

HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON CITY, COUNTY, & LOCAL AFFAIRS
MEETING JOINTLY
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016

MINUTES

House and Senate Interim Committees on City, County, and Local Affairs met Tuesday, May 24, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites NWA, Ambassador D, 3303 Pinnacle Hills Parkway, Rogers, Arkansas.

Committee members present were Senators Missