COMMITTEE MINUTES for
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Date: January 24, 2006 **Place:** Legislative Dining Room

Convened: 1/24/2006 10:05 AM **Recessed:** **Reconvened:** **Adjourned:** 1/24/2006 11:50 AM

Present: Senators Courtney-CC, Lundby-CC, Connolly, Wieck
Representatives Alons-CH, Hutter-VC, Lensing-RM, Baudler, Eichhorn, Thomas, Van Fossen, J.K., Whitead, Winckler

Absent: None

Excused: None

The Government Oversight Committee was called to order by Rep. Alons. Roll call was taken. The minutes of the last meeting were approved a distributed.

Bill Assignments:
SF 406, SF 398 and SF 397 - Indefinitely postponed
SF 328 - Removed from consideration

Agenda: Discuss referral from the Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board dated Dec. 9, 2005, regarding Dallas County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Kristie Hirschman from the Ombudsman's Office presented her information on how her office started the investigation into this issue.
Jon Judson and Daniel Brouse, Complainants, presented their two primary contentions that the Soil and Water Conservations Districts should not profit from programs that the Dept.is charged with administering and that state funds (employee time and other expenses) should not be used to help run Soil and Conservation District businesses.
Sen. Hahn was asked to explain the status of SF 180.
Charlie Smithson from the Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board explained to the Committee that they are not authorized to deal with Iowa Code Chapter 23 and answered other questions.
Deb Ryun, Soil and Water District Executive Director, accompanied by Dan GoLightly, Dallas County Soil and Water District Commissioner, presented their perspective of the operation and services provided from District offices.
Sen. Lundby discussed a possible bill draft related to expanding the Ethics and Disclosure Board having authority to review entities under Iowa Code Chapter 23A.
Sen. Lundby requested a list of all county Soil and Water Conservation Districts operating as a enterprise providing services to landowners.
Rep. Whitead requested a break-out from the Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for the local, state and federal funding coming to county Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
Jim Gillespie, Dept. of Agriculture, presented the Dept. of Agriculture perspective.
Rep.Hutter moved to adjourn due to the emergency alarm.

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Representative Dwayne Alons

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Clarice Alons, Committee Secretary