

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, PARKS, & TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 P.M. on February 2, 2005 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Geraldine Flaharty- excused
Patricia Kilpatrick- excused

Committee staff present:
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office
Betty Caruthers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Christopher Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
Doug Phelps
Shawn Harding, Kansas Bowhunter's Association
Randy Hoffman
Randy Smith
Dan Rudman
Frank Meyer, Kansas Wildlife & Parks Commission

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman Myers asked if there were any bill introductions to be made. There were none.

Chairman Myers announced Monday, February 7 there would be a briefing by Chris Tymeson on potential for reconstruction and simplification of existing deer management statutes.

Hearings for proponents on **HB 2115 - Repeals the archery management units for deer**, were opened.

Chairman Myers recognized Chris Tymeson, Kansas Wildlife & Parks. Chris summarized that if **HB 2115** is passed it would repeal the present law regarding deer management units. Provisions of the bill would become effective upon publication in the Kansas Register which would need to be no later than April 21, 2005. Mr. Tymeson stated that the Department of Kansas Wildlife & Parks welcomes the opportunity to take a hard, long look at K.S.A. 32-937 and come back with some alternative proposals. Representative Ruff asked if Mr. Tymeson would be in support of the compromise to **HB 2115** which has been presented. He stated that he could not support the compromise because it would lend itself to placing Kansas in position for a lawsuit. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Myers recognized Doug Phelps from Manhattan, a resident bowhunter. Mr. Phelps spoke in favor of repealing unit archery legislation. He stated that any solution to deer issues will be resolved by increasing hunter access, not by restricting resident access. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Myers recognized Shawn Harding who spoke on behalf of the Kansas Bowhunter's Association requesting that State wide status be given back. Mr. Harding suggested changes in the language of **HB 2115**. (Attachment 3)

1. The resident bowhunter shall select a "prime unit" to hunt in the State of Kansas and then be allowed to hunt all "units" with unlimited permits.
2. The non-resident bowhunter that participates in the Kansas draw shall select a "prime unit" when applying for a Kansas tag and then be bound by that unit when hunting in the State of Kansas.

Chairman Myers recognized Randy Hoffman who presented a petition started by a group of concerned bowhunters. The petition is to leave resident archery permits statewide. (Attachment 4)

Chairman Myers recognized Randy Smith, a resident archery hunter. Mr. Smith's main request is "to start the trend back towards a positive direction and return the management decisions to the people who don't stand

CONTINUATION SHEET

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to personally profit from it.” (Attachment 5)

Chairman Myers recognized Dan Rudman whose main concern was one of management of a limited resource. Mr. Rudman believes that **HB2115** is needed “to help recover from a reactionary piece of poorly developed management legislation this past year.” (Attachment 6)

Chairman Myers recognized Frank Meyer of the Kansas Wildlife & Parks Commission. He asked the Committee to honor the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Commission’s request by passing **HB 2115**. Mr. Meyer also asks that the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks work with the Committee to devise a plan to bring everyone together rather than drive groups apart. (Attachment 7)

Written only testimony was received from Paul Babcock asking the Committee to endorse **HB2115** to repeal and abolish the mandate which requires the establishment of archery deer management units in the State of Kansas. (Attachment 8)

Hearings for proponents to **HB 2115** were closed.

Chairman Myers announced that the Committee would be working **HB 2115** on Monday, February 7 after the briefing by Chris Tymeson on how to come up with a plan for revising the deer management laws.

Chairman Myers adjourned the Committee at 4:55.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 7.