

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.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO ROUTE TO NEXT GUEST

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: Feb. 18, 2011

NAME	REPRESENTING
Kim Christiansen	KWO
DEREK HEW	HEW LAW FIRM
Gerry Cook	TIAK
Brian Plunk	TIAK
John A. Donley	KS Lusk Assn.
Kent Astren	KFB
Sarah Green	KDA
Paul Gravel	KDA
Leslie Kaufman	Ks Corp Council
SEAN MILLER	CAPITOL STRATEGIES
Steve Swaffar	KFB
Mike Beam	Ks LUSTK Assn.
Earl Lewis	KWO



**Testimony on ERO 36 relating to Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
To  
The Senate Committee on Natural Resources**

**By Robin Jennison  
Acting Secretary  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

**February 18, 2011**

ERO 36 seeks to move the functions of the Division of Travel and Tourism, Department of Commerce to the Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. **The Department of Wildlife and Parks supports the provisions contained in the ERO.**

Tourism plays a vital part of the economy of the State of Kansas, particularly as we recover from the last recession period that just occurred throughout the nation. It makes great practical sense to create the Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism to strategically align the tourism efforts within the State of Kansas and result in a positive economic impact for the State. We look forward to the challenge of integrating with the existing Travel and Tourism team and the opportunities this merger will create.

**The Department appreciates the support of the Committee in favorable recommendation of the ERO.**



**Testimony on Executive Reorganization Order 36  
to  
The Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
by Becky Blake  
Director of Travel & Tourism Division  
Kansas Department of Commerce  
February 18, 2011**

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. On behalf of the Department of Commerce and Division of Travel & Tourism, I'm pleased to appear today in support of ERO 36.

Kansas' tourism industry continues to play an increasingly important role in the state's economy. Over 31 million visitors spend nearly \$7.2 billion annually, generating over \$961,000 in state and tax revenue and supporting 125,000 jobs, 9.4% of total non-farm employment.

Tourism revenue for Kansas is obtained from many types of travelers. Whether it is the destination leisure visitor, group visitors (including meetings, conventions, participatory and spectator sports and reunions), day trippers, or the transient visitors that spend money while passing through the state en-route to another final destination, Kansas has a significant opportunity for revenue generation and we will continue to work with the industry to support all of these efforts.

The State of Kansas boasts a wealth of natural and private tourism assets, all of which need intensive promotion to visitors nationally and internationally. While this reorganization will provide new opportunities to expand both the marketing and product development of our nature based assets, we will

continue to focus on other important niches such as our arts & culture, historic, family friendly, and other unique attractions in both our urban and rural regions across Kansas.

We are excited that this reorganization takes us in a direction of closer realignment of our tourism assets across the state and will allow us to grow the tourism economy in a more cohesive and strategic manner.

Thank you, and I am happy to stand for questions.