

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Tyson at 8:30 a.m. on January 22, 2004 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Lisa Montgomery, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Linda Bradley, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Wildlife and Parks
Steven Irsik, Member of Kansas Natural Resources Legacy Alliance
Sheila Frahm, Chairperson of Kansas Natural Resources Legacy Alliance
Joe Harkins, Acting Director of the Kansas Water Office
Tracy Streeter, Director of Conservation Commission
John Strickler, Vice Chairperson to the Kansas Natural Resources Legacy from Manhattan

Others attending:

See Attached List.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Tyson. He welcomed Senator Phil Journey, the new Committee member replacing Senator David Adkins. He also welcomed Linda Bradley our new Committee Secretary who replaced Shannon Stone.

Bill Introductions

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Wildlife and Parks, requested introduction of a bill concerning hunter education. Senator Huelskamp made a motion to introduce the bill, Senator Lee seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Again, Chris Tymeson requested a bill concerning wildlife permits. Senator Lee made a motion to introduce the bill, Senator Journey seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Overview - Kansas Water Authority

The Chairman then introduced Stephen Irsik, the new acting chairperson of the Kansas Water Authority. Chairman Tyson asked Mr. Irsik to tell the Committee about himself and some of the issues facing the Kansas Water of the Alliance.

The Chairman then called upon Sheila Frahm, the Chairperson of the Kansas Natural Resources Legacy Alliance (KNRLA) who provided the Committee with membership appointments and advisors of the Alliance. She also discussed the executive summary and ten issues which, she stated, had been identified and prioritized. She stated that the KNRLA was established by the 2002 Kansas Legislature in **SB 504** to “develop a vision for using the states natural resources.”

Ms. Frahm then called upon Steve Irsik again, who also was a member of the KNRLA. Mr. Irsik discussed various aspects of the final report and its recommendations.

Ms. Frahm then introduced Joe Harkins, Acting Director of the Kansas Water Office. Mr. Harkins commented on better communication with federal, state and local jurisdiction keeping on the same page in sharing issues.

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Mr. Harkins introduced Tracy Streeter, Director of Conservation Commission who touched on ground water quality, GMD to dry land farming, planting trees and taxes.

Mr. Harkins then introduced John Strickler, Vice Chairperson to the KNRLA from Manhattan. Mr. Strickler made comments on Economic Development/Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.

Ms. Frahm provided Committee members with a booklet containing KNRLA Final Report. A copy of this booklet has been filed in Senator Tyson's office.

The Chairman then asked the Committee if there were questions. Senator's Lee, Downey and Umbarger asked a range of questions including what do you view as the responsibility of the Water Authority, the stability of the economy in western Kansas and who has the overall plan for Kansas.

The Chairman thanked the conferees for their enlightening presentation.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2004.