

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Monday, February 23, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Representative Susan Concannon – Excused
- Representative Brett Hildabrand – Excused
- Representative Sydney Carlin – Excused
- Representative Tom Sloan – Excused
- Representative Joe Seiwert – Excused

Committee staff present:

- Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
- Joanna Wochner, Legislative Research Department
- Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
- Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

- Jake Worcester, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture
- Nick Reinecker, Private Citizen
- Tim Nedeau, Osage County resident
- Lois Shuck, Osage County Landowner
- Robin Jennison, Secretary, Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2329 — Creating a program to research the use of industrial hemp.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, provided an explanation of **HB2329** noting that the legislation enacts the alternative crop research act, which would allow the Department of Agriculture, either alone or in consultation with a state educational institute to cultivate industrial hemp grown from certified seeds or promote the research and development of the crop. Section 3 of the bill amends the law providing criminal penalties for controlled substances ([Attachment 1](#)).

Representative Steven Johnson appeared before the Committee to provide testimony in support of **HB2329** ([Attachment 2](#)). Representative Johnson noted that the recent US farm bill removed the requirement to obtain a DEA permit for departments of agriculture and research institutions to grow industrial hemp for research purposes. This bill would make the change in Kansas law should there be an interest in and funding for research work. Representative Johnson reported that the uses of industrial hemp are many and varied, using both the stalk for fiber and the seed for foodstuffs and oil products.

Representative Johnson responded to questions from the Committee.

Representative Willie Dove appeared before the Committee to provide testimony in support of **HB2329** ([Attachment 3](#)). Representative Dove noted that industrial hemp was a growing industry in the early

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1940's before the onset of manufactured synthetic products. The Representative indicated that the uses for industrial hemp are many and could be grown across the entire state.

Representative Dove responded to questions from the Committee.

Jake Worcester, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee to provide testimony in support of **HB2329** ([Attachment 4](#)). Mr. Worcester explained that the Department supports the bill addressing industrial hemp production. Mr. Worcester noted that the most recent research available on hemp was completed in the 1940s. Mr. Worcester also noted that there is no research available relating to the amount of water needed to grow hemp.

Mr. Worcester responded to questions from the Committee.

Nick Reinecker, private citizen, presented testimony in support of **HB2329** ([Attachment 5](#)). Mr. Reinecker felt it is important to allow research on hemp as an alternative crop.

There were no other conferees to appear before the Committee.

The hearing on **HB2329** was closed.

Hearing on: HB2341 — Prioritizing options for disposal of seized wildlife.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, provided an explanation on **HB2341**, noting that the bill amends current law as it relates to the disposal of wildlife ([Attachment 6](#)). The bill would require the Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism to offer the unlawfully taken wildlife to the landowner or tenant whose property on which the wildlife was unlawfully taken before exercising the other options for disposing of the wildlife.

Proponents:

Tim Nedeau, Osage County resident, appeared in support of **HB2341** ([Attachment 7](#)) ([Attachment 8](#)). Mr. Nedeau explained how a deer poached on private property belonging to his family was kept by the Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism. Mr. Nedeau is requesting that the legislation be passed to allow the antlers from the poached deer to be return to he and his family.

Lois Shuck, Osage County landowner, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB2341** ([Attachment 9](#)). Ms. Shuck explained that she is the landowner of the property on which the deer was poached.

Mr. Nedeau and Ms. Shuck responded to questions from the Committee.

Written testimony in support of **HB2341** was received from:

Mary Burgett, Osage County Rural Landowner ([Attachment 10](#)).

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Bob Hug, Osage County Landowner ([Attachment 11](#)).

Neutrals:

There were no neutrals to appear before the Committee.

Opponents:

Robin Jennison, Secretary, Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, appeared before the Committee in opposition to **HB2341** ([Attachment 12](#)) ([Attachment 13](#)). Secretary Jennison stated the foundation of fish and wildlife management in North America is based on 7 guiding principles, first of which is that wildlife is managed in trust by wildlife agencies for the good of all, a principle that has stood the test of time since the 1800's. Secretary Jennison maintains that wildlife are not privately owned but owned by the state.

Mr. Jennison responded to questions from the Committee.

There were no other conferees to come before the Committee.

The hearing on **HB2341** was closed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for February 24, 2015.