

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 15, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Mitch Holmes- excused
Representative Patricia Kilpatrick- excused
Representative L. Candy Ruff- excused
Representative Shari Weber- 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 Bob Bethell
Mary Anne Stoskopf
Chris Tymeson, KS Department of Wildlife & Parks
Representative Oharah
Craig Walker
Debra Duncan, KS Animal Health Department

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Grange, seconded by Representative Oharah for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks & Tourism held on February 13, 2006 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers opened hearings on **HCR 5034 - Cheyenne Bottoms - "Migratory Bird Capital of Kansas"**.

Chairman Myers asked for proponents of the resolution.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Bethel who presented an amendment which would change the designation from Cheyenne Bottoms to Hoisington as the migratory bird capital of Kansas. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Myers recognized Mary Anne Stoskopf who testified representing the community of Hoisington. (Attachment 2) Ms. Stoskopf also presented written support of the resolution from the City Council of Hoisington as well as various businesses. (Attachment 3)

Chairman Myers recognized Chris Tymeson who gave testimony from a neutral position on the resolution. (Attachment 4) Mr. Tymeson pointed out a technical change to the amendment on line 13 to strike the words 'a state park' because presently this area is a state owned wildlife area but not a state park.

There were no opponents to testify on the resolution.

Chairman Myers closed hearings on **HCR 5034** and opened hearings on **HB 2795 - Nonapplication of pet animal act to hunting dogs.**

Chairman Myers asked for proponents of the bill.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Oharah who began by giving a short briefing on the Pet Animal Act KSA 47-1701. He presented testimony which stated that breeders and trainers of hunting dogs are entrepreneurs who cater to unique clientele: hunters, or people that use their dogs in competitive events and

CONTINUATION SHEET

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therefore take special care and pride in their animals. (Attachment 5) Craig Walker, a breeder and trainer from Bronson was in attendance and he stood for questions from the Committee. He shared a number of concerns relating to the number of regulations involved with inspections.

Written testimony only was also received from the following proponents:

Whitney Damron for Ms. Shari Woelk (Attachment 6)

Larry Whittmer (Attachment 7)

Chairman Myers asked for opponents to the bill and recognized Debra Duncan, the Director of the Animal Facilities Inspection Program for the Kansas Animal Health Department. (Attachment 8) A big concern is that the category of hunting dogs encompasses a number of different breeds therefore affecting many areas. Also, the State of Kansas has earned much respect around the country since the Kansas Pet Animal Act was enacted in 1988 and it is of concern that if this bill passes the inspections would move backwards rather than forwards.

Written testimony was also received from the following opponents:

Dr. Laura Moreland (Attachment 9)

Betty Westhoff (Attachment 10)

Chuck Westhoff (Attachment 11)

Midge Grinstead (Attachment 12)

Mary Prewitt (Attachment 13)

Chairman Myers closed hearings on **HB 2795**.

Chairman Myers announced hearings coming up Monday, February 20 on **HB 2872** and **HB 2930**.

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 4:45.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 20, 2006.