

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES BUDGET

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 1:30 P.M. on January 24, 2008 in Room 431-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Carl Holmes - excused  
Sharon Schwartz - excused  
Vaughn Flora - excused  
Clay Aurand - excused  
Jason Watkins - excused

Committee staff present:

Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research  
J.G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research  
Melissa Ward, Intern  
Joyce Bishop, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Kenny Wilk  
Mara Hebert, Tonganoxie Middle School  
Jolie Hebert, Tonganoxie Middle School  
Sarah Ahart, Tonganoxie Middle School  
Lauren Harell, Tonganoxie Middle School  
Tressa Walker, Tonganoxie Middle School  
Jordan Tannehill, Tonganoxie Middle School  
Berend Kooops, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks  
Denny Stoecklein, General Manager, Kansas State Fair

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Kenny Wilk presented verbal information only **HB 2158**, An act concerning a state fish. This bill had been the project of students from the Tonganoxie School District for the past three years. The bill had been sent to calendar & printing last session and had been resurrected in this committee. Although some citizens may criticize taking time to hear this bill, nothing is more important than cultivating interest in our youth for the political process.

Written & verbal testimony in support of **HB 2158** was presented as a group by the following members of Mrs. Stockman's class from Tonganoxie Middle School: Jordan Tannehill, Mara Hebert, Tressa Walker and Sarah Ahart (Attachment 1).

Representative Doug Gatewood asked the students why the catfish was not considered. The students answer was that many states have the catfish as their state fish and only Iowa has the blue gill. Also, you can use blue gill to catch catfish.

Representative John Grange asked whether it would be illegal to catch blue gill if they became the state fish.

The students said they would still be edible as they were not on the endangered list.

Representative Sydney Carlin asked if the blue gill was the same as perch and if any of the students had actually caught a blue gill.

The students all answered yes to both questions.

Chairperson Powell asked if the blue gill could be found in the river between Garden City and Dodge City.

The students did not know the answer.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget at 1:30 P.M. on January 24, 2008 in Room 235-N of the Capitol.

Representative Powell told them it was a trick question as no water runs in that river.

Written & verbal testimony in favor of **HB 2158** was presented by Berend Koops, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (Attachment 2).

Chairperson Powell asked if citizens would still be able to catch and eat blue gill if it were the state fish. Berend said they would be able to.

Chairperson Powell asked why the cottonwood tree was the state tree when it was not native to Kansas.

Representative Carlin said that no trees were native to Kansas.

Chairperson Powell asked Representative Carlin to research the cottonwood tree and report back to committee.

Representative Wilk thanked Mrs. Stockman, the student's teacher, for the fine job she is doing to educate the children.

The hearing on **HB 2158** was closed.

An agency briefing was presented by Denny Stoecklein, General Manager of the Kansas State Fair (Attachment 3).

Representative Gatewood asked if the temporary employees at the State Fair were paid less than minimum wage, and whether that was that the state or the federal level?

Denny said it was more than the state and less than the federal minimum wage level. Many of the temporary employees are retired and work because they love and believe in the Kansas State Fair.

Chairman Powell adjourned the meeting at 2:00pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2008.

**House Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Budget Committee**

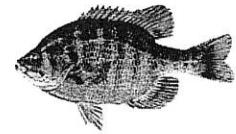
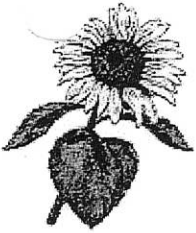
**Date** 1/24/08

Name	Representing
Kenny Wilk	House
JAY Kramer	
Sori Desch	ARCA of KS
Michelle Tannahill	Tonganoxie Middle School
K.A. Howell	Tonganoxie Middle School
Karen Stockman	Tonganoxie Elem. School
Karen Abart	Tonganoxie Middle School
Margaret Florg	" " "
Stephanie Dybert	Tonganoxie Elem. School
Sally Bonhardt	Tonganoxie Middle School
Charles Tambell	Tonganoxie Middle School
Shawn Linenbayer	Mirror newspaper of Tonganoxie
Seth Abart	Tonganoxie Middle School

**House Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Budget Committee**

Date 1/24/08

Name	Representing
Dick Lynn Nelson	Div. of Budget
Stacey Worlington	KDA
Wendy Williams	KAPA
Kent Askren	Ks Farm Bureau
Robin Jennison	Pawnee Watershed
Dave Brown	KWC
Brod Shogren	State Conservation Comm
TED J. NICHSWONGER	STATE CONSERVATION COMM.
Rod Vorhees	STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Sue Cobb	State Conservation Bureau
Mike Beam	Ks. Livestock Assn.
Mary Shurt	KWD
Lillian Wentzel	Ks. Assoc. of Conservation Dist.
Melaii Bieker	Comanche County
Jim Krueger	NRCS
Lori Jesch	PMCA of KS
Gessie Kaufman	Ks Co-op Council
Mark Heim	SCC
Mary Jane Staniewicz	KGFA
Del Dotson	City of Wichita



