

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 P.M. on January 25, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Patricia Kilpatrick- excused
Representative L. Candy Ruff- excused
Representative Shari Weber- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office
Betty Caruthers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Bill Otto
Chris Tymeson, KS Department of Wildlife & Parks
Timothy Bruggeman, Hunter Education Instructor
Tim Wright, Hunter Education Instructor
Ed Augustine, Hunter Education Instructor
Alan Hynek, Fort Riley

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Ohara, seconded by Representative Grange for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks & Tourism held on January 18, 2006 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers asked for any bill introductions by Committee members. Seeing none Chairman Myers recognized Representative Bethell.

Representative Bethell stated that he was bringing a House Concurrent Resolution requested by the town of Hoisington in the Northwest portion of Cheyenne Bottoms. Their desire is to be designated as the Migratory Bird Capitol of Kansas.

Chairman Myers asked if the Committee had any objections to introducing this HCR and there were none.

Chairman Myers announced future meetings of a presentation on tourism by Becky Blake on January 30, a briefing on deer management by Chris Tymeson on February 1, a hearing on **HB 2561** on February 6, and the possibility of working **HB 2210** on that date also.

Hearings on **HB 2210 - Exemption from hunter safety education requirements for certain current or former members of armed forces**, were opened.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Otto as a proponent and major sponsor of the bill. He stated that the bill would direct the Department of Wildlife & Parks to accept military basic training courses as reasonable substitutes for hunter safety courses. Representative Otto also suggested the possibility of on-line courses or hunter safety learner permits. He would like to see people encouraged to hunt rather than setting up barriers to this happening. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Myers informed the Committee of another proponent, Eddie Aldrine with the Air National Guard, who submitted testimony but was not able to attend. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Myers called for opponents to **HB 2210** and began by recognizing Chris Tymeson. Mr. Tymeson stated that hunter education has been a requirement in Kansas for more than 30 years and during that time hunting accidents have dramatically been reduced. He believes the base level of education is a primary

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reason for this safety and therefore states that the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks is opposed to the provisions contained in this bill. Mt. Tymeson stated that in Kansas there is a 6 hour on-line course available with 4 hours hands on. This is considered a crash course. (Attachment 3)

Chairman Myers recognized Tim Bruggeman who has been teaching hunter education since 2001. He stressed that in his classes hunters learn what it means to be responsible, ethical, safe hunters. In his testimony he also pointed out the hunter's code of ethics. (Attachment 4)

Chairman Myers recognized Tim Wright, a United States Navy Veteran and hunter education instructor. His main concern was the difference in what is taught between military weapons training and hunter education training. (Attachment 5)

Chairman Myers recognized Ed Augustine, a hunter education instructor since 1973. Once again, Mr. Augustine's main concern was the difference in what is taught in military weapons training versus hunter education training. He believes that hunting is safe and wants it to continue to get safer. (Attachment 6)

Chairman Myers pointed out submitted testimony by another opponent, George Petersen, a Kansas Hunter Education Area Coordinator who was not able to attend. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Myers recognized Alan Hynek from Fort Riley who testified for informational purposes only. He noted to the committee the requirement to hunt on any military land in the U.S. This requirement is that an NRA hunter safety course or equivalent is mandatory. (Attachment 8)

Chairman Myers closed the hearings on **HB 2210**.

Chairman Myers adjourned the Committee at 4:35

Next Committee is scheduled for Monday, January 30, 2006.