water resources in the Department of Agriculture. One of the reasons the issue is being introduced at this time is because some of these fee increases are set to expire July 1, 2010, and for budgetary purposes the Legislature is currently considering the fiscal year 2010 budgets, so the issue of fees and whether they should become permanent is now before the Committee.

Questions asked and comments made by members of the Committee.

**Proponents:**

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture And Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 p.m. on January 26, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture, ([Attachment 3](#)) presented testimony in support of **HB 2050**, noting the Department of Agriculture is seeking a moderate fee increase based on an intensive review and cost analysis.

Questions asked and comments made by members of the Committee.

Woody Moses, Managing Director, Kansas Aggregate Producers' Association, ([Attachment 4](#)) presented testimony in support of **HB 2050**, noting adoption of an amendment and if adopted, the amendment would not exempt the industry from field inspection merely the fee associated with it.

Questions asked and comments made by members of the Committee.

### **Opponents:**

Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director, Kansas Farm Bureau, ([Attachment 5](#)) presented testimony in opposition of **HB 2050**, documenting Kansas Farm Bureau's member policy that the funding of the Division of Water Resources should be primarily through a general fund obligation rather than increasing permit fees.

No questions asked.

John Donley, Assistant General Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association, ([Attachment 6](#)) presented testimony in opposition of **HB 2050**, noting there are still unanswered questions regarding the need for proposed changes.

Questions asked and comments made by members of the Committee.

Lane Letourneau, Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Department of Agriculture, was also called upon to answer questions by members of the Committee regarding this issue.

The hearing was closed on **HB 2050**.

No bill introductions.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.