

Approved: 1-29-07  
Date

## 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 January 25, 2007 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

### Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research Department  
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department  
Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

### Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Harold Lane  
Secretary Mike Hayden, Ks Dept. Wildlife & Parks

### Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chair introduced Representative Lane who spoke to the Committee regarding **HB 2046**, asking that it be passed favorably out of committee. (Attachment 1).

Secretary Hayden then offered testimony in support of **HB 2046**. He spoke of the benefits of this bill saying it would help improve the quality of life for the citizens of the State of Kansas. (Attachment 2).

The Secretary then offered an overview to the Committee in regard to the work of the Department of Wildlife and Parks. (Attachment 3).

A motion was made by Representative Flaharty and seconded by Representative Tietz to pass **HB 2046** out of Committee and have place on the consent calendar. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 29, 2007.

He offered a review

DATE: 1-25-07

[illegible]

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES  
TESTIMONY  
HB 2046

OFFICE ADDRESS  
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CAPITOL BUILDING  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
(785) 296-7690

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS  
ELECTIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND  
COMMERCE BUDGET

Rep. Lana Gordon, Chairperson  
Economic Development & Tourism

Dear Madam Chair Gordon;

It is my pleasure to appear before you today in support of HB 2046. When the Shawnee county delegation met on December 11, 2006, there was a suggestion made by Senator Hensley to name Park 24 the Kaw River State Park. Secretary of Parks & Wildlife Mike Hayden spoke to our delegation and brought to our attention how many state parks are named after the body of water that is adjacent to other state parks.

I am proud that the entire nine members of the Shawnee County Delegation are sponsors of HB 2046. As some of the members who have been here in previous years are aware, the naming of Park 24 has been rather difficult with many different names proposed. But as we all know good legislation comes from compromise, and with the entire support of the Shawnee County delegation, I would encourage the committee to pass HB 2046 favorably for passage.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify as a proponent for HB 2046. I will gladly stand for questions.

Harold Lane  
State Representative  
District #58

**Economic Development & Tourism**  
Date: 1-25-07  
Attachment # 1

# KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

**Testimony on HB 2046 Relating to Park No. 24  
To  
The House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism**

**By J. Michael Hayden  
Secretary  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

**25 January 2007**

HB 2046 seeks the designation of Kaw River State Park for Park No. 24, land that was once part of the Menninger Campus. The provision of the bill would be effective on publication in the statute book. **The Department supports the provisions contained in HB 2046.**

Park No. 24 adjoins the Cedar Crest property and provides an access point to the Kansas River, as well as picnic areas, hiking trails and biking trails. An existing pond is well suited to become a children's fishing pond. Because of security concerns given the close proximity to Cedar Crest, the park is limited to day-use only.

With assistance from the many partners that the Department relies upon such as Washburn University, the Kansas State Historical Society, and the City of Topeka, the Department is exploring opportunities to create a trail system that would ultimately join Cedar Crest with the History Center. In addition, the Department is exploring an opportunity that would assist the city in controlling storm runoff from areas south of the current park location and at the same time create an opportunity to promote wetland education.

Many of the benefits that would be gained from the naming and development of Park No. 24 would help meet the needs cited in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, which identifies a heavy demand for additional open space, children's fishing areas, river access, and hiking/biking trails near urban areas, particularly in the Topeka area. By helping meet these demands, the development and naming of the park would improve the quality of life for the citizens of the State of Kansas.

**Economic Development & Tourism**

**Date:** 1-25-07

Office of the Secretary

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Testimony Regarding an Overview of Kansas State Parks

To

The House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

By J. Michael Hayden, Secretary  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

January 25, 2007

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism with an overview of the Kansas State Parks. For over 50 years, the KDWP has provided to the general public the opportunity to experience outdoor recreation at our state parks and to enjoy the natural resources the State provides. The state parks offer a wide variety of geographical, demographic, historical, archeological, biological, and recreational opportunities to the public.

The KDWP has responsibility for the operation of 24 state parks and the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail. Provided with our testimony is a booklet on the Kansas State Parks with a map indicating the location of the parks and relevant information each of the state parks. The state parks encompass approximately 35,000 land and 25,000 water acres. It should be noted that the State leases the land for the majority of the state parks from the Federal Government. Only Crawford, Meade, Scott, Park 24, and Sand Hills State Parks are actually owned by the State.

The KDWP, Parks Division, is responsible for the state parks and has 108 FTE positions assisted by seasonal and part-time staff. In addition, the Division utilizes contract service providers, volunteers, inmate crews, AmeriCorps Teams, and cooperative

work crews from the National Guard, when available. The Governor's recommended budget to operate the Parks Division for FY 2008 is \$10,301,667 of which \$6,941,908 is from the State General Fund (SGF) and \$2,533,405 is from the Park Fee Fund.

In addition, the Governor recommended an amount of \$4,365,700 for capital improvement projects at the state parks. The majority of state park facilities such as restrooms and shower houses are modern and in good condition. However, the parks still have facilities constructed approximately 40 years ago. These facilities are increasingly difficult to maintain. In addition, funds are necessary to maintain newer facilities.

For calendar year 2006, the parks received 6.1 million visits a decline from 8.0 million visits in 2002. The decline can be contributed to weather, lack of water in western reservoirs, and economic conditions including fuel prices. Another contributing factor has been the increase in park fees. The KDWP increased park fees in 2001 and 2003 to replace the decreased amounts of SGF appropriated to the Department to operate the state parks. The increases have also contributed to the decrease in park visitations. The decrease in visitation has reduced revenue to the Park Fee Fund requiring additional SGF appropriations.

For FY 2008, the Governor has several major recommendations that impact the state parks. The Governor has included an amount of \$220,000 from the SGF and 1.0 FTE to operate State Park No. 24. In addition, an amount of \$745,000 was recommended for capital improvements to develop the park. Included are funds for road improvements, river access, and a railroad crossing.

For calendar year 2007, the KDWP has implemented a reduced vehicle permit fee for access to the State Parks. The Governor had recommended elimination of the vehicle access fee

for state parks but the Legislature approved a ½ price reduction in vehicle permit fees. For calendar year 2008, the Governor has recommended funding for a program of "Open Admissions" to all state parks effective January 1, 2008. In order to finance this recommendation, an amount of \$1.6 million in SGF appropriations was included in the FY 2008 Governor's Budget Report. This amount will finance the free admissions from January 1, 2008 until June 30, 2008. An additional amount of \$1.6 million will need to be appropriated for FY 2009 to continue the program for all of calendar year 2008. The KDWP will still charge for camping permits, utility fees, and other miscellaneous fees.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the state parks with the Committee. If there are any questions, please advise. Thank you.