

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES BUDGET

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Powell at 1:43 P.M. on February 20, 2008 in Room 431-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Carl Holmes - excused
Vaughn Flora - excused

Committee staff present:

Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Joyce Bishop, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mary Jane Stankiewicz, Chief Legal Officer & Vice President, Kansas Grain & Feed Association
Constantine Cotsoradis, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture
Greg Foley, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission
RoxAnne Miller, Kansas Land Trust
Pat Lehman, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

Others attending:

See attached list.

Mary Jane Stankiewicz, Chief Legal Officer & Vice President of Kansas Grain & Feed Association, presented information regarding **SB 447**, concerning the Agricultural and specialty chemical remediation act; increasing reimbursement limits; extending the deposit loan program. The bill had passed the Senate 40-0.

Representative Sharon Schwartz made the motion **SB 447** be approved and put on the consent calendar. John Grange seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee considered budget recommendations for the Department of Agriculture.

Chairperson Powell suggested removing the request for one new truck.

Representative Schwartz recommended setting aside the funding for the larger truck until more information was provided.

Chairperson Powell said he had a call from a constituent regarding problems with his experience at a weight station. The employee working there had his own vehicle in the shop working on it and did not give appropriate customer service.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture, said he would investigate the situation. Chairperson Powell said he would have the constituent contact Constantine by telephone.

Representative Schwartz asked for information regarding the subbasin plan resource management. She said this is a program we fund and never hear about.

Constantine Cotsoradis said it has existed since 1991 or 1992. They work with stakeholders to develop plans. He was not sure if it had a sunset date.

Chairperson Powell suggested the committee remove funding for the subbasin plan resource management and look at it during Omnibus.

Representative Schwartz asked Constantine to appear before the full Appropriations Committee to discuss the program.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget at 1:30 P.M. on February 20, 2008 in Room 431-N of the Capitol.

Heather O'Hara presented budget information on the State Conservation Commission (Attachment 1).

Greg Foley, Executive Director of the State Conservation Commission, presented budget information on the Commission (Attachment 2 & Attachment 3).

Representative Schwartz asked if there was pending legislation regarding the state water settlement.

Greg said **SB 538** and **HB 2626** deal with this issue.

Roxanne Miller, Kansas Land Trust, presented information regarding the Fort Riley Army Compatible Use Buffer Project (Attachment 4).

Pat Lehman, representing the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, presented information on Resolution #5 for Fiscal Year 2009 State Conservation Commission Budget (Attachment 5).

The meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2008.