

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carolyn McGinn at 8:30 a.m. on January 14, 2010, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.  
Senator Steve Morris, Excused

## Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Kristen Kellems, Office of the Revisor of Statutes Office  
Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes Office  
Stan Rasmussen, Senate Fellow U.S. Army  
Grace Greene, Committee Assistant

## Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Fred Cholick, Dean of Agriculture and Director of Kansas State University Research and Extension, Kansas State University  
Steven Graham, Assistant to the Dean and Director, Kansas State Research and Extension, Kansas State University.

## Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman McGinn asked staff members: Raney Gilliland and Corey Carnahan, Legislative Research Department; Grace Greene, Committee Assistant; Kristen Kellems and Jill Wolters, Revisors of the Statutes Office, to introduce themselves to the group.

Chairman McGinn told the Committee members they would be meeting on Thursday, January 21 and Friday, January 22 to hear presentations on updated EPA proposals and information on the prescribed burning of the Flint Hills.

Chairman McGinn asked for bill introductions. Chris Tymeson, Chief Counsel, Kansas Wildlife and Parks, asked for the introduction of a bill dealing with cabin fees on state property. Senator McGinn made a motion that the bill be introduced. Senator Marci Francisco seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Fred Cholick, Dean of Agriculture and Director of Kansas State University Research and Extension, Kansas State University, gave an informational report from K-State's 2010 Report to the Kansas Legislature (On file at Kansas State University). Furthermore, Dr. Cholick described the program's context: describing how the federal and state agendas intertwine with the local agenda and provide information and research access to local universities, local agencies, and state agencies.

Dr. Cholick highlighted four topics from the report.

First, pg. 10, Dr. Cholick noted how a local family farmer from Tribune, Kansas utilizes the research of K-States Extension Center to become more profitable, including using K-State's Research's recommended method for no-till farming, which included using grain sorghum in his crop rotation and growing taller height wheat crops, which helps prevent soil erosion and improves yield of the crops.

Secondly, pg 13, Dr. Cholick noted how the Kansas State University Research and Extension agency supports the Kansas Forest Service, specifically how a local forester in Smith County utilizes the agency research to help protect their forestry project. By following the recommendations to plant windbreaks and utilizing the research to protect the forestry project.

Third, pg 25, Dr. Cholick described how K-State watershed specialist partnered with Fort Hays University and The Coca Cola Company to assemble and distribute over 1000 rain barrels to local homeowners to use the rain water in their outdoor projects, thus saving money on water bills and helping the environment, by using soft water on the gardening projects.

Finally, pg 27, Dr. Cholick discussed the biofuel research and industry in Kansas, specifically how the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Natural Resources Committee at 8:30 a.m. on January 14, 2010, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

long-term sustainability of soil and our natural resources is effected by incorporating biofuel research.

Dr. Cholick closed by discussing the Natural Resource Management minor degree offered by Kansas State University, which integrates various programs, including: Agriculture, Engineering, Social Sciences, and Physical Sciences.

Steven Graham, Assistant to the Dean and Director, Kansas State Research and Extension, Kansas State University, reviewed the mission of KCARE (Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment).

KCARE currently manages grants totally over \$10 million with the mission to develop and deliver knowledge that helps Kansans balance 'utilization' and 'protection' of natural resources today and into the future. KCARE's Areas of Emphasis are: air and water quality, soil conservation and quality, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and water conservation and use.

Dr. Fred Cholick, closed the meeting by stating that the Kansas State University Research and Extension's 2010 budget is \$6.5 million less than in 2009 in State General Fund dollars. Dr. Cholick stated that the agency has eliminated positions to balance the budget.

Dr. Cholick took questions from the Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned.