

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 P.M. on February 13, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Virginia Beamer- excused
Representative Broderick Henderson- excused
Representative Patricia Kilpatrick- excused
Representative Margaret Long- excused
Representative L. Candy Ruff- excused
Representative Shari Weber- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office
Betty Caruthers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rick Dykstra, Assistant Director of Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Kenneth Wenger, Assistant Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Milford Lake Project
Lon Floyd, Kansas State University, Assistant Athletics Director
Eric Stong, President of the Kansas Bass Chapter Federation
Representative Gatewood
Chris Tymeson, KS Department of Wildlife & Parks
Representative Oharah

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Oharah, seconded by Representative Treaster for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks & Tourism held on February 6, 2006 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers asked for any bill introductions.

Representative Miller requested the introduction of a bill to strengthen requirements pertaining to length of stay in parks. Chairman Myers asked if there were any objections to the introduction of this bill. Seeing none the bill was introduced.

Representative Oharah requested the introduction of a bill to remove some of the requirements presently required for the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks. Chairman Myers asked if there were any objections to the introduction of this bill. Seeing none the bill was introduced.

Chairman Myers recognized Rick Dykstra for a presentation on building outdoor tourism in Kansas. To begin, a video was shown highlighting various 2005 outdoor events in Kansas. Mr. Dykstra stated that Kansas competes at the highest level when it comes to the great outdoors in America and he encouraged members to think outside the box and to be creative. (Attachment 1)

Kenneth Wenger was introduced. His main message was that "partnering is smart business" when it comes to promoting outdoor tourism. (Attachment 2)

Lon Floyd was introduced. He gave an overview of the Kansas State University Cabela's Ahearn Scholarship Fishing Tournament held in 2005. The next tournament will be held April 29, 2006 at Milford Lake. This event is a prime example of what partnership is all about. (Attachment 3)

Eric Stong was introduced. He talked about the Kansas Bass Chapter Federation, the largest fishing

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 13, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

organization in Kansas, the events they hold and how they benefit Kansas. (Attachment 4)

Chairman Myers called for working **HB 2561- Appointment of Members to Wildlife & Parks Commission.**

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Gatewood to speak to the bill which was amended with a substitute bill. Representative Flaharty moved to accept the substitute for HB 2561 and change the word 5 to each. Seconded by Representative Swenson.

Motion carried.

Representative Flaharty then moved to pass the substitute for HB 2561 out of Committee favorably as amended. Seconded by Representative Grange.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers called for working of **HB 2210 - Exemption from hunter safety education requirements for certain current or former members of armed forces.**

Chairman Myers requested that Representative Oharah give a report of the subcommittee which met on this bill. The main thing which came from the subcommittee was that there is already a training course involving 4 hours on-line along with 6 hours hands on, therefore it was felt that the bill was no longer necessary. Representative Oharah moved to table HB 2210. Representative Swenson seconded.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers announced hearings coming up on February 15 on **HCR 5034 - Cheyenne Bottoms - "Migratory Bird Capital of Kansas"** and **HB 2795 - Nonapplication of pet animal act to hunting dogs.**

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 4:15.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2006.

Geary County
Convention & Visitors Bureau

House Committee on Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

February 13, 2006

Rick Dykstra
Assistant Director
Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Chairman Myers and members of the Committee, my name is Rick Dykstra and I am the Assistant Director of the Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

It is my pleasure to appear before you today, along with Mr. Kenneth Wenger of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Milford Lake Project, Mr. Lon Floyd – KSU Athletic Department and Mr. Eric Stong – President of the Kansas Bass Chapter Federation.

I'm here today to provide information on how outdoors tourism is providing economic growth in Geary County and can be duplicated in Kansas. I will not read or repeat all elements and details from my written testimony.

Before I begin, I'd like to show a short video, highlighting some of our 2005 outdoor events that brought visitors to Kansas.

VIDEO SHOWN

One year ago, the former director of Kansas Travel and Tourism stood before this very committee and stated, *"This is a critical time for travel and tourism in Kansas. Because of the changing nature of the industry and the travel market, Kansas has real potential to engage that market. Success depends upon the Kansas travel industry's ability to address the challenges facing development and marketing, and maximize the available opportunities. We have outlined the role we think the division and its partners can play. We have established our priorities."*

It did not happen! One of the main reasons, we're not speaking the language of outdoor tourism in America.

Yes.....we need to learn how to speak the language of outdoors tourism! That language must include more than hunting.

Kansas competes at the highest level when it comes to the great outdoors of America. We have outstanding camping, hiking, exploring, boating, hunting, kayaking, fishing, and on and on. Our problem, we're not speaking the language to those that are participating.