# House Bill 2158

## Mrs. Stockman's Students

### Angling for a State Fish

Reasons we want the Kansas Legislature to recognize an official state fish:

1. We are one of only a few states that do not have a state fish.
2. Only one other state has the bluegill as their state fish.
3. We chose the bluegill because it is commonly found in our great state.
4. It is often the first fish caught by children learning how to fish. They are easy to catch.
5. They swim in schools. We are in school. Each year, students learn about our state symbols.
6. They are easily recognizable as they frequently swim near banks and the surface of the water.
7. The colors match that of our state flag.
8. Nicknames for the bluegill include sun perch and blue sunfish. Our state is known as the sunflower state. We like the common "sun" part of the name.
9. Another nickname of the bluegill is copperhead fish. Copperheads are also found in Kansas. More common nicknames include bream and brim.

10. We are learning how to be active democratic citizens. This is great experience for when we grow up and become legal voters and community leaders.
11. We are exercising our rights as citizens to contact our representatives with our ideas.
12. We are learning much about the legislative process.
13. We want to help to contribute to Kansas history and make a lasting contribution to our state.
14. We have involved others including writing schools across the state.
15. We are using this project and learning in different academic areas. We have learned researching, writing skills. We have conducted map activities as well and created graphs.
16. Our school and community support us in our efforts.
17. We learned that students in the past suggested the state symbols of the insect, amphibian, and reptile.
18. We have worked very, very hard on this project and would like to see it be successful.

Why should the Bluegill be our state fish? It started as a simple question from my little sister, Jolie. It was two years ago. We had been studying Kansas facts during the month of January in honor of our state's birthday. She asked, "**Does Kansas have a state fish?**" I was stumped. I didn't know the answer.

I asked the person who knew everything, in my third grade opinion, Mrs. Stockman. She didn't know the answer to Jolie's question either, but she knew how we could find out. The answer to my sister's question was **no**. Kansas doesn't have a state fish. We weren't satisfied. After much research, discussion, and a classroom vote we agreed the **Bluegill** was the **perfect candidate**. We would like to share a few reasons why.

Bluegills are the most common pan fish in Kansas, and one of the most sought after game fish in the U.S.A.!

They are excellent fish to teach kids angling. You don't even have to know how to cast. Since Bluegill live in the shallow water near the bank, you can just drop your line in and catch a Bluegill. The easiest baits to use are bread or a corn kernel which is great because Kansas is famous for wheat and corn.

The Bluegill is a freshwater schooling fish that puts up a good fight for its size. They are often the first fish that a young fisherman catches.

The Bluegill also sports the colors of our state flag--blue and gold. In addition, they have something in common with our state flower the **sunflower**. The Bluegill is also known as the **Sunfish**.

We hope this simple question will be answered today. "**Yes, Jolie there is a Kansas state fish. It is the BLUEGILL.**"

**Testimony on HB 2158 regarding the Designation of the Bluegill  
as the Official Fish of the State of Kansas  
To  
The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget**

**By Berend Koops  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

**24 January 2008**

HB 2158 seeks to designate and declare the bluegill to be the official fish of the state of Kansas. The designation of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book. **The Department supports HB 2158 and its proposed designation.**

Currently, Kansas is one of six states that has not designated an official state fish. The bluegill is native to Kansas and can be found in nearly every body of water throughout the state. The bluegill is also a popular sport-fish with the anglers of Kansas, especially beginning anglers.

For your information, the State of Kansas has the following designated symbols: Tree-the Cottonwood, Bird-the Western Meadowlark, Animal-the Bison, Insect-the Honeybee, Reptile-the Ornate Box Turtle, Amphibian-the Barred Tiger Salamander and Flower-the Native Sunflower.

The Department requests that the bluegill be designated the official fish of the state of Kansas and appreciates the support of the committee in this endeavor.



## COMMITTEE CHECKLIST

1. What is the purpose of your agency?

To promote and showcase Kansas agriculture, industry and culture, create opportunity for commercial activity, and provide an educational and entertaining experience that is the pride of all Kansans.

We will treat all patrons attending the Kansas State Fair and Fairgrounds events as guests, deserving an attitude of respect and a level of service beyond that of a valued customer. We will build relationships with exhibitors, concessionaires, service providers and each other to forge synergistic business partnerships in hosting our guests. We will use our resources wisely to manage and invest in the public's physical assets and provide programs that generate revenues to support the agency.

