

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on January 20, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Mary Ann Graham, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: David A. Brenn, Executive Director, Kansas Water Congress, 816 SW Tyler, Topeka, KS 66612
Bill Bider, Bureau of Waste Management, KSHE, 1000 SW Jackson Ste 320, Topeka, KS 66612-1366
Ken Grotewiel, Assistant Director, KS Water Office, 901 S. Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1249

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the first meeting of the 2004 Legislative session to order. She stated that she had planned to do committee introductions today but at this time no one has been assigned to fill committee member Representative Donald Betts who was appointed to the Senate.

The Chairperson stated she had been notified of two individuals wishing to make bill requests.

Bill Bider, KDHE, requested a bill for Improvements to Solid Waste Facility Permitting Process. (See attachment 1)

Rep. Dan Johnson made a motion the bill requested by KDHE be introduced. Rep. Vaughn Flora seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ken Grotewiel, KS Water Office, requested a bill making the necessary statutory changes to expand the State's bonding authority for water infrastructure development.

Rep. Vaughn Flora made a motion the bill requested by KWO be introduced. Rep. Joshua Savaty seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairperson Freeborn welcomed David Brenn, Kansas Water Congress, to the committee. He presented a review of the Kansas Water Congress to help the committee understand the new citizen involvement in water issues. The mission of the KWC is to promote the wise management and stewardship of the State's water resources and to protect, conserve, and develop Kansas water resources for the benefit of Kansas' present and future generation. The Kansas Water Congress is a non-for-profit, fee funded entity separate and distinct from existing state agencies, associations, other organizations and direct political affiliation. The Kansas Water Congress was incorporated in February 2003. Since that time significant progress has been made in the development of the Congress. Short term 2004 goals include: (1) The 2004 Legislative Session will be an opportunity to communicate the role and function of the KWC and provide a resource of objective information and facts on water issues facing the State. Advocacy on issues is not planned for this Legislative Session. (2) Help facilitate each of the 29 statewide Divisions, in the process of establishing their governance. Six of the 29 Divisions have established governance at this time. (3) Separate meeting/teleconferences of the Geographic, Groundwater Management and General Divisions are being scheduled for early 2004. (4) Continue to expand both sustaining and individual membership across the State by focusing on each of the 29 Divisions and the water issues relevant to them. (5) Utilize quarterly newsletter, e-mail and regular mail to update and inform membership on relevant water related issues. (6) The Kansas Water Congress had its first General Membership Meeting in conjunction with the