

**MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES BUDGET
COMMITTEE**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Schwartz at 1:30 p.m. on February 17, 2011, in Room 142-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Christina Allen, Legislative Research Department
Tamara Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Pat Bisel, Substitute Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Robin Jennison, Secretary, Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP)
Linda Craghead, KDWP
John Spurgeon, KDWP

Others attending:

See attached list.

Briefing on Funding Issues with KDWP

Robin Jennison, Secretary, Department of Wildlife and Parks, presented a briefing on federal and state restrictions that KDWP must adhere to in order to utilize federal aid received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Department of the Interior and a brief discussion on the status of the Park Fee Fund regarding revenue and expenditures (Attachment 1). The Secretary was accompanied by Linda Craghead and John Spurgeon, both from KDWP.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Secretary Jennison noted that the Park Fee Fund has been one of the most challenging. Because of the reduction in funds from the State General Fund (SGF), the agency has relied on the Park Fee Fund to supplement funding. Secretary Jennison noted that the removal of SGF would be devastating.

- KDWP will provide copies of brochures listing the various fees.

Hearing on HB 2149 – Amending the procedures for the Department of Wildlife and Parks to purchase land.

Tamara Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided an overview of **HB 2149** (Attachment 2).

A chart showing land acquisitions by KDWP was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 3).

Proponents:

Steve M. Swaffar, Director of Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau, presented written testimony in support of **HB 2149** (Attachment 4).

Opponents:

Robin Jennison, Secretary, KDWP, presented testimony in opposition to **HB 2149** (Attachment 5). Secretary Jennison reported that KDWP's greatest challenge is creating the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts. The receipt of federal dollars is contingent on the number of people who visit the parks. Secretary Jennison indicated that KDWP does not object to the intent of **HB 2149**; however, has a concern that the provisions of the legislation do not allow the Department to address situations that may occur in a timely manner. KDWP is requesting that the legislation be amended to allow the State Finance Council to approve land acquisitions during the times the Legislature is not in session.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Secretary Jennison felt that adding a dollar limit as opposed to an acreage limit would be more programmatic. The Secretary indicated that the legislation could create obstacles if required to take larger land purchases to the Legislature, noting that politics could cause issues.

The Committee voiced some concern with authorizing decisions to the State Finance Council. The Committee also voiced concern that the issue of control and management of noxious weeds is not being

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 17, 2011, in Room 142-S.
addressed in the legislation.

There were no other conferees to testify before the Committee.

The hearing on HB 2149 was closed.

Representative Collins moved to recommend **HB 2149** favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Powell.

The Committee voiced a concern with the 160 acreage in the legislation noting that some land is sold minus the acreage set aside for easements or roads and would not be a full 160 acres.

Representative Powell made a substitute motion to amend **HB 2149** by reducing the acreage from 160 acres to 155 acres and allow the State Finance Council to approve land purchases when the legislature is not in session. The motion was seconded by Representative Sloan.

The Committee requested that the motion be divided. This action was accepted by the maker of the motion and the second on the motion.

Representative Powell renewed the first part of the motion to amend **HB 2149** by revising the acreage from 160 acres to 155 acres. Motion failed on a vote of 3 yes, 6 no.

Representative Powell renewed the second part of the motion to amend **HB 2149** to allow the State Finance Council (SFC) to approve land acquisitions during the times the Legislature is not in session. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Representative Collins moved to recommend **HB 2149** as amended favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Sloan. Motion carried on a vote of 5-yes; 4-no.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.