

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, PARKS, & TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 P.M. on January 26, 2005 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Gary Hayzlett- excused
Broderick Henderson- excused
L. Candy Ruff- 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:

Christopher Tymeson, Chief Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
Dan Ward, Kansas Wildlife Federation

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Myers asked for bill introductions.

Dan Ward, Executive Director, Kansas Wildlife Federation requested the introduction of a bill to help protect our state's wildlife from poaching and illegal hunting. Mr. Ward requested to have this accepted as a committee bill.

Representative Flaharty moved for the introduction of this bill by the committee, seconded by Representative Long. Motion carried.

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association requested the introduction of a bill by the committee. Each year the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks issues a limited number of antelope permits. This bill would allow landowners with the permits to be able to transfer them to residents or non-residents. It would also give the agency the authority to put in place a transferable fee.

Representative Shultz moved for the introduction of this bill by the committee, seconded by Representative Oharah. Motion carried.

Chairman Myers recognized Chris Tymeson, Chief Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks.

Briefing

He presented an overview of the history on deer management in Kansas from 1965 to the present relating to the permitting process and archery management units.

Chairman Myers requested that copies of a resolution passed by the Wildlife & Parks Commission be provided to committee members. Chris Tymeson agreed to provide this to members. (Attachment 1)

Chris Tymeson stated that in order to stop the enactment on the present archery management law a bill would need to be passed by the House and Senate, signed by the Governor, and published in the Kansas Register by April 21, 2005.

Chairman Myers recognized Mike Hayden, Secretary of Kansas Wildlife & Parks. He asked him if this Committee determined that they wanted to see the entire deer management statute structure simplified whether that would that be possible? Secretary Hayden stated that the department would be happy to work with the Committee. Chairman Myers asked what would be needed from the Committee to direct the agency by the 2006 session to come up with a piece of Legislation meeting this criteria. Secretary Hayden stated the need

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for a paragraph in the minutes directing the agency to look at options and report back to the Committee.

Chairman Myers requested a motion to direct staff to prepare a statement to be included in the minutes.

Representative Holmes moved, Representative Mah seconded. Motion carried.

Moved by Representative Flaharty, seconded by Representative Long for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism held on January 19, 2005 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers adjourned the Committee at 4:35.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, January 31.