

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 February 25, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Robert Olson- excused

Committee staff present:  
Emalene Correll, 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:  
Chuck Banks, State Director, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Development

The Chair introduced Chuck Banks who addressed the Committee regarding the role of USDA Rural Development in supporting community and economic development in Rural America. (Attachment 1).

Mr. Banks said that in Kansas, USDA Rural Development administered over 207 million in program funding last fiscal year and delivered \$1.3 billion in Agency program funding to Kansas over the past seven years. This is programming which will support well over \$6.5 billion in future economic development for the State.

In answer to a question regarding the number of offices their agency has across the State, Mr. Banks said there had been nine but there were now five. These are located in Manhattan, Hays, Garden City, Newton, Iola with an office in a FEMA trailer in Greensburg.

A power point presentation was given that provided information regarding the over forty programs offered by USDA Rural Development. (Attachment 2).

Mr. Banks also showed the challenges in rural Kansas such as the loss of community assets and human capital as well as the loss of additional community assets and the declining rural economic picture.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2008.