

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

2014 BILL HEARING SUMMARY

LB 940/1046/1047

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 18th
Introducer: Schilz/Carlson/Carlson
One Liner: Create Water Sustainability Fund and transfer funds

Proponents:

Senator Schilz
Rorie Paulman
Mace Hack
Scott Smathers
Shelly Sahling-Zart
Jay Rempe

John Winkler
John C Turnbull
Jeff Buettner
Loran Schmit
John Miyoshi
Ron Wolf
Dean Edson

Opponents:

Ken Winston

Neutral:

Ron Yoder

Representing:

Introducer
Self
The Nature Conservatory
NE Sportsman's Foundation
NE Power Assn.
NE Farm Bureau/ NE Cattlemen/ NE
Corn Growers/ NE Pork Producers/
NE Soybean Assn./ NE Coop
Council/ NE Wheat Growers
NE Assn. of Resource Districts
Upper Big Blue NRD
Central NE Public Power & Irrigation
Assn. of NE Ethanol Providers
Lower Platte North NRD
NE Water Coalition
NE Assn of Resource Districts

Representing:

NE Sierra Club

Representing:

University of Nebraska

Statement of Intent:

LB940 creates the Water Sustainability Fund. The fund consists of transfers made by the Legislature and any gifts, grants, bequests, or donations to the fund. Money in the fund is to be used to fund programs, projects, and activities identified by the Water Funding Task Force in its report under section 50-507.6. The fund is not to be used for new capital projects.

LB940 further provides that the State Treasurer shall transfer fifty-million dollars from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Water Sustainability Fund on or before July 31, 2014.

LB 1046 creates the Water Sustainability Fund and requests that \$50 million be transferred to the fund from the General Fund annually, beginning on October 1, 2015. The Water Sustainability Fund will be administered by the Natural Resources Commission and used for water sustainability projects throughout the state.

LB 1047 would appropriate \$843,701 from the General Fund to the Nebraska Resources Development Fund. The requested amount represents a repayment of a Nebraska Resources Development Fund grant. The intent of the bill is to allow the Department of Natural Resources to use the repayment for future grants from the fund. (Note: there were no testifiers for LB1047)

Requested Funds:

FY13-14	50,000,000 Cash Reserve
FY14-15	50,000,000 G

Committee Action:

FY14-15	20,000,000 Cash Rerserve
FY15-16	11,000,000 G
