

Approved: February 2, 2010

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on January 19, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Pat Matzek, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Carole Jordan, Director, Rural Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Powell opened the meeting with a short synopsis of his trip to Florida at the Orlando Convention Center. The farm show was called the Ag Connect Expo where the Association of Equipment Managers displayed farm machinery which included two dealers from Kansas. Also, they visited the Deseret Ranch owned by the Mormon Church.

Chairman Powell introduced his intern for 2010, Amanda Allenbrand, to members of the Committee.

Chairman Powell then introduced Carole Jordan, Director, Rural Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce (KDOC), who spoke on various Commerce programs that focus on rural development, including the Community Development Block Grant Program, Community Assistance Services and Agricultural Marketing Program (Attachment 1).

Some of the items referenced were:

- **Agriculture Products Development** - Kansas was built on agriculture and it will continue to contribute to the state's 21st century economy with production of traditional commodities and livestock, the growth of the specialty crop industry, renewable energy and the biosciences.
- **Challenges** - Budget cuts have forced the KDOC to look at different ways to save dollars. Before the beginning of Fiscal year 2010, the KDOC took a 15% cut from the submitted budget and another 3% cut since the start of 2010, as well as losing a domestic marketing position.
- **Highlights of the Past Year** - KDOC has reinvigorated their international marketing efforts, marketed and grown their Simply Kansas Trademark Program (brochure information available on its website at www.SimplyKansas.com). Simply Kansas promotes quality-made Kansas products to consumers.
- **Renewable Energy** - KDOC assists and supports sensible and sustainable development of the renewable energy industry, which encompasses ethanol, biodiesel and cellulosic technologies, as well as wind energy in Kansas. Both ethanol and biodiesel producers are eligible to receive incentive funds for production and sales.
- **Agriculture Value-Added Loan Program** - This program's goal is to improve income for agricultural producers through the creation of value-added marketing and processing opportunities, resulting in job creation and retention for rural communities. "Value-added" is defined as the further processing or alternative marketing of agriculturally derived products to capture additional value in the marketplace (brochure information available on its website at www.KansasCommerce.com).

In conclusion, Carole Jordan acknowledged that the Department of Commerce, Kansas' premier economic development agency, recognizes the importance of agriculture and rural Kansas to the overall economic health of the state, with continued efforts in the coming year.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.