

Approved: 2/1/06  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 P.M. on January 30, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Judy Morrison- excused  
Representative Mitch Holmes- excused  
Representative Margaret Long- 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:

Becky Blake, Director of Travel & Tourism, Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Swenson, seconded by Representative Ohara for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks & Tourism held on January 25, 2006 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers asked for any bill introductions by Committee members. Representative Mah stated that she will be introducing a bill in the future. There were no bill introductions this day.

Chairman Myers announced that he was appointing a Sub-Committee to further look at **HB 2210 - Exemption from hunter safety education requirements for certain current or former members of armed services**. He appointed Representative Ohara as Chair of the Sub-Committee with other members being Representatives Grange, Mah, Holmes, and Flaharty. Chairman Myers requested that the Sub-Committee meet within the next week or two.

Chairman Myers recognized Becky Blake for a presentation on travel and tourism in Kansas. (Attachment 1) She presented information on the economic impact of travel and tourism both on the United States as well as Kansas. The playing field of travel and tourism is changing constantly with an increase in car travel and use of the internet leading to new travel experiences. The key division priorities of the industry are marketing, research, communication/education, and product development. New ads are being developed as well as work on a new visitor's guide, the Kansas magazine published four times a year, new posters, brochures, and the website [www.travelks.com](http://www.travelks.com). There is excitement about a new internet web site being launched in March, 2006. A partnership is being looked at between the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks with the Travel and Tourism division to work together on areas such as marketing. There is continued research, planning and education being done as they look to the future using the key concepts of cooperation, sustainability, quality, and accountability.

Chairman Myers announced upcoming meetings of a briefing by Chris Tymeson with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks on February 1, a hearing on **HB 2561** on February 6, and a hearing on **HCR 5034** on February 15.

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 4:20.

Next Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, 2006.