

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 P.M. on February 2, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Pat George- excused
Representative Tom Sloan- excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mary Jane Stankiewicz, Association of Ethanol Processors
Ron Hammerschmidt, PhD, Director, Division of Environment, Department of Health of Environment
Will Boyer, Lower Kansas River Extension Watershed Specialist
Fred Cholick, Dean of Agriculture, Kansas State University

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairperson Freeborn asked for everyone in the gallery to please sign the guest list. She announced Tuesday, February 7th's agenda: Hearing on **HB2710 - Creates the water right transition program**, and Hearing on **HB2716 - Granting of easement for diversion works on Kansas river for water district number 1 of Johnson County**. She told all committee members that they had the following handouts, response to committee questions from Rod Bremby regarding chat piles (See attachment 1), Topeka River front and the Stream map; requested information related to water releases and management of Cedar Bluff Reservoir from the Kansas Water Office (See attachment 2) and requested documents regarding ethanol from Mary Jane Stankiewicz (See attachment 3).

Chairperson Freeborn asked if there were any bill requests, this is the last day for bill requests. There were none.

Chairperson Freeborn welcomed Fred Cholick, Dean of Agriculture, Kansas State University, who presented a review on research and extension programs at Kansas State. The publication he passed out to the committee members and referred to in his presentation, "An Informal Report to the Kansas Legislature January 2006" is available on the internet at www.oznet.ksu.edu, it is not attached. Mr. Cholick talked about the Genetic resource center, The Wheat Genetic and Genomic Resources Center stores stocks of wild wheats and wheat related grasses that help breeders worldwide preserve and improve varieties. Some of the center's accomplishments include releasing 47 improved germplasms, training more than three dozen visiting scientists and students and leading efforts on gene sequencing. Researchers have determined simple, cost-effective measures to help livestock producers to prevent runoff of pollutants into nearby surface waters. Proper range management, such as strategic placement of shelter, feed, and minerals away from water sources are inexpensive and take little time. Another solution is to plant vegetative cover or a buffer strip near the stream, creating a barrier for runoff. Mr. Cholick talked about water quantity issues, working with Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri and Oklahoma. Subsurface irrigation systems is something being looked at, it can produce the same amount of corn with half the water. They have the crop allocator water model, which is a computer model allowing them to test the use of water and increase efficiency. Mr. Cholick introduced Mr. Will Boyer, Lower Kansas River Extension Watershed Specialist who talked about water quality. (See attachment 4). Two major focus areas one which has been one-on-one assistance with livestock producers, building awareness of water capacity. This program's success has led to greater awareness and action at the local level, especially by small and mid-sized livestock producers.

Questions and discussion followed the review.

Chairperson Freeborn opened the hearing on **HCR029 - Congress urged to ban MTBE in gasoline by**

CONTINUATION SHEET

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January 1, 2010.

Mary Jane Stankiewicz, Association of Ethanol Processors, proponent testified. (See attachment 5)

Ron Hammerschmidt, Director, Division of Environment, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, neutral, testified (See attachment 6).

Questions and discussion followed the testimony.

Chairperson Freeborn closed the hearing on **HCR 5029.**

Chairperson Freeborn adjourned the meeting at 4:35pm. The next scheduled meeting is February 7.