

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ralph Ostmeyer at 8:30 a.m. on January 27, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present. Senator Janis Lee has been appointed to serve as Tax Appeals Court Judge and, in her place, an additional member will be appointed to the committee.

Committee staff present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Laura Younker, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dana Wethington, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Chris Tymeson, Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office, Topeka
Don Paxson, Vice-Chair, Kansas Water Authority

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Ostmeyer introduced members of the Committee and staff.

Chairman Ostmeyer asked for bill introductions.

Chris Tymeson, Chief Counsel, Wildlife and Parks, requested the introduction of a bill on cabins and fees related to the regulatory process. Senator Abrams made a motion the bill be introduced, Senator Teichman seconded; motion carried.

Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office, requested introduction of bill that would create the Lower Smoky Hill Water Access program that would expand access to storage from Kanopolis Reservoir to irrigators and allow creation of an irrigation entity between the lake and the City of Salina. Motion to introduce made by Senator Taddiken and seconded by Senator Abrams; motion carried.

Mr. Streeter also asked for introduction of a bill to grant authority to the Kansas Water Office regarding streambank stabilization and bed stabilization on the Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas Rivers. The legislation would allow the Water Office to grant easements to landowners for projects on their property along these three navigable rivers. Senator Teichman made a motion to introduce, seconded by Senator Francisco; motion carried.

Mr. Streeter introduced Don Paxson, Vice-Chair, Kansas Water Authority; and Water Authority Basin Advisory Committee members: Ron Brown, Chair, Marais Des Cygnes Basin Committee; Wayne Bossert, Upper Republican Basin Advisory Committee; Arnold Ross, Kansas Lower Republican Basin Advisory Committee.

Mr. Paxson gave a brief overview of the Annual Report. (*Kansas Water Authority 2011 Annual Report*) The Executive Summary of the Report (Attachment 1) states the Kansas Water Authority budget is almost \$20 million, \$6 million of which comes from the general fund. One program that may be lost is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program on the Arkansas in Southwest Kansas, and they hope to revive it without a huge fiscal impact. He talked about the Dam Safety and Rehabilitation Program and the Water Transition Assistance Program. He mentioned successes and in-progress programs, including dredging Mission Lake using Horton city and state monies; streambank erosion on rivers affecting reservoirs; Missouri River Degradation threat to public infrastructure; upper Arkansas CREP; Reallocation of storage at federal reservoirs and the Water Authority's prioritizing of programs.

Mr. Streeter addressed the reallocation of storage and one of the top priorities is to get the pool raised at John Redman. One of the most inexpensive things that can be done to get additional water supply is to raise the pool at the lake. On verge of getting that done but there are hurdles with federal government

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Natural Resources Committee at 8:30 a.m. on January 27, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

regarding an upstream levee.

Mr. Streeter concluded his report by comparing the Water Authority's budget recommendations and the Governor's budget recommendations. The Governor's recommendations include no funding for local EPA and CREP. These are the largest impacted programs in the Water Plan Fund. (Attachment 2)

Questions and discussion followed.

Chairman Ostmeyer announced the next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.