

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Karin Brownlee at 8:30 a.m. on February 01, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Kerr

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Robert Nugent, Revisor of Statutes
Lea Gerard, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Leroy Alsup, City of Coffeyville
Loren Medley, KEPCo
Mike Mabrey, S.E. Kansas
Jerry Lindberg, City of Pittsburg

Others attending: See attached list.

Mike Taylor, City of Wichita submitted reports to Committee members on the status and progress of two groundwater contamination areas. Ten years ago the City of Wichita sought changes to allow the establishment of environmental tax increment finance (TIF) for the clean-up of the two groundwater contamination areas, Downtown Wichita and the North Industrial District. Legislation required that every two years a report was to be filed on the status and progress of the two projects and submitted the first month of the legislative session to the Senate Commerce Committee and the House New Economy Committee (Attachment 1).

Senator Umbarger introduced Leroy Alsup, City Manager of Coffeyville. Members received information for the City of Coffeyville on their successes, investments and some of the issues of concern. (Attachment 2)

Mike Mabrey, Executive Director for Southeast Kansas, Inc. gave a brief summary of the objectives and needs in southeast Kansas (Attachment 3). Southeast Kansas formed an economic alliance to address the economic future of Southeast Kansas and the combination included leaders from major employers, Chambers of Commerce, education, agriculture, elected and government officials. They were formed to address five challenges that all local communities face in a new global economy: 1) to build on their strengths and unite all sectors in the community to achieve a common goal; 2) to increase business collaboration so that small enterprises can adopt the best practices; 3) develop communities that attract and welcome outside investment as well as growing local business enterprise; 4) build a workforce that is globally skilled, learning oriented, adaptable and perform at high standards; 5) develop leadership through community service.

Jerry Lindberg, Director Economic Development City of Pittsburg gave an overview of three main economic development efforts that need to be retained or broadened to enhance the quality of life in Pittsburg, Crawford County and Southeast Kansas (Attachment 4).

Loren Medley, KEPCo Business Development Coordinator gave a summary of his involvement on rural economic development for the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo) (Attachment 5).

Senator Steineger moved, seconded by Senator Brungardt that the Minutes of January 24 and 25, 2001 be approved. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2001 at 8:30 a.m.