

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The joint meeting of the House Eco Devo-Tourism and the Senate Commerce Committees was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 a.m. on February 2, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking Building.

All members were present except:

- Senator Jay Emler - excused
- Senator Dick Kelsey - excused

Committee staff present:

- Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Assistant
- Mr. Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

- Mr. Stan Ahlerich, President, Kansas, Inc.
- Dr. Jerry Paytax, GSP Consulting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Others attending:

- Please see attached list.

Evaluation of Kansas Bioscience Authority

Upon calling the meeting to order, the Chair introduced Mr. Stan Ahlerich, President of Kansas who stated since this initiative touched so many people across the state they thought it best to out source this to an entity outside the State for independence and so they could have a group that basically had interacted with these types of initiatives before and also, they had a good field of what was happening in other parts of the nation with similar entities like this so that they can bring the best practices.

Having said that, he introduced Dr. Jerry Paytax, GSP Consulting Group from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania who stated that GSP Consulting was contracted by Kansas, Inc. to conduct this evaluation and is one of many unique attributes contained in the legislation that created the KBA. Highlights of their executive summary included:

- the evaluation conducted by GSP Consulting included the following:
 1. interviews with stakeholders,
 2. review of information provided by KBA as part of a Legislative Post Audit, bench marking bioscience organizations and initiatives in other states, discussion with staff,
 3. review of board materials and operational documents, and their website & publications
 4. bench marking bioscience organizations & initiative in other states
- the four categories that the evaluation and assessment fell into including: Statutory Agency, Funding Mechanism, Funding Service Recipient and Partner Organization
- the three fundamental questions at the core of their evaluation:
 1. Is the KBA adhering to its statutory obligations?
 2. Has the KBA initiated its statutorily defined programs?
 3. What have been the initial outcomes of the KBA's investments?
- the phases of the Kansas Bioscience Authority including the startup and operations phase and major findings and recommendations including:
 1. Preserving the funding mechanism
 2. Monitor the evaluation process
 3. Address communication gaps
 4. Increase R&D voucher activity

A copy of his testimony is ([Attachment 1](#)) attached and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Joint Committee of the House Eco Devo-Tourism and Senate Commerce Committees at 3:30 a.m. on February 2, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

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Chairman Gordon thanked Mr. Paytax and then asked for questions or comments from both Committees which came from Senators Holland, Faust-Goudeau, Lynn and Representatives Furtado and Schwartz including, is there anything to look at in helping us move forward? Did you focus on KBA and KTEC and is it time to reassess both organizations? (Ex. For overlap) Re: voucher activity, do you have other places to look at? Of the 928 new jobs, what percentage of Kansas holds these positions?

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting. The time was 4:20 p.m.

The next regular committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2009.