

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carolyn McGinn at 8:30 a.m. on January 26, 2007, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present with the exception of Senator Mark Taddiken who was excused.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Michael Hayden, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Senator Vicki Schmidt

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman McGinn told the Committee that Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant to Senator Mark Taddiken, would be taking the minutes of the meeting in the absence of Judy Holliday.

Chairman McGinn opened the hearing on **SB 38, Renaming state park no. 24 as Kaw river state park.** Chairman McGinn called on Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department, to explain the bill. Mr. Gilliland said this proposed bill had been around awhile and died last year in conference committee. This year's bill strikes the language which would designate the park as State Park 24 here in Shawnee County and renames it the Kaw River State Park.

Michael Hayden, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, testified in support of **SB 38 (Attachment 1)**. He told the Committee the House passed a bill out of Committee yesterday identical to this bill. He stood for questions.

Senator Vicki Schmidt spoke as a proponent of **SB 38**. Senator Schmidt told the Committee the Shawnee County delegation was in unanimous agreement on this bill and urged passing it out of Committee.

Chairman McGinn closed the hearing on **SB 38**.

There was discussion on the bill. Senator Ostmeyer made a motion to pass SB 38 favorably out of Committee, seconded by Senator Pyle. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

**Testimony on SB 38 Relating to Park No. 24
To
The Senate Natural Resources Committee**

**By J. Michael Hayden
Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

26 January 2007

SB 38 seeks the designation of Kaw River State Park for Park No. 24, land that was once part of the Menninger Campus. The provision of the bill would be effective on publication in the statute book. **The Department supports the provisions contained in SB 38.**

Park No. 24 adjoins the Cedar Crest property and provides an access point to the Kansas River, as well as picnic areas, hiking trails and biking trails. An existing pond is well suited to become a children's fishing pond. Because of security concerns given the close proximity to Cedar Crest, the park is limited to day-use only.

With assistance from the many partners that the Department relies upon such as Washburn University, the Kansas State Historical Society, and the City of Topeka, the Department is exploring opportunities to create a trail system that would ultimately join Cedar Crest with the History Center. In addition, the Department is exploring an opportunity that would assist the city in controlling storm runoff from areas south of the current park location and at the same time create an opportunity to promote wetland education.

Many of the benefits that would be gained from the naming and development of Park No. 24 would help meet the needs cited in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, which identifies a heavy demand for additional open space, children's fishing areas, river access, and hiking/biking trails near urban areas, particularly in the Topeka area. By helping meet these demands, the development and naming of the park would improve the quality of life for the citizens of the State of Kansas.