

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on January 22, 2002 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Daniel Thimesch - excused

Committee staff present: Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statute's Office
Mary Ann Graham, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Clint Riley, Department Attorney, KS Dept. Wildlife and Parks, 900 SW Jackson, Ste 502, Topeka, KS 66612-1233
Mary Jane Stattelman, Administrator Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board, 816 SW Tyler, Topeka, KS 66612
Michael Hayden, Secretary, KS Department Wildlife and Parks, 900 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612
Keith Sexson, Assistant Secretary, Operations, KS Dept. Wildlife and Parks, 512 SE 25th Avenue, Pratt, KS 67124
Roger Wolfe, Fisheries and Wildlife Regional Supervisor, KS Dept. Wildlife and Parks, 3300 SW 29th, Topeka, KS 66614

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Chairperson Joann Freeborn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. She welcomed committee members and guests to the first meeting of the session. She introduced Michael Hayden, newly appointed Secretary of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

The Chairperson asked if there were any individuals wishing to introduce a bill at this time.

Representative Jerry Henry requested a bill that would remove the solid waste tonnage fee for foundry and utility waste and institutes a lower fee for industrial waste disposed of at landfill operated by the generator of the waste. (See attachment 1)

Rep. Tom Sloan made a motion the bill requested by Rep. Jerry Henry be introduced. Rep. Vaughn Flora seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Chairperson asked if there were agencies wishing to introduce bills at this time.

Clint Riley, Department Attorney, KS Dept. Wildlife and Parks requested two bills. (1) Amendment to KSA 32-930 to specify that, for the purposes of eligibility for lifetime hunting, fishing, or furharvesting licenses, a person must live at least one full year in Kansas to qualify as a Kansas resident. (2) Amendment to KSA 32-1050 to increase several of the bond amounts that may be required to ensure appearance in court when cited for certain violations of Wildlife and Parks laws. (See attachment 2)

Rep. Vaughn Flora made a motion the two bill requests by Clint Riley be introduced. Rep. Ray Merrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bill Bider, Director, Bureau Waste Management, KDHE, requested three bills. (1) A bill to allow KDHE to more accurately estimate statewide waste reduction activities for use in national state-by-state comparisons; to assess the success of state and local waste reduction programs; and to plan future waste reduction activities. (2) A bill to establish a new class of landfill for which KDHE can issue permits. These new landfills will be allowed to dispose of some wastes currently prohibited in C & D landfills provided additional standards of design and operation are satisfied, including a clay liner, leachate collection, and groundwater monitoring. (3) A bill to provide counties and regional planning authorities with clear guidance on how to revise and update currently approved solid waste plans. Most points of clarification involve regional planning activities and the differences in the roles of planning committees and county commissioners. (See attachment 3)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, Room 231-N of the Capitol
at 3:30 p.m. on January 22, 2002.

Rep. Vaughn Flora made a motion the three bills requested by Bill Bider, KDHE, be introduced. Rep. Dan Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried

The Chairperson welcomed Mary Jane Stattelman, Administrator, Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board, to the committee. She reviewed the annual report of the Board. The Kansas Agricultural Remediation Act was passed by the Kansas legislature in 2000. This act created the Kansas agricultural remediation program for the purpose of reimbursing responsible, eligible parties for remediation costs incurred after July 1, 1997. Corrective action costs incurred after September 1, 2001, shall be submitted to the Board within 2 years after incurring the costs. The remediation fund was created by assessing an annual fee on pesticide products, pesticide dealers, grain storage, fertilizer products and custom blenders. The fund is administered and managed by a seven member Governor appointed board. The Board will meet quarterly and review all applications that are received 30 days prior to the meeting date. A completed application may be eligible for reimbursement for up to 12 months after the receipt of the application by the Board administrator. Starting in the last week in October, letters containing the application form, the brochure and copies of the statutes and rules and regulations were mailed to the interested parties and those persons that are already involved in one of KDHE's remediation programs. As of December 31, 2001, the Board had received eleven applications. (See attachment 4) Committee questions and discussion followed.

Chairperson Freeborn thanked Ms. Stattelman for her presentation and welcomed Michael Hayden, Secretary of Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks to the committee. Secretary Hayden presented copies of the Kansas Deer Management Program (See attachment 5) and gave an update on deer population control efforts in Kansas. He introduced Keith Sexson, Assistant Secretary, to the committee. The white-tailed deer population has been a discussion item before this committee on several occasions. Reducing the white-tailed deer population is a goal shared by the Department, the Legislature, agricultural interest groups, and the general public. Although final statistics for 2001 are not yet available, the attached graphs depicting deer-vehicle accidents, total deer permits issued, and total deer harvest indicate that reduction measures are having a positive impact toward population control. Hunter harvest of antlerless deer remains the most effective and efficient means of controlling a deer population, and the Department intends to continue liberal deer permit availability and to focus on white-tailed antlerless deer harvest. Some of the key management actions initiated over the last five years to achieve that end are summarized and the Department is confident that management programs now in place will result in further reduction in white-tailed deer numbers. (See attachment 5) Committee discussion followed.

The Chairperson welcomed Roger Wolfe, Regional Supervisor, Fisheries and Wildlife Division, Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks. He briefed the committee on the Walk-In Hunting Area program. WIHA allows private landowners to voluntarily lease property to KDWP for public hunting. The lease terms and payment rates may vary depending on habitat, species availability, and location. The WIHA program was initiated as a pilot project in 1995 in an area around Wichita where 46 landowners signed up 10,345 acres. It was expanded statewide in 1996, and long term goal is to enroll one million acres for 2003. A chart was provided which shows the history of WIHA growth since the project was started. (See attachment 6) Committee discussion followed.

Chairperson Freeborn thanked guests for their presentations and the committee for their attention. She reviewed the committee agenda for Thursday, January 24.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2002.