

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS

September 23, 2003
Haskell Indian Nations University
Lawrence, KS

Members Present

Senator Lana Oleen, Chair
Representative Bill Mason, Vice Chair
Senator David Adkins
Senator Mark Gilstrap
Senator David Haley
Representative Becky Hutchins
Representative Tom Sawyer
Representative Bonnie Sharp
Matt All, Governor's Representative

Staff Present

Russell Mills, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

September 23, 2003

The Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations assembled at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence 8:30 a.m., on Tuesday, September 23, 2003, for the purpose of attending a conference hosted by the University entitled "Indian Records for the 21st Century and Beyond: Creating a Tribal/Federal Vision."

During the noon hour, the Committee held a business meeting for the purpose of planning the Committee activities for the 2003 interim. Chair Oleen asked for Committee discussion concerning those items which the members would like to pursue for the remainder of the interim. Following Committee discussion, the members agreed that the topics noted below should be placed as agenda items for future meetings:

- Update on the Wyandotte Tribe's casino operation in Kansas City, including litigation efforts and the impact of historic preservation laws and life safety codes.
- Update on historical markers issues and tourist promotion efforts which impact the Native American Tribes.

- Update on the status of lawsuits concerning tribal license plates and the taxation of tribal gasoline sales.
- Review of prior Committee bills relating to the powers of tribal law enforcement officers.
- Update on preservation efforts relative to the Baker Wetlands and the proposed new highway.
- Update on Congressman Dennis Moore's bill dealing with lands into trust.
- Update on the Kansas Office of Native American Affairs, including plans for the National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month and the Governors' Interstate Indian Council.
- Review of the land into trust issue as noted in the Legislative Coordinating Council charge to the Joint Committee.
- Update on the National Conference of State Legislatures/National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Project on Tribal-State Relations.
- Update on the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission.
- Review of the various programs of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) programs which impact the Native American Tribes.

The Committee received a presentation from members of the Wetlands Preservation Organization relative to the impact of the proposed South Lawrence Trafficway.

The Committee was introduced to Gail DuPuis who has been appointed as Executive Director of the Kansas Office of Native American Affairs. Chair Oleen also introduced two Tribal Chairs who were in attendance: Louis DeRoin of the Iowa Tribe and Sandra Keo of the Sac and Fox Nation.

In the afternoon, Committee members were invited to tour either the Limestone Caves in Lee's Summit, Missouri, or the Baker Wetlands south of the University.

The following meeting dates were chosen for future meetings: November 5, December 1, and December 15, 2003. The meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by Russell Mills and Dennis Hodgins

Approved by Committee on:

November 5, 2003