

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ralph Ostmeyer at 8:30 a.m. on February 18, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Steve Morris, Excused

Committee staff present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Laura Younker, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Dana Wethington, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Robin Jennison, Secretary-Elect, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Becky Blake, Director of Travel and Tourism, Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

SB 122 - Authorizing the director of the Kansas Water Office to grant easements on state property on the Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri rivers

Chairman Ostmeyer opened the continuation of the hearing on **SB 122**.

The Committee discussed an amendment to the bill, which included:

- clarifying the definition of "conservation project";
- deleting the definition of "interest in or along the river";
- clarifying the conservation projects for which the Director of the Kansas Water Office is authorized to negotiate and grant easements on state property; and
- further defining when notice shall be given to the county or counties, and municipality or other governmental entity when an easement is proposed

Senator Bruce made a motion, seconded by Senator Love, to amend SB 122; motion passed.

There being no further discussion Chairman Ostmeyer closed the hearing and called for final action on **SB 122**.

Senator Francisco made a motion, seconded by Senator Abrams that SB 122 as amended be passed out favorably; motion carried.

SB 124 - Concerning the Kansas Water Office; relating to water supply storage access and creating the Lower Smoky Hill water supply access program

Chairman Ostmeyer opened the hearing on **SB 124**.

The Committee discussed two amendments to the bill. The first amendment included language that states that the Board of Directors for the Access District shall have an odd number of directors and clarifies that at least one member of the Special Irrigation District shall serve as a director on the Board of Directors, if the Special Irrigation District is formed. The second amendment included a technical adjustment to the bill.

Senator Bruce made a motion, seconded by Senator Pilcher-Cook, to amend SB 124; motion passed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Natural Resources Committee at 8:30 a.m. on February 18, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Ostmeyer closed the hearing and called for final action on **SB 124**.

Senator Teichman made a motion, seconded by Senator Abrams that **SB 124** as amended be passed out favorably; motion carried.

ERO 36 – Renaming the Department of Wildlife and Parks as the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; Abolishing the Assistant Secretary of Operations position and creating an Assistant Secretary of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Boating and an Assistant Secretary of Parks and Tourism; and transferring the Division of Travel and Tourism Development at the Department of Commerce to the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Chairman Ostmeyer opened the hearing on **ERO 36**.

Robin Jennison, Secretary-Elect, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, spoke in support of the **ERO 36**. (Attachment 1) He stated the creating the Department of Wildlife, parks and Tourism would result in positive economic impact.

Becky Blake, Director of Travel and Tourism, Department of Commerce, presented testimony in support of **ERO 36**. (Attachment 2) She stated that it would allow tourism to grow strategically and cohesively.

The conferees stood for questions.

There being no further conferees, Chairman Ostmeyer closed the hearing on **ERO 36**.

Chairman Ostmeyer announced the next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.