Natural By Nature

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House Committee on Wildlife, Parks
and Tourism
2/13/06
Attachment 1

Geary County
Convention & Visitors Bureau

When it comes to major outdoor consumer trade shows, you won't find Kansas outside of Kansas. Not in Colorado! Not in Nebraska! Not in Urban Amercia! No, you won't find Kansas outside of Kansas. You will though find some other Kansas groups.

I want to thank the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for taking the lead in promoting the outdoors of Kansas at some major regional outdoor trade shows. In addition, we should thank selected communities for bringing the message of our outdoors to the public. Did you notice who got left out, Kansas Travel and Tourism.

Without a doubt, it will take all of us working as a team, to make outdoor tourism grow in Kansas. I've brought a few of our tourism partners to speak to you.

I'd like to introduce Kenneth Wenger, Assistant Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Milford Lake Project.

I'd like to introduce Lon Floyd, Kansas State University, Assistant Athletics Director.

I'd like to introduce Eric Stong, President of the Kansas Bass Chapter Federation.

How do we grow outdoors tourism in Kansas...it's simple, learn the language, think out of the box and form effective partnerships.

I want encourage every member of this committee to think way out of the box when it comes to outdoors tourism in Kansas. In addition, be creative and reach out!

The tourism team in Geary County has been thinking out of the box and it has paid off. In the past three years, we have had double digit Transient Guest Tax growth. Though we can all learn from the past, let's all think about the future, a future of thinking out of the box when it comes to outdoors tourism.

An example of thinking out of the box could be to have "*Recreation pay for recreation.*"

It's a tragedy concerning our great state parks. Camping is rated as one of the highest family oriented activity for families on vacation. We all need to work together to find a solution for long-term funding. A state without vibrant state parks is a state less likely to be visited by tourist looking for outdoor recreation.

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Geary County
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Currently our state parks are in need of an estimated 2 million dollars a year. This number will only go higher in the years to come. Just imagine having a revenue stream for our parks and outdoors every year in the area of 20 million dollars.

As some of you know, my community, the City of Junction City, voted yes for a gaming complex. This complex would be built with private dollars, though owned by the state. We have heard gaming for education.....but in the case of Junction City, why not gaming for recreation. *Yes, Recreation Paying for Recreation...*

I'm excited about the future of outdoors tourism in Kansas. I'm aware that Kansas Travel and Tourism and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks are in the midst of a marketing review – for the purpose of seeing where they might better collaborate on marketing projects and develop a more effective and efficient plan for marketing our nature based assets. With Becky Blake, Director of Kansas Travel and Tourism leading the effort, we are looking forward to growing tourism in Kansas and making our outdoors known throughout our great nation.

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House Committee on Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

Kenneth Wenger
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Milford Lake

Chairman Myers and members of the committee, my name is Kenneth Wenger and I am the Park Manager at Milford Lake for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

With 16 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lakes in KS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers understands the power of partnerships.

Funding and labor resource shortages affect all levels of government and society. Partnering can avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, provide for the pooling of scarce resources, and promote coordinated, focused, and consistent mutual efforts to resolve common problems and missions in a united effort that best benefits all concerned.

I encourage Corps partnership in your community. It is often necessary that agencies work together with neighbors and local communities to achieve results.

At Milford Lake we have been partnering with our local communities in promoting the lake.

- * Sharing production costs in Lake Brochures. Over twice as many brochures printed for the same cost. This started at Milford Lake and now is being duplicated in KS.

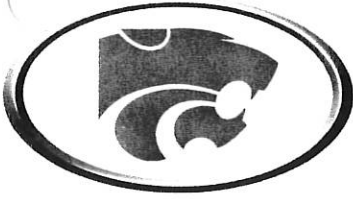
- * Glove box brochure. The local CVB recognizes the importance of the lake to their local economy.

- * Community Special Projects at the lake are a good way to get some work completed and introduce your local communities to the lake and what it has to offer. One example is the Family Fishing Project, Schools involved, private entities, city, county.

- * Fishing tournaments, big name tournaments at Milford such as Cabela's Walleye Championship, In-Fisherman PWT Championship, Cabela's KingKat Regional.

- * Riverwalk Trail and the School Creek ORV Area grants had many partners.

The bottom line is: **partnering is smart business**. Thank you.



