

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on February 26, 2002 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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:

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. She recognized Representative Don Myers. He stated that he has a sand operator in his district that is running out of sand and who will need to relocate to another area. Relocating will be nearly impossible as water rights are hard to obtain or are impossible to get under present rules and regulations. He received a call from this man in reference to **HB2739**, which would make it easier for him to get a water permit. Rep. Myers requested to have **HB2739** "blessed", so it could be heard by the committee after turn around.

The Chairperson responded by saying she had not intended to hold a hearing on this bill, but will ask to have it "blessed" out of respect for Rep. Myers request.

The Chairperson opened **HB2915** for discussion and possible action.

HB2915: Department of Health and Environment directed to become involved in certain product stewardship programs.

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department, explained the bill. The cost, as estimated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, would be about \$77,000 per year.

Bill Bider, Director, Bureau of Waste Management, commented on the fiscal note and believes the cost estimated by the Department is accurate. The Department believes this is a very important program to become involved with. Discussion followed.

Rep. Tom Sloan made a motion to adopt (B), lines 5 thru 7, page 3, "contract with a private statewide recycling organization or association to explore such principles and provide information to Kansas government officials and businesses". Rep. Laura McClure seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Tom Sloan made a motion to change language on line 43, page 2, from "Reduction of disposal of solid waste" to "Reduction of solid waste". Rep. Becky Hutchins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Vaughn Flora made a motion the bill be passed favorably as amended. Rep. Laura McClure seconded the motion. Motion failed.

The Chairperson opened **SB264** for discussion and possible action.

SB264: Concerning the equus beds groundwater management district no.2; relating to the powers, duties and operation of the district.

The Chairperson recognized Representative Becky Hutchins. She gave a Sub-Committee report on **SB264**, which has become **House Substitute for SB264**. The Sub-Committee was chaired by Rep. Becky Hutchins, members were; Rep. Jonathan Wells; Rep. Vaughn Flora; Rep. Tom Sloan; and Rep. Joann Freeborn. The Sub-Committee has met several times. She distributed a copy of the Substitute bill and explained the changes that had been made to (a) (1) of Section 1, of the bill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, Room 231-N of the Capitol
at 3:30 p.m. on February 26, 2002.

Mary Ellen Conlee, was in attendance, and made comments on behalf Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) concerning the bill. REAP is in opposition to the proposed bill for three reasons: (1) That the authority should be permissive for locally elected board to have the opportunity to decide if they are going to use a tiered system or not. (2) They oppose this proposal as it only allows them to go to 65 cents for the next fiscal year and then starting in July, 2003 would be allowed to go to \$1.00 in the district and open ended to communities outside the district. (3) They oppose section (E) in regards to having approval of the Chief Engineer and the Kansas Water Authority as to whether their decisions are consistent with those two groups about water policies. REAP supports an increase in the cap on the water user charge, so they can continue to do their business under local control.

Chairperson Freeborn asked if anyone in the audience would like to make comment concerning this bill. No one came forward. Discussion followed.

Rep. Don Myers made a motion to table the bill. Rep. Ted Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Don Myers made a motion to take the bill from the table and work it on Thursday, March 7. Rep. Dennis McKinney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2002.