2. How does your agency fulfill that purpose? Please provide documentation as to the progress of your programs.

The Operations Program of the Kansas State Fair has sub-programs: Administration, Fair Week Activities, Youth Programs, Competitive Exhibits, and Non-Fair Events. The principal purpose of the Operations Program is to support the Annual Kansas State Fair and the Non-Fair program. The annual Kansas State Fair generates over 90% of the total agency receipts. The Non-Fair activities generate receipts through rental of facilities and hosting events outside of the State Fair time period.

The purpose of the Maintenance Program is to maintain the total physical plant, equipment and grounds. The State Fairgrounds is utilized to present the annual Kansas State Fair and host over 290 non-fair events throughout the year. While the State Fair is considered a small agency in regard to numbers of full-time employees, it is one of the larger agencies in the State of Kansas when judged by its physical plant, equipment, and the number of annual visitors.

3. Provide copy of Agencies Strategic Plan & Strategic Plan Elements.

**Refer to FY 2009 budget submission.**

4. Listing of all carry-over balances of each account for the past 3 fiscal years.

- A. What are your plans for the money?  
 B. In listing of the accounts, separate federal, state and fee funds.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Fee Fund</u>	<u>State Fair Capital Improvements Fund</u>
FY 2007	\$196,751	\$251,602
FY 2006	\$168,702	\$368,044
FY 2005	\$159,714	\$644,311

**All carry over amounts for the state fair are fee funds.**

5. What are your new spending initiatives in this budget over past 2 years budget?

**The Kansas State Fair is in the final year of its comprehensive facilities Master Plan. This plan is aimed at correcting the decades of wear and tear at this State owned facility. In addition, it will prepare the Kansas State Fair for the next century and growing this event and its non-fair opportunities to the level it is capable of achieving.**

6. What was the dollar amount for your agency for KQM the past two fiscal years and how was the money spent irregardless of funding source?

**No dollars spend for KQM.**

7. Do you anticipate any GBA's?

**No**

8. Provide list of all Legislative Post Audit reports for past two calendar years.

**Our last Legislative Post Audit was in 2003. They are working to schedule a time to review the State Fair records this winter.**

9. Provide copy of all reports required by statute and appropriations committee provisos' to be provided annually to any legislative committee.

**There are no reports required of this agency other than those required by Accounts and Reports.**

10. Provide SGF requirements for the past 2 fiscal years and the next 2 year projection for your agency.

FY 2006	\$200,000	SGF – Revenue Transfer to State Fair Capital Improvements Fund. Approved in FY 2006 Budget.
FY 2006	\$25,000	SGF – Promotion of fair For advertising targeted Hispanic community. REQUESTED BUT NOT FUNDED.
FY 2006	\$69,030	SGF – Supplemental Grandstand Roof Repair caused by storm. Approved in FY 2007 Budget.
FY 2006	\$1,457,286	SGF – Bond Payment Approved in FY 2006 Budget
FY 2007	\$25,000	SGF – Revenue Transfer to State Fair Capital Improvements Fund. Approved in FY 2007 Budget
FY 2007	\$89,960	EDIF – Enhancements \$50,000 Marketing of Fair; \$19,960 Kansas Largest Classroom program; and \$20,000 additional premium money for competitive exhibitors. Approved in 2007 Budget.
FY 2007	\$2,375,727	SGF - Sheep/Swine Building Construction.

FY 2007	\$1,547,251	Approved in 2007 Budget. SGF – Bond Payment
FY 2007	\$95,384	Approved in 2007 Budget. EDIF – Utility Supplemental
FY 2008	\$300,000	Approved in 2008 Budget. SGF – Revenue Transfer to State Fair Capital Improvements Fund.
FY 2008	\$40,000	Approved in 2008 Budget. EDIF – Enhancement Economic Development Study.
FY 2008	\$50,000	Approved in 2008 Budget. EDIF – Marketing Enhancement Additional marketing for the Fair.
FY 2008	\$25,000	Approved in 2008 Budget. SGF – Alternative Energy Enhancement Electrical Submetering.
FY 2008	\$20,000	Approved in 2008 Budget. EDIF – Premiums Enhancement Additional premiums for exhibitors.
FY 2008	\$1,548,884	Approved in 2008 Budget. SGF – Bond Payment
FY 2009	\$300,000	Approved in 2008 Budget. ELARF – Revenue Transfer to State Fair Capital Improvements Fund. Requested and recommended in Governor's Budget.
FY 2009	\$100,000	EDIF – Marketing Enhancement Additional premiums for exhibitors. Requested and recommended in Governor's Budget.
FY 2009	\$20,000	EDIF – Premiums Enhancement Additional marketing for the Fair. Requested and recommended in Governor's Budget.
FY 2009	\$1,540,281	ELARF – Revenue Transfer to State Fair Capital Improvements Fund. Requested and recommended in Governor's Budget.
FY 2009	\$20,000	SGF – Alternative Energy – Meteorological Tower Requested and not recommended in Governor's Budget.