MEMO

2/13/06

To: Chairman Myers

From: Lon Floyd
Assistant Athletic Director
Kansas State University

Re: Kansas State University Ahearn Scholarship Fishing Tournament

A. Overview of Fishing Tournament

1. Tournament format

- a. 2nd annual tournament
- b. Net proceeds to Ahearn Scholarship Fund
(2005 tournament - approx. \$18,000)
- c. Partnership with Cabela's (Sydney, Neb.) to provide
\$14,000 prize money
- d. Corporate Sponsorships have now be formed with
companies from Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri and
Colorado. (Arkansas boat company has shown interest
in sponsoring)

2. 2005 Tournament results

- a. 116 boats – 232 contestants
- b. Net proceeds approximately \$18,000

3. 2006 Tournament
 - a. Date – April 29, 2006 – Milford Lake
 - b. As of today's date 63 entries (forming 2nd flight)
 - c. Project 130 – 140 boats thus 260 – 280 contestants
 - c. Partnership example – City of Junction City offered to host with both pre-tournament site and meal.
 - d. Community support - Dick Edwards
Manhattan/Junction City – Truck lease

4. 2006 Tournament Points of Emphasis
 1. Run the most professional tournament possible to cultivate future growth
 2. Provide the most professional care possible of the fish that at caught in the catch and release format (boat live well inspection, 4 weigh in lines with holding tanks, and Cabela's professional release boat)

5. Summary – Truly a partnership effort
 - a. Wildlife and Parks staff at Milford State Park
Park Mgr. - Mike Harris
Park Officer - Tony Reitz
Fisheries Bio. - John Reinke
 - b. Ks. Fishing organizations
Ks. Bass Chapter Federation
Ks. Walleye Association
U. S. Cats
Crappie Busters
Kansas State Fishing Club
 - c. Junction City
City Manager – Rodney Barnes
 - d. Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Connie Hall and Rick Dykstra

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY WISHES TO THANK THIS COMMITTEE FOR YOUR CONTINUED GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT OF KANSAS WILDLIFE AND PARKS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO A LONG PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THE AHEARN SCHOLARSHIP FISHING TOURNAMENT.



Kansas BASS Chapter Federation
9712 Juniper Lane
Overland Park, KS 66207

February 13, 2006

Eric Stong – President

Thank you for your time to allow me to speak before you today. Kansas BASS Chapter Federation is the largest fishing organization in Kansas. The KBCF has 585 adult members and 135 youth members in 2006. The KBCF has 39 adults clubs and 4 youth clubs. These clubs hold functions year-round around the State of Kansas. They average a total of over 300 events per year with club meetings, state meetings, club tournaments, state tournaments, club conservation events, state conservation events, club youth events and state youth events.

The average KBCF club fisherman will spend \$100 per day on a club or state tournament. The club tournaments are one to two days long with an average of 20 anglers. The KBCF state tournaments are 2 days of competition with 2 days of practice for a total of a 4 day event. The state has held the year end championships in Missouri and Oklahoma the last two years because of the city that has hosted the event has helped defray expenses for the event. The usual donation to KBCF is \$2000 for a four day event. The City that pays the fee will see a return on the money of close to \$70,000 dollars for that one event.

Allow me to explain how this works for such a high return on the money invested from the city toward the KBCF Championship event. The KBCF Championship has 25 teams or 50 anglers for four days. The average spent at the event is \$100 per day times four days times the 50 anglers is \$20,000. If 25 of the 39 clubs travel to that location during the year to become familiar with the site in advance of the KBCF Championship and each club has 20 anglers times the average \$100 per day. The return from the club events is an average of \$50,000.

KBCF holds 11 state level events each year. The state events average 80 anglers. If they also average the \$100 per day expenses, you can start to see why Kansas needs to assist KBCF in holding the events in Kansas. The yearly amount spent traveling, lodging and eating for the KBCF state level events is about \$88,000 annually. That average was actually quite low for 2005 due to the price of fuel. The schedule for the 11 state level event for 2006, has 5 of the 11 being held outside the State of Kansas. The loss of revenue for Kansas for 2006 is \$40,000.00 at the state level. That is an average, not the actual expenses, which is probably higher. This amount may not seem high to you, but when that amount is times the number of years in a row the events have been held out-of-state. The amount starts to become overwhelming.

When we start adding in some of the clubs that are close to the Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas borders that may cross the state lines to hold the club tournaments, the loss of revenue for the State of Kansas starts to sky rocket. Remember, the clubs have an average of 300 events from the 39 clubs.

I ask that you consider these facts, averages and numbers in your decisions going forward. The benefits to the State of Kansas and Kansas Anglers are excellent if we can work together for 2007.

Thank you again for your time.

Eric Stong
Kansas BASS Chapter Federation – President