

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on March 10, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Geraldine Flaharty- excused  
Annie Tietze- excused  
Mark Treaster- excused  
Ron Worley- excused

Committee staff present:

Ryan Hoffman, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Matt Todd, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Carole Jordan, Director, Agriculture Marketing & Community Development Division,  
Kansas Dept. Of Commerce  
Wally Kearns, State Director, Kansas Small Business Development Center

The Chair introduced Carole Jordan who presented background information on the state's rural business development tax credits and how they are utilized for economic and leadership development in rural Kansas. (Attachment 1).

Speaking of the history of the rural business development tax credits, Ms Jordan said that the act addressed six priorities that continue to be vital to the future of our state. Those priorities were the biosciences, entrepreneurship, rural development, workforce development, enhancing the state's image and Kansas military installations.

The program consisted of \$7 million in tax credits over three years to encourage individuals and businesses to invest in regional foundations in each of seven economic development regions in Kansas.

The legislature passed the Economic Growth Act of 2004. As passed, the Rural Business Development Program consisted of \$7 million in tax credits over three years to encourage individuals and businesses to invest in regional foundations in each of seven economic development regions in Kansas. The seven regions are: 18 counties in the Northwest; 19 counties in the North Central; eight counties in the Northeast; six counties in the East Central; 12 counties in the Southeast; 14 counties in the South Central and 28 counties in the Southwest.

Told by a Committee member that the entities of the various Commerce Department's agencies were a mystery to them, Ms Jordan promised they would forward them any information needed to keep them informed.

It was also suggested that perhaps such a thing as a spreadsheet to clearly define the agency's various activities, would be helpful. Ms Jordan said they had a picture that would be provided to them that would do just that.

When asked about the Agency's name change to "NetWork, Kansas", Wally Kearns explained that it was the "Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship" by statute, but this was confusing because of the "Center for Entrepreneurship" in Wichita. Hence the name change.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2008.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Economic Development and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 10, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.