11. Provide detail listing of unclassified temporary positions, job description, length of work time for the temporary position, and why they should not be eliminated.

**NA - this agency does not have any unclassified temporary positions.**

12. Report outstanding litigation against your agency.

**No current litigation.**

13. List all no limit funds, carryover balances and explain why they should remain no limit funds.

Currently the Kansas State Fair has two no limit funds, the State Fair Fee Fund (5182) and the State Fair Capital Improvements Fund (5804). The State Fair Fee Fund works well as a "no limit" fund. Receipts and expenditures can vary greatly depending on the economy, weather conditions, and number of non-fair events booked for the year. Most of the grandstand entertainers are paid a guarantee plus a percentage over that guarantee. At the time we book the act, it is not known how much we will owe the entertainer, it depends on how many tickets are sold to the performance.

The State Fair Capital Improvements Fund was established in 1988 and designated "no limit". This fund is used for rehabilitation and repairs. Many of these repairs become necessary as the result of unexpected occurrences, such as damage from storms, water line breaks, utility problems, roof damage or deterioration.

Keeping these funds "no limit" makes the agency more fiscally responsible and saves time, as it eliminates the need for supplemental requests every time there is an unbudgeted expenditure.

14. List all "off budget" funds, carryover balances and explain why they should remain "off budget".

Hutchinson Community Foundation Friends of the Fair, authorized by the Legislature of the State of Kansas in 1994. This not-for-profit corporation receives, administers and invests any moneys donated, granted, or awarded from any private or public source outside the State Treasury for the general benefit of the state fair or for specific capital improvements. The donations to the foundation allow the donors to receive the tax incentives for their contributions. The monies donated to the Foundation are for specific projects and will be transferred into the State Fair Fee Fund Account to cover the expenses associated with those projects. The current balance of the account is \$230,223.

15. Provide a list of all fines collected by agency and where fines are deposited.

**This agency does not collect fines.**

16. Provide list of all contracts sublet for professional services.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Advertising/Publicity Contract	\$175,000
Ambulance/EMT	\$ 8,505
Decorations/Pipe and Drape	\$ 24,831
Electrical	\$ 56,139
Entertainment Director	\$ 28,000
Fire Alarm System	\$ 9,947
Fire Sprinkler System Inspections	\$ 7,960
Grandstand Stage Rental	\$ 19,000

Highway Patrol	\$ 10,000
Plumbing	\$ 19,934
Range Hood Inspections	\$ 1,461
Service Master (Janitorial)	\$ 20,179
Sound and Lights – Free Stage	\$ 7,000
Sound and Lights – Grandstand	\$ 31,200
Sound Systems	\$ 22,625
Trash Hauling FW	\$ 10,776
Trash Hauling – Off Season	\$ 4,925
Video Screens	\$ 25,543

17. Provide list of proviso's on previous 2 budget years and advise if still needed.

**N/A**

18. Identify increases in proposed budget for next fiscal year excluding capitol expenditures, salary and wage increases.

**With the ongoing maintenance to the facilities, the required testing of the fire alarm sprinkler systems, range hoods, etc. will continue to increase.**

19. Do you have an Information Technology Plan approved by DISC? If not, why.

**Copy Attached.**

20. Is your agency a member of any organizations? If so:

- a. What are the membership fees per year?
  - i. International Association of Fairs and Expositions - \$650
  - ii. Kansas Fairs and Festivals Association - \$50
  - iii. Midwest Fairs Association - \$350
  - iv. North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers Association – \$100
  - v. Outdoor Amusement Business Association – \$75
  - vi. National Independent Concessionaires Association - \$125
- b. How much staff time/travel does it require during the year to participate in the organizations?
  - i. The IAFE has 3-4 educational opportunities each year that can be attended by various staff.
  - ii. The Kansas Fairs and Festivals Association has an annual conference attended by 2-3 staff.
  - iii. The Midwest Fairs Association has an annual meeting attended by one staff member.
  - iv. The North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers Association has an annual meeting that is often attended by one staff member.
  - v. The Outdoor Amusement Business Association and National Independent Concessionaires Association require no staff travel time.