

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 6, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Virginia Beamer- excused
Representative Gary Hayzlett- excused
Representative Margaret Long- excused
Representative L. Candy Ruff- excused
Representative Mark Treaster- 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 Doug Gatewood
Chris Tymeson, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Flaharty, seconded by Representative Holmes for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks & Tourism held on February 1, 2006 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers asked for any bill introductions by Committee members. Representative Mah requested the introduction of a bill to rename State Park #24 the C.F. Menninger State Park. Chairman Myers asked the Committee if there were any objections to the introduction of this bill. There were no objections.

Chairman Myers asked if there were any other bill introductions and there were none.

Chairman Myers announced that this Committee would not be meeting Wednesday, February 8 but that the Sub-Committee for **HB 2210** would be meeting at this Committee time.

Hearings on **HB 2561 - Appointment of Members to Wildlife & Parks Commission**, were opened.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Doug Gatewood as the proponent for the bill who discussed a possible amendment for **HB 2561**. Representative Gatewood stated that there are currently 7 members on the Commission as appointees with no required consideration given as to regions of the State. There are 5 Wildlife regions within the State and currently the southeast region is not represented. **HB 2561** would do away with all appointments and reappointments would need to be made. The term of two of the present Commission members will end June 30, 2006 and an amendment would say that the Governor shall appoint representatives from five of the Wildlife & Parks administrative regions. Representative Gatewood also stated that it could say each of the regions would be represented rather than using the number five.

Representative Myers recognized Chris Tymeson to give testimony from a neutral position. (Attachment 1) He stated that the only reason the southeast region is not presently represented on the Commission is due to an early retirement and short notice to fill the position for the term. The next available opportunity for an appointment will be July 1, 2006.

Chairman Myers closed the hearings on **HB 2561**.

Chairman Myers announced a presentation by Rick Dykstra on Building Outdoor Tourism in Kansas for Monday, February 13, and a hearing on **HCR 5034** on Wednesday, February 15.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 6, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 3:55.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2006.