

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Senator Mark Taddiken at 8:32 a.m. on January 23, 2003 in Room 432-S of the Capitol.

Members present: Senator Taddiken, Senator Huelskamp, Senator Downey, and Senator Lee

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:
David Pope, Chief Engineer of Division of Water Resources, KDA
Kent Lamb, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority
Clark Duffy, Director, Kansas Water Office

Others attending: See attached list

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mark Taddiken.

The first guest to appear before the Committee was David Pope, (Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources) who started with opening remarks and briefed the Committee on the recent litigation settlement between Kansas and Nebraska regarding the Republican River Compact. He stated that he represented Kansas on the Republican River Compact Administration which was the forum to reach a comprehensive settlement. He provided background information, reviewed concerns raised by Kansas representatives, summarized key settlement elements of the litigation and concluded with the implementation requirements. ([Attachment 1](#))

Mr. Pope entertained a question from Senator Huelskamp as to how the year 1948 was chosen as the start date regarding the curtailing of water rights. Mr. Pope noted that this was the year the Courtland Canal was constructed and therefore is a time which equalizes Kansas with Nebraska. Senator Lee commended David Pope for his work and for the savings Kansas can expect from the settlement. Senator Taddiken noted that Kansas needs to ensure continued funding for the work. In response to a question put forth by staff, Mr. Pope informed the Committee that Nebraska has made positive strides to keep the public aware of requirements throughout this process. Additionally, the State of Nebraska does have the authority it needs to enforce the terms of the agreement and Kansas will hold the Nebraska accountable for compliance with the settlement.

Kent Lamb (Chairman, Kansas Water Authority) briefed the Committee on current and new staff at the Authority. He also provided a list of the responsibilities of the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority. ([Attachment 2](#)) Mr. Lamb introduced Clark Duffy (Director of Kansas Water Office).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE at on January 23, 2003 in Room 432-S of the Capitol.

Mr. Duffy reported on the organization of our state water agencies, the water management process, and key water and legislative issues for Kansas.(Attachment 3) Concern about funding and water rights was expressed by Senator Lee. Senator Downey commented that there needs to be a greater emphasis on the part of the agency, specifically in its mission statement, to respond to and communicate with the citizens of Kansas. She also asked for clarification on the division of roles and responsibilities of the Water Office and the Water Authority.

Senator Taddiken thanked Mr. Duffy for his work and commented on the usefulness of the Drought Severity Index he provided in his handout.

A quorum was not present so bills and resolutions were not presented.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.