

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VISION 2020 COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 1:30 p.m. on February 25, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Clay Aurand- excused  
Representative Sean Gatewood- excused  
Representative Raj Goyle- excused  
Representative Lee Tafanelli- excused

Committee staff present:

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mary Koles, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Stan, Ahlerich, Kansas Inc.  
Tracy Taylor, Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation  
Tom Thornton, Kansas Bioscience Authority  
Steve Radley, NetWork Kansas  
David Kerr, Kansas Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Stan, Ahlerich, President, Kansas Inc. discussed the structure and mission of the Kansas Economic Development Model, the Kansas Inc. Board of Directors, and the Kansas, Inc. Strategic planning process. He noted several needs: include representatives of the military and health care on the board; move from an educational model to a training model where education/learning and technology converge and are relevant to business; and encourage fluidity ([Attachment 1](#)).

Tracy Taylor, President and CEO, Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation, provided an overview of technology-based economic development in Kansas. His comments included that the Cleantech Industry Initiative provides a huge opportunity for Kansas; the KTEC Pipeline is an invaluable asset; and key is the successful blend of entrepreneurship, collaboration, innovation and technology. He mentioned venture capitalist David Wilhelm, Robert Atkinson, an economic development expert, particularly in the areas of innovation and technology, and Doug Hall, America's #1 Idea Guru, all of whom KTEC has brought to Kansas ([Attachment 2](#)).

Tom Thornton, President, CEO, Kansas Bioscience Authority, Olathe, described the creation of the Bioscience Authority, the strategy it embraces, and the growth it has fostered in only five years: notably the public and private collaborative effort to attract the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility to Kansas and many startups. He shared his vision of Kansas and bioscience by 2020: a vibrant mix of science and technology in a thriving Kansas ([Attachment 3](#)). Committee members received the Kansas Bioscience Authority's 2008 Progress Report, Focused Strategy, Big Results.

Steve Radley, Director, NetWork Kansas, Wichita, reported that NewWork has over 450 partners in Kansas to provide expertise and educational and economic resources to entrepreneurs and small businesses in rural areas. Goals include empowering communities to develop entrepreneurial environments and their own networks. Needs include: capital, perhaps expand the rural business development and entrepreneurship tax credit; leadership; technology, especially making high speed internet connectivity available to all; and continued collaboration between governmental and quasi governmental entities ([Attachment 4](#)).

David Kerr, Secretary, Kansas Department of Commerce, provided an overview of business recruitment, retention, and expansion. He recommended making strategic choices for growth by focusing on core competencies. Exports are another avenue for growth. He noted Kansas ranks among the top ten states in several assessments. He primary current and long term concern is the workforce, the need for skilled workers.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Vision 2020 Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 25, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

He provided a copy of his recent testimony in support of **SB 120**, IMPACT - Investments in Major Projects and Comprehensive Training (Attachment 5).

Chairman Sloan opened the meeting for questions from the committee. Questions were asked by Chairman Sloan and Representatives Mario Goico, Tom Hawk, Don Hineman, and Joe Seiwert.

The appropriate conferees responded. Discussions followed.

Chairman Sloan thanked the conferees for their presentations.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.