

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Schwartz at 9:00 A.M. on January 23, 2007, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Representative Kevin Yoder - excused

Committee staff present:  
Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department  
J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department  
Becky Krahl, Legislative Research Department  
Aaron Klaassen, Legislative Research Department  
Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department  
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes  
Nikki Feuerborn, Chief of Staff  
Shirley Jepson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Doug Farmer, Chief of Staff, Attorney General Office  
Lee Rolff, Attorney, Department of Agriculture  
David Barfield, Water Engineer, Department of Agriculture  
Michael Hayden, Secretary, Department of Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:  
See attached list.

- Attachment 1      Testimony by Doug Farmer
- Attachment 2      Testimony by Michael Hayden

**HB 2131, HB 2132, HB 2133, HB 2148, HB 2149** and **HB 2150** are referred to Transportation and Public Safety Budget Committee.

**HB 2144** is referred to Social Services Budget Committee.

Representative Bethell moved to introduce legislation concerning an increase in the number of individuals to be cared for at HomesPlus from 8 to 12. The motion was seconded by Representative Holmes. Motion carried.

Representative Bethell moved to introduce legislation concerning the Board of Nursing and increasing the "caps" on fees. The motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

Representative Bethell moved to introduce legislation concerning the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and inspection of lodging facilities. The motion was seconded by Representative Carlin. Motion carried.

Representative Feuerborn moved to introduce legislation concerning recommendations of the 2010 Commission and funding for a mentoring program, leadership workshop and professional development. The motion was seconded by Representative Pottorff. Motion carried.

Representative Powell moved to introduce legislation relating to travel in the state aircraft. The motion was seconded by Representative Holmes. Motion carried.

Representative Tafanelli moved to introduce legislation to amend the unclaimed property act. The motion was seconded by Representative McLeland. Motion carried.

Representative Schwartz moved to introduce legislation regarding a geriatric mental health act. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Pottorff introduced her intern, Jade Martin, a student at the University of Kansas. Representative Bethell introduced his intern, Ashley Morgan, a student from the Johnson County

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Appropriations Committee at 9:00 A.M. on January 23, 2007, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

Community College.

Chair Schwartz recognized Doug Farmer, Chief of Staff, Attorney General Office, who presented an update on water litigation issues with the states of Nebraska and Colorado and tobacco settlement funds ([Attachment 1](#)). Mr. Farmer noted that both Nebraska and Colorado have overused their allocations of water under the Republican River Compact Agreement indicating that Nebraska is concerned that they are not in compliance and will not be able to fulfill their obligation to the state of Kansas. With regard to Compact compliance by Colorado, Mr. Farmer noted that the states are waiting on a final decree from the Special Master with regard to the Arkansas River Compact. Responding to a question from the Committee as to when the decree will be made, Lee Rolf, Attorney, Department of Agriculture, indicated they are hopeful to have the final decree by the end of the year.

Responding to another Committee question, David Barfield, Water Engineer, Department of Agriculture, reported that Kansas is currently in compliance with all requirements concerning water in Prairie Dog Creek although there are some long-term concerns, suggesting that some funding be directed to address these issues. Mr. Barfield noted that both Colorado and Nebraska have been out of compliance with the settlement agreement in each of the years 2003, 2004 and 2005. The agreement allows for a 5-year period to come into compliance. Accounting for 2006 is being completed at this time. Nebraska has placed a moratorium on new well drilling; however, it is felt they have not taken significant action to get Kansas their share of water.

The Committee voiced concern that there are no water conservation measures in the state of Missouri and suggested that Kansas might want to look at addressing litigation with Missouri over the use of water.

- The Committee requested information on the balance in the Strategic Contribution Fund.

The Chair recognized Michael Hayden, Secretary, Department of Wildlife and Parks, who presented an update on funding for state parks and other issues ([Attachment 2](#)). Mr. Hayden noted that the Governor's FY 2008 proposed budget provides for free admission and eliminates all fees for park admission. Following actions by the 2006 Legislature, park enrollment fees have been reduced by approximately 50 percent. The Secretary indicated that if the volume of admission tickets is reduced by 10 percent or more, it will be necessary to re-negotiate the contract with the contractor who provides the ticket service. Secretary Hayden felt that current balances in fee funds could take care of any increase in the contract negotiations resulting in no increase to the consumer.

Secretary Hayden noted that the financial effect of free admission to the parks is not known at this time; however, felt that the maintenance operations can be maintained with the current level of funding.

Responding to a question from the Committee, Secretary Hayden stated that the issue of access in the Rocky Ford area of Tuttle Creek Reservoir has been resolved with full access for fishing at this time. Riley County is working on land condemnation that will provide for additional access.

The Committee requested additional information on the following:

- Number of state park permits sold.
- Comparison chart of park visitations over the past 10 years, showing weekend versus week days if possible; number of camping sites and usage.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on January 24, 2007.

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Sharon Schwartz, Chair