

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carolyn McGinn at 8:30 a.m. on March 15, 2007, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Mark Taddiken- excused

Committee staff present:
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office
Judy Holliday, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman McGinn explained to the Committee that **SB 15, Establishing the Kansas dam rehabilitation program to provide cost-share assistance to rehabilitate certain deficient dams**, which passed out of Committee on February 16 had come back to the Senate Natural Resources because of problems dealing with an area in Senator Derek Schmidt's district that was low income, and an area in Senator Peggy Palmer's district dealing with small cities.

Chairman McGinn read the new language in New Section 2 of the balloon amendment to **SB 15 (Attachment 1)** dealing with cost share for up to 100 percent of the project costs for dam rehabilitation in a low income county. She noted that the second part of the amendment on page 3 dealt with cost share assistance for second and third class cities located in or near a hazardous dam in need of rehabilitation.

Scott Carlson, State Conservation Commission, addressed Committee members' concerns regarding the allocation of money and how the priorities were determined. Mr. Carlson stated that public safety is the number one priority, then income and other criteria could be used in determining the percentage of cost share.

The question was asked regarding the use of 2000 census data, and why not "based on the most recent census data." It was determined that the bill language regarding the 2000 census data currently only affected two watershed district dams, those located in Chautauqua and Greenwood counties. With regard to the 100 percent of project costs, there were questions as to why that figure was used, and whether it could be changed to 90/10 or 70/30 percent. A concern was expressed that a high income individual could be living in a low income area, but would still qualify for the 100 percent assistance.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, was asked about the number of high hazard dams, and he told the Committee that there are twenty-one at this time. The Department recognized the problem of a dam owner with a defective dam who could not afford the needed repairs, estimated at anywhere from \$18,000 to \$150,000, and that is why it came up with the 70/30 percent rule.

Senator Francisco made a motion to change the cost share from 100 percent to 90 percent, seconded by Senator Lee. There was no action.

Chairman McGinn asked if there were any questions on the proposed amendments. Senator Ostmeyer made a motion to approve the balloon amendment, but the motion died for lack of a second.

Senator Francisco made a motion that the language "except for second and third class cities" be retained in the balloon amendment, seconded by Senator Huelskamp. The motion carried.

Senator Pyle made a motion to move SB 15 as amended favorably out of Committee, seconded by Senator Francisco. The motion carried.

The Committee discussed concerns with **SB 189, Hunter education requirements**, which would be discussed in the Natural Resources Committee meeting the following day.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Natural Resources Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 15, 2007, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Jordan Austin, a representative of the National Rifle Association, answered questions about a hunter safety course, or “crash course” that out-of-state hunters could take in order to come back another year; if other states offer these crash courses; if the courses could be offered both to in-state and out-of-state hunters; and concerns were expressed regarding changing the age from 18 to 21. Mr. Austin told the Committee that twenty states have a one-year deferred program, wherein hunters can hunt one-year without taking a hunter’s safety course.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.