

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES BUDGET

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 1:30 P.M. on January 22, 2007 in Room 235-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Sydney Carlin- excused

Committee staff present:
Becky Krahl, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Mike Corrigan, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Lura Attig, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Allie Devine, Kansas Livestock Association
David Cross, Kansas Livestock Association
Constantine V. Cotsoradis, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Wayne Bossert, Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District #4
Larry Panning
Edward R. Moses, Kansas Aggregate Producers
Edward J. Oborny

Others attending:
See attached list.

Hearing on: **HB 2070 -Intensive groundwater use control areas; time limitation on order of designation.**

Allie Devine, Vice President and General Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association, presented testimony in support of this bill (Attachment 1). Allie Devine explained the procedure for obtaining a water right and how any changes in those rights can affect property owners and business owners. The IGUCA (intensive groundwater use control area) statute was passed in 1978. The chief engineer of the division of water resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture has used the IGUCA statutes in lieu of the water appropriations act to manage the water resources of the state.

David Cross, President of the Kansas Livestock Association, presented testimony in support of this bill (Attachment 2). Mr. Cross outlined the concerns of producers who are either farming or ranching within an intensive groundwater control area or an area proposed for designation.

Constantine V. Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, testified in opposition to **HB 2070** and distributed a map of the Walnut Creek Basin (Attachment 3). Mr. Cotsoradis believes that sunset periods are unnecessary and counterproductive.

Wayne Bossert, Manager, Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4, testified in opposition to **HB 2070** (Attachment 4). GMD No. 4 proposes increasing the sunset period to a minimum of 10 years and provide for a conditional sunset rather than an automatic one.

Larry Panning of Ellinwood, Kansas, presented his short neutral testimony (Attachment 5).

Edward R. Moses, Managing Director, Kansas Aggregate Producers Association, presented neutral testimony with six exhibits (Attachment 6). Mr. Moses summarized water right issues and the IGUCA Act. He also changed his mind at the end of his testimony stating that he is now an opponent.

Written testimony was presented by Edward J. Oborny, Jr., President of Ed Junior Farm, Inc., who is neutral (Attachment 7).

Chairman Powell closed the hearing on **HB 2070**.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.