

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Faber at 3:30 P.M. on February 7, 2008, in Room 783 of the DSOB.

All members were present except:

Representative John Grange- excused  
Representative Carl Holmes- excused  
Representative Tom Moxley- excused  
Representative Jerry Williams- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes  
Kristen Kellems, Revisor of Statutes  
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Patrick Cunningham, Chief Scientific Advisor to the Irish Government  
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office

Others attending:

See attached list.

### **Informational Report on DNA Animal Testing**

Dr. Cunningham, Chief Scientific Advisor to the Irish Government and Professor of Animal Genetics in Trinity College, University of Dublin, Ireland, provided detailed information on IdentiGEN's DNA TraceBack (TM) program ([Attachment 1](#)). IdentiGEN North American has offices in Lawrence, Kansas to encourage use of the program in agricultural areas in the Midwest. The program is a tool developed following the mad cow scare in England. He said the tool can be used in the worldwide agriculture community to build consumer confidence in the purity of agricultural beef. IdentiGEN was co-founded by Dr. Cunningham with the purpose of substantiating claims traceable to the point of an animal's origin.

Dr. Cunningham commented on the Rural Development Program in Ireland stating the priorities: improving competitiveness in the agriculture sector; improving the environment by support of land management; and improving the quality of life in the rural area by encouraging diversification of economic activity. He said seventy-nine percent of the agricultural area in Ireland is devoted to grass, eleven percent to rough grazing, seven percent to cereals and three percent to other crops, such as potatoes and sugar beets.

Two additional pieces of information explaining IdentiGEN in more detail are included as ([Attachments 2 and 3](#)). A biography of Dr. Cunningham is included as ([Attachment 4](#)).

The Chairman called for bill introductions. Representative Feuerborn requested a bill be drafted related to agricultural and farm trucks hauling lime; other vehicles hauling fertilizer. Representative Joshua Svaty requested a bill to clarify the issue of wine clubs. Representative Clay Aurand requested a bill regarding the deer population in Kansas. There being no objections, the bills will be introduced.

Staff Raney Gilliland briefed the Committee on **SB 89 - Republican River, dispensing of litigation funds**. He reminded the members of previous discussion during the 2007 Legislative session saying the procedure for distribution of moneys recovered from any settlement or judgment related to the Republican River. He said the first distribution of money is deposited in the State Water Litigation Fund. Five percent of the remaining moneys is given to the Republican River Compact Compliance Fund. Following this distribution, the final distribution is credited to the Republican River Water Conservation Project Fund; one-third of that amount is for projects in the Upper Republican River Basin, and two-thirds to the Lower Republican River Basin. The bill addresses specific types of appropriate water projects and clarifies the language to enforce compliance.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 7, 2008, in Room 783 of the DSOB.

Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office, provided information from the Attorney General regarding the distribution of funds from the Interstate Water Litigation Reserve Fund/Account (Attachments 5 and 6). In answer to a question, Mr. Streeter said that \$20.1 million was spent for legal services and consultation with a firm in New Mexico, and there is an uncommitted balance of \$17.2 million.

The Chairman called for motion on **SB 89 - Republican River, dispensing of litigation funds.** Representative Aurand made a motion to apportion any moneys received as follows: Colorado funds will be credited at two-thirds, and one-third credited to the State Water Plan; Nebraska funds will be credited two-thirds to the Lower Republican River and one-third to the Upper Republican.

Representative Svaty seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and both the motion and second was withdrawn.

Representative Aurand made a new motion concerning money from Colorado - two-thirds allocated to the Upper Republican River and one-third to the State Water Plan. Representative Powell seconded the motion.

After some discussion, Representative Powell requested a substitute motion to have both the Colorado on the Upper Republican and Nebraska on the Lower Republican be treated the same as the Kansas-Colorado Water settlement which is - two-thirds of the money for water conservation projects in the affected area, and one-third in the State Water Plan Fund.

Representative Flora made a motion to table the bill until Monday, February 11, 2008. Representative Knox seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Chairman made announcements regarding Committee meetings scheduled for next week. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 11, 2008, at 3:30 p.m.