

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
JOINT MEETING WITH THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Lana Gordon at 8:30 A.M. on March 6, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Jennifer Thierer, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Long, Revisor of Statutes  
Jackie Lunn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Eric Pedersen, Operations Manager, NetWork Kansas  
Ashley Cooper, Director, Greenwood County Economic Development  
Carrie Odell, entrepreneur, Fall River Grocery  
Steve Radley, Director NetWork Kansas  
Patricia Brasted, President/CEO, Wichita Technology Corporation and Founder Member/Midwest Venture Alliance

Others attending:

See attached list.

To read testimony submitted by conferees go to

[http://skyways.lib.ks.us/government/KansasSenateCommerceCommittee.](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/government/KansasSenateCommerceCommittee)

Chairperson Gordon announced that today's meeting would be a presentation by NetWork Kansas and introduced Eric Pedersen, Operations Manager for NetWork Kansas to give his testimony. Mr. Pedersen presented written copy (Attachment 1) which can be found in its entirety on the link listed above.

Upon the completion of Mr. Pedersen's testimony, he introduced Ashley Cooper, Director, Greenwood County Economic Development to give her testimony. Ms. Cooper presented written copy (Attachment 2) which can be found in its entirety on the link show above.

Upon the conclusion of Ms. Cooper's testimony, she introduced Carrie Odell, an Entrepreneur in Greenwood County; the owner/operator of the Fall River Grocery. Ms. Odell stated that in May of last year she decided River Falls needed the grocery store back that had been closed for the last year. She stated she believes because of reopening the grocery store the town has started to pull together instead of dying. She used the services of Greenwood Economic Development to help achieve her goal in getting the store reopened and would not have been able to do this without their help and guidance.

Steve Radley, Director, NetWork Kansas took the floor next to give his testimony. Mr. Radley presented written testimony (Attachment 3) which can be found in its entirety on the link listed above.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Radley's testimony he introduced Trish Brasted, President/CEO Wichita Technology Corporation to give her testimony. Ms. Brasted presented written copy (Attachment 4) which can be found in its entirety on the link listed above.

Upon the completion of Ms. Brasted's testimony Chairperson Gordon opened the floor for questions. There was a question for Ms. Odell asking if her store is profitable enough to sustain. She stated the store has started out very slowly but she believes the store will be able to sustain. The Office of Rural Opportunity was discussed and how that differed from NewWork Kansas. The Kansas Inc. plan was discussed and the fact that NetWork Kansas endorses that plan.

Due to the time, Chairperson Gordon adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with the next scheduled meeting for the Senate Commerce Committee to be March 7, 2008 at 8:30 in room 123 S.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Commerce Committee at 8:30 A.M. on March 6, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.