

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Powell at 8:30am on Thursday, January 28, 2016, 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Michael O'Donnell – Excused

Committee staff present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department
Toni Beck, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Chad Depperschmidt, KS Wildlife, Park and Tourism

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Opening comments

Chairman Powell opened the meeting for Senate Natural Resources. He announced the DA400's will be sent by Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department to the committee.

Chad Depperschmidt, Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, conducted a question and answer session on Land Purchases.

Session comments:

The Cloud County Land Purchase has encouraged many questions as to the process of purchases in Kansas. The committee questioned if Wildlife, Parks and Tourism should follow state law of appraisals prior to purchase. It has been requested that a letter confirming the action of the decision appraisal process be provided to the committee for this purchase.

Payment in lieu of taxes comes from the Wildlife Fee Fund. Federal funds pay 75% of the purchase price.

A question addressing the cost of fuel on the report was questioned as to the accuracy, since fuel costs are down considerably. It was explained that number is from a two year budget plan and reflects the price at the time of the analysis prior to 2016.

A Wild Trust and management fund allows donations in various accounts for any particular park. Contributors are typically philanthropists with a certain project in mind. Management cost for the Trust is \$98,000.

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It was requested the Commodities \$900,000 budget present a breakout of line item expenses for the committee review, as well as a list of origination from Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

Locals across Kansas request to be notified of Land Purchases. Secretary Jennison commented the appraisals had been ordered for locals review and questions. At that point, Wildlife, Parks and Tourism can move forward in a purchase situation.

In 2011, Cloud County had a Land Purchase in the process that became very lengthy to complete. Concerns were addressed during that time over the issue of biased control by landowners. Kansas was not buying the ground, rather it was a Federal purchase.

Nature Conservancy ground is not available for hunters, but helpful in listing endangered species.

Individuals are buying Kansas lands not to farm, but to hunt instead. This creates a larger issue to deal with than Land Purchases.

A request has been made of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism for a list of grants from the agency for the committee review.

Neighbors leasing land for hunting purposes can present a problem to their neighboring land owner. Permission must be given to retrieve a deer that crossed into unauthorized property during a hunt.

The changing environment with hunting access provides Wildlife, Parks and Tourism no regulation to control commercial guiding on public lands. Individuals complain about commercial guides. Poaching trophy deer in Kansas is a growing problem. There is no fee to be a hunting guide for the purpose of bringing in out of state hunters.

Access issues are a concern as wildlife is swept into a private hunting area from public property for hunters. A ban on outfitters turning this sweep process into an industry would be supported by local land owners. A recommendation to the Rules and Regulations Commission for controls would be appropriate.

In summary of the guide issue, it is a losing proposition trying to regulate hunting guides for Kansas. Fishing guides on federal reservoirs are not a problem.

Discussion on the Land Purchases were concluded by Chairman Powell.

A sub-committee with Chairman Arpke, Senator Hawk and Senator Ostmeyer, will be the next scheduled meeting, Wednesday, February 3, to review **SB330-An act concerning conservation-establishing conservation reserve enhancement.**

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 am.

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