

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 Koops, 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.

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

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.

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.