Approved: February 3, 2000
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on January 20, 2000 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Tom Sloan - excused
Rep. Melvin Minor - excused

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: Steve Howell, MARC-IV Consulting, 16200 Northridge Drive, Kearney, MO 64060
Richard G. Nelson, Ph.D, Energy/Environmental Engineer, Kansas State University, 133 Ward Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-2508

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. She reviewed next week's committee agenda, Tuesday, January 25, there will be hearings on **HB2659** - Concerning public wholesale water supply districts; relating to the powers and duties thereof and **HB2658** - Concerning public water supply systems; concerning regulation and related fees; providing exemptions from certain fees and taxes. Also bill requests will be taken. On Thursday, January 27, a review status on Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells and Remidiation Sites by Maurice Korphage, Director, Conservation Division, Kansas Corporation Commission is scheduled and an update on the Interstate Compact on Low-level radioactive waste by Mr. James O'Connell, Kansas Commissioner. Agency bill requests will be taken. She announced that she would like to have all bill requests in by Thursday, January 27.

The Chairperson asked if there were any bill requests at this time.

Representative Doug Johnston made a motion to introduce a bill requiring counties over 80,000 in population to include as a part of their solid waste management plan annual recycling goals of at least: 20% by 2002; 25% by 2003; and 30% by 2004. The requirement would sunset in 2004 subject to review and revision by the legislature. Seconded by Representative Henry Helgerson. Motion carried.

Representative Dennis McKinney made a motion to introduce a bill for a well plugging assurance fund, for deposit of well plugging assurance fees; transfer all assurance fees previously collected from the conservation fee fund to the well plugging assurance fund; and retain interest earnings within the fund. Seconded by Representative Laura McClure. Motion carried.

Chairperson Freeborn welcomed Steve Howell, MARC-IV Consulting, to the committee. He along with Dr. Richard Nelson, Energy/Environmental Engineer, Kansas State University, with the use of slides, gave an update on biodiesel fuel. Biodiesel is a fuel comprised of monoalkyl esters of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats, designated B100. Jeff Wagaman, Executive Director, Kansas Corporation Commission, sponsored a project to look at the potential of biodiesel in the state of Kansas and was in attendance to offer comments about the project. Mr. Wagaman asked Mr. Howell and Dr. Nelson to overview the results of the work that has been under taken on behalf of the Kansas Corporation Commission. The update objectives were an overview of biodiesel; preliminary findings from the biodiesel feasibility study; and to spark interest in the product. (See attachment 1) Mr. Howell believes Kansas could benefit from the development of biodiesel manufacturing plants with the increasing consumption of diesel fuel, changes in energy policy and a faltering agricultural economy. Questions and discussion followed.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Howell and Dr. Nelson for their presentation today.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2000.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.