

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Johnson at 3:30 P.M. on January 11, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol. This meeting was a joint Legislative Water Briefing.

All members were present except:

Representative Bill Light- excused
Representative Gary Hayzlett- excused
Representative Pat George- excused
Representative Steven Luckert- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Legislative Research Department
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office
Pam Shaffer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Steve Irsik, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Organization
Mark Rude, Manager, Groundwater Management District 3
Sharon Falk, Manager, Groundwater Management District 5
Harold Klaege, State Conservationist, NRCS/USDA
David Pope, Chief Engineer, DWR/KDA

Chairman Johnson requested everyone in the gallery stand and introduce themselves, which they did.

Chairman Johnson introduced the chair persons who aided in the convening of the joint meeting. They are Senator Carolyn McGinn, Chairman of Senate Natural Resources Committee, Senator Mark Taddiken, Chairman of Senate Agriculture Committee, Representative Joann Freeborn, chairperson of House Environment Committee, Representative Sharon Schartz, Chairperson of House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget.

Chairman Johnson then introduced Steve Irsik, Chairman, Kansas Water Authority to begin the briefing. Mr. Irsik thanked Chairman Johnson, He then introduced the conferees listed above and gave an overview of the Kansas Water Authority. The Water Plan Initiative introduced projects that will have long range benefits for the water resources of Kansas. Four key areas are included, High Plains aquifer, watershed restorations and protection, regional public water supplies, and capital development for resources. (See attachment 1).

Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office. Mr. Streeter reviewed legislative water accomplishments of last year and highlighted specific water related projects. (See attachment 1 & 2)

Mark Rude, Manager, Groundwater Management District 3 gave an overview of the Ark river corridor hurt economically by compact violations. He explained how the Conservation Reserve Program (CREP) fits into the Ark River restoration.

Sharon Falk, Manager, Groundwater Management District 5 discussed how GMD #5's board is supportive of adding local money to reduce water. She discussed the need for CREP and other programs in Middle Ark and Rattlesnake Creek and the Mid-Ark water rights retirement.

Harold Klaege, State Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS) gave an overview of the federal focus working with state priorities, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) quick response areas (see attachment 3)

David Pope, Chief Engineer DWR/KDA gave an overview of the management of water and how it involves all components, education, data analysis, regulations and innovation, incentive based programs, monitoring and compliance enforcement. The Ark River compact with Colorado is an area where

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monitoring is absolutely necessary. Mid Ark and Rattlesnake Creed subbasins are two areas with voluntary plans and a regulatory component (see attachment 1)

Questions and answers followed the presentations.

Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:20. The next scheduled Environment Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17.