

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on January 15, 2009, in Room 783 Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Gary Hayzlett- excused
Representative Don Hineman- excused
Representative Pat Maloney- excused

Committee staff present:

Pat Matzek, Administrative Assistant
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office

Others attending:

See attached list.

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Greg Foley, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission
George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department

Greg Foley, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission, opened the meeting by speaking on the State Conservation Commission's (SCC) programs and activities (Attachment 1). Also distributed was the SCC 2008 Annual Report (Attachment 2) - on file at the State Conservation Commission) which provides one page descriptions of each program area such as the construction of the Horse Thief Reservoir and can be accessed on its website at www.scc.ks.gov. Another document introduced was a presentation on the Upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (UAR CREP) FY2008-09 Legislative Report (Attachment 3). The CREP is a United States Department of Agriculture program that creates individual rules and special conditions and rates for a geographic region or watershed. The last document introduced by Mr. Foley was the Performance Audit Report, an audit determining whether cost savings could be achieved by making the Animal Health Department and the SCC part of the Department of Agriculture (Attachment 4) - on file with the Legislative Division of Post Audit) and can be accessed on its website at <http://legislature.org/postaudit>.

George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department, spoke on the functions of the Kansas Animal Health Department (Attachment 5). Its core mission is the control and eradication of infectious and contagious disease of livestock. Additionally, information was distributed on the Agency's Response to the Performance Audit Report, Agriculture Related Agencies - December 2008 (Attachment 6). This report outlined Post Audit recommendations for executive action and includes the agency's response. Additional information on this report can be accessed on its website at www.ks.gov/kaahd. Other informational handouts included the Kansas Animal Health Department Organization Chart (Attachment 7) the Map of State and Federal Field Sections which includes personnel contact information for each designated county area (Attachment 8), and a county map covering the Kennel Inspection Program (Attachment 9).

At the conclusion of the presentations, questions were asked and comments made by members of the Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.