

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 23, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Steve Morris- excused
Derek Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Matt Todd, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jeanne Stinson, Acting Director, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce
Steve Kelly, Deputy Secretary, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce
Beckie Rhoades, International Marketing Specialist, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce
Corey Mohn, Agribusiness Development Specialist, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce
Carole Jordan, Director Rural and Legislative Affairs, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Lyle Peterson, BioProducts Specialist, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce
Sarah Larison, Domestic Marketing Specialist, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Senator Lee moved the introduction of a committee bill concerning farm equipment and the warranty covering the fees charged for mileage for repair of the equipment. Motion seconded by Senator Ostmeyer. Motion passed.

Jeanne Stinson, Acting Director, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce introduced Steve Kelly who had an announcement.

Steve Kelly, Deputy Secretary, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, announced that as of Monday, January 28, Carole Jordan will be the Director of Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce.

Chairman Taddiken congratulated Carole on her new position.

Beckie Rhoades, International Marketing Specialist, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, reviewed the division's programs (Attachment 1) including an agriculture value added center, food export-Midwest, *From the Land of Kansas* trademark program and agritourism registration initiative.

Ms. Rhoades stood for questions.

Corey Mohn, Agribusiness Development Specialist, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, reported that funds have been used for feasibility studies and business plans for new agriculture based energy projects. He also noted a map showing the ethanol and biodiesel plant activity in Kansas. Currently there are eleven (11) ethanol plants in operation.

Mr. Mohn discussed the Kansas Alternative Energy Working Group which is made up of persons from different state agencies to assist potential developers in the process of starting a new business. A State of Kansas Renewable Fuels Contact List provides information for potential developers.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:30 a.m. on January 23, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Mr. Mohn took questions from the Committee.

Lyle Peterson, BioProducts Specialist, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, said their department manages six (6) traditional and alternative energy tax credit programs that were created in order to promote the growth of the energy industry in Kansas. Mr. Peterson will provide a packet of information to the Committee of the tax incentives provided by the state.

Mr. Peterson answered questions.

Mr. Mohn said the KDOC biofuels investment is over \$9 million to date from 2001.

Mr. Mohn and Mr. Peterson answered questions.

Beckie Rhoades reported on other agriculture based projects funded by the KDOC including the Kansas State University animal ID study, a hydroponic tomato operation, Harvest Lark, Trees 2 Trim in Concordia and Kansas Park Trust. The total gross sales for fiscal year 2007 for all active loan clients was \$245,157,700. Ms. Rhoades also reported on the 2008 Value Added Center funding. Agritourism attraction development and diversified farm and specialist production are new loan programs.

Ms. Rohades took questions from the Committee.

Ms. Rhoades discussed Food Export-Midwest, which partners with the KDOC assists in international marketing of Kansas agricultural and food products. She also mentioned activities to promote Kansas food products.

The Committee had further questions for Carole Jordan.

Sarah Larison, Domestic Marketing Specialist, Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, discussed the *From the Land of Kansas (FLOK)* trademark program and Business Enhancement Grants (BEGs). She also reported that 246 agritourism operations have registered with the state of Kansas.

The Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, will be continued on Wednesday, January 30.

Motion by Senator Bruce to approve January 15, 2008 Committee meeting minutes; seconded by Senator Ostmeyer. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned.