

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on January 29, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Valdenia Winn- excused
Broderick Henderson- excused

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ryan Hoffman, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Matt Todd, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mike Hayden, Secretary of Wild Life & Parks

The Chair introduced Secretary Mike Hayden who addressed the Committee regarding Budget Recommendations and Proposed Legislation. (Attachment 1).

Secretary Hayden said they were “very excited” by the Governor’s recommendations which include funding to provide for “Open Admissions” at Kansas’ state parks which would eliminate the current ½ vehicle entrance fee and still retain all other existing fees for camping and other services. An amount of \$1.6 million from the State General Fund is provided for this initiative.

An on-going funding for infrastructure maintenance and improvements at the state parks in the amount of \$3.0 million from the Expanded Lottery Act was another major initiative included in the Governor’s recommendations. Also provided was \$1.5 million from the Expanded Lottery Act Revenues Fund to finance flood repairs at the state parks that were incurred in 2007. In addition, Kansas Wildlife and Parks will allocate a portion of this funding to local communities to assist in their park flood repairs and develop greenways.

Included in the Secretary’s attachment were several legislative initiatives as well as tables displaying the FY 2009 recommendations for the total KDWP budget and capital improvements.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm. A joint meeting with the Senate Commerce Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2008.