

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, PARKS, & TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Judy Morrison at 3:30 P.M. on January 19, 2005 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Don Myers- excused
Margaret Long- excused
Shari Weber- excused

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office
Betty Caruthers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Secretary Mike Hayden, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Briefing by Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Secretary Mike Hayden presented an overview of the Kansas Parks system as well as the economics of outdoor recreation in our state. He introduced four people to the committee:

Dick Koerth, Assistant Secretary of Administration
Keith Sexton, Assistant Secretary of Operations
Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel
Jerry Hover, Director of State Parks

Secretary Hayden handed out a Wildlife & Parks presentation which emphasized three main issues:

1. Walk - In Hunting & Fishing Areas (Attachment 1)
2. Funding Our State Parks (Attachment 2)

(A proposal will be coming to the Legislature for a \$5 fee attached to the motor vehicle registration fee which would be \$4 to fund state parks and \$1 to fund local Government).

3. Circle K Ranch Acquisition (Attachment 3)

(A proposal to acquire a 6,700 acre ranch in Edwards County to restore and open it to the public).

Chairperson Morrison asked for Committee questions. Secretary Hayden answered questions on the bow hunting management units. The Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks is working on developing a program for ten archery units across the state which would allow bow hunters to hunt in two units of their choice. These deer archery regulations must be in place by the end of April.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Representative Flaharty, seconded by Representative Grange, minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism held on January 12, 2005 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

Chairperson Morrison asked for bill introductions.

Representative Ruff moved for the introduction of a bow hunters bill that she requested to have accepted as a committee bill, seconded by Representative Flaharty. Motion carried.

Representative Ruff informed the committee of a briefing next Wednesday, January 27 by Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Council of Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks regarding the bow hunters and outfitters.

Chairperson Morrison announced last day for members to request that bills be drafted – Monday, Jan. 24 and last day for committees to request that bills be drafted - Wednesday, Feb. 2.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on January 19, 2005 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Chris Tymeson requested introduction of a bill regarding boating laws. Moved by Representative Flaharty, seconded by Representative Treaster. Motion carried. Chris Tymeson also requested introduction of a bill dealing with fee funds for the purpose of tracking federal funds. Moved by Representative Mah, seconded by Representative Shultz. Motion carried.

Chairperson Morrison adjourned the Committee at 4:40.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, January 24.