

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 20, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Gary Hayzlett- excused  
Representative Patricia Kilpatrick- 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:

Representative Yoder  
Jan Alderson - Teacher, Shawnee Mission South  
Jeremy Roberts - Student, Shawnee Mission South  
Jerod Reddick - Student, Shawnee Mission South  
Stephanie Waxman - Student, Shawnee Mission South  
Representative Oharah  
Representative Powell  
Secretary Mike Hayden - Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks  
Chris Mammoliti - President, American Fisheries Society  
John Strickler  
Spencer Tomb - Central Vice Chair, National Wildlife Federation  
Dan Haines - Kansas Chapter of Wildlife Society

Others attending:

See attached list.

Motion by Representative Long, seconded by Representative Oharah for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks & Tourism held on February 15, 2006 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers opened hearings on **HB 2872 - Designating little bluestem as the state grass of Kansas.**

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Yoder who introduced the project which the students of Shawnee Mission South have been working on regarding Little Blue Stem. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Myers recognized the teacher of the students, Jan Alderson. She shared some characteristics and attributes of Little Blue Stem. (Attachment 2)

Next to testify was Jeremy Roberts who pointed out that Little Blue Stem can be found all across the state. (Attachment 3)

Jerrod Reddick, next to testify, pointed out that the Little Blue Stem is essential for wildlife as it provides a source of food and shelter during the winter as well as nesting areas year round. (Attachment 4)

Stephanie Waxman testified as to the many uses of the Little Blue Stem grass such as in landscapes and rock gardens. (Attachment 5)

Questions regarding the genetic difference between Little Blue Stem and Big Blue Stem and where they are found were responded to by Spencer Tomb. Both Big Blue Stem and Little Blue Stem are found in the Flint Hills and they are both natural grasses found across the state.

Representative Mah asked if special protection is given to a named grass or just a designation. Chris Tymeson

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 20, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

with the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks responded that it is just a designation.

Chairman Myers asked for any opponents to the bill and there were none.

Chairman Myers closed hearings on **HB 2872.**

Chairman Myers opened hearings on **HB 2930 - Removing the qualifications required for the secretary of the department of wildlife and parks.**

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Oharah. He testified that “No other Secretary level position has such a detailed job description” and was wanting to give the Governor more latitude in an appointment. (Attachment 6)

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Powell. In his testimony he shared concerns that this bill ties the hands of the Governor as to the number of candidates who might be available for the position.

Chairman Myers asked for Opponents to **HB 2930.**

Chairman Myers recognized Secretary Michael Hayden who believes that the field is becoming more and more technically based and that the requirements are needed in order to continue quality leadership. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Myers recognized Chris Mammoliti for testimony. He believes having the qualifications in place enhances the respect and communication between other professional employees. (Attachment 8)

Chairman Myers recognized John Strickler who testified as to the amount of time and effort to come up with the initial qualifications statement and he feels it is broad enough to allow flexibility to the Governor. (Attachment 9)

Chairman Myers recognized Spencer Tomb who testified as to the continued importance of the education, training and experience in this area. (Attachment 10)

Chairman Myers recognized Dan Haines whose testimony stated that the current education and experience requirements are an asset to Kansas which better equips the Secretary “to ensure the diverse and valuable natural resources are protected into the future.” (Attachment 11)

Chairman Myers closed hearings on **HB 2930.**

Chairman Myers stated the Committee would work **HB 2872 - Designating little bluestem as the state grass of Kansas.** Representative Grange moved to accept **HB 2872.** Representative Long seconded.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers stated the Committee would work **HB 2795 - Nonapplication of pet animal act to hunting dogs.**

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Oharah who gave a short report then moved to table the bill. Representative Swenson seconded.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers stated the Committee would work **HB 2930 - Removing the qualifications required for the secretary of the department of wildlife and parks.**

Representative Swenson moved to table HB 2930, Representative Treaster seconded.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 20, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers stated the Committee would work **HCR 5034 - Cheyenne Bottoms - "Migratory Bird Capital of Kansas."**

Chairman Myers called attention to a written response from the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau. (Attachment 12) Chris Tymeson had requested removing the wording "a state park" and Representative Bethell had requested the wording "southwestern" to be replaced by "central." Therefore an amendment was presented with these changes. (Attachment 13) Representative Mah moved to amend the bill to change southwestern to central and remove the words a state park on line 13. Representative Grange seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Representative Mah moved to pass HCR 5034 as the original bill with the changes in wording on line 13 as just amended. Seconded by Representative Long. Chairman called for a show of hands. Eight in favor with five opposed.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers adjourned the Committee at 4:50.

Next meeting on call of Chairman.