

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 21, 2004, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Patty Clark, Director, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce  
Sheila Frahm, Chairperson, Kansas Natural Resources Legacy Alliance  
Chris Wilson, Kansas Dairy Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, requested introduction of a committee bill to remove sunset dates from fee funds in four of their department programs. Representative Faber, seconded by Representative Miller, moved to introduce this request as a committee bill. The motion carried.

Assistant Secretary Foley also requested introduction of a committee bill concerning grain warehouse bonding. Representative Gatewood, seconded by Representative Ostmeyer, moved to introduce this legislation as a committee bill. The motion carried.

Patty Clark, Director, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, presented the division's Fiscal Year 2003 Annual Report, as well as an update for 2004. She discussed the division's current agriculture value added projects, the *From the Land of Kansas* trademark program, international trade activities, the Ag Innovation Center Grant received from USDA, their joint agri-tourism strategy, and how the Economic Revitalization Plan can positively impact agriculture and rural communities in Kansas. (Attachment 1)

Sheila Frahm, Chairperson, Kansas Natural Resources Legacy Alliance, summarized and reviewed the findings and recommendations presented in the Alliance's final report. The 2002 Kansas Legislature in **SB 504** charged the Alliance to "develop a vision for using the state's natural resources to assure economic development, a healthy environment, proper protection of natural resources, opportunities for natural resource and environmental education, and quality of life for Kansas families and individual citizens."

The Alliance believes an intentional and ongoing plan for coordination of all natural resources will be needed to assure the most effective use of Kansas resources; therefore, the establishment of a Kansas Natural Resources Authority (KNRA), to replace the Kansas Water Authority, was recommended. KNRA would be charged with planning responsibility for all areas of natural resources. It was further recommended that a mediation type process be established to assure a voice for all interests. It was noted that Governor Sebelius has already created a Natural Resources Sub-Cabinet. The Alliance recommended a House, Senate or Concurrent Resolution encouraging "next step" planning by Governor Sebelius with her natural resources officials, designated legislative leaders, and private sector leaders to fully develop the options and strategy for a Kansas Natural Resources Authority to be considered by the 2005 Legislature. Steve Irsik, Joe Harkins, Tracy Streeter, and Vice Chairman John Strickler discussed specific recommendations and strategy issues identified in the report. A complete copy of the report can be accessed on the internet at [www.kdwp.state.ks.us/alliance/alliance.html](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/alliance/alliance.html) or from the State Conservation Commission.

Chris Wilson, Kansas Dairy Association, presented the Kansas Dairy Marketing Advisory Board's annual report. She reported that although the number of dairies in Kansas continues to decrease, milk production is up. Increased production increases the state's chances of attracting a processing plant with jobs and economic benefits. Also, several smaller producers are developing ideas to produce cheese or bottled milk for niche markets. She asked that the legislature continue to monitor the impact of volatile prices on the Kansas dairy industry. Included with her report was some information on federal dairy industry issues. (Attachment 2)

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE at 3:30 p.m. on January 21, 2004, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Chris Wilson also reported on the first Kansas Food Industry Roundtable session, “From Farm Gate to Food Plate,” at Kansas State University, on July 30, 2003. The Kansas Food Industry Roundtable was created through a grant from the Kansas Health and Nutrition Fund to the Kansas Dairy Association to bring together representatives from the many organizations and companies involved in the food industry in Kansas to identify ways to work together to improve the nutritional quality and value of the food provided to consumers. Ron Wilson reviewed the panel discussion on perspectives from various segments of the food industry. Breakout sessions—*From Steer to Steak*, *From Seed to Sandwich*, and *From Moo to Milkshake*—were also discussed. A copy of the complete report can be obtained from the Kansas Dairy Association.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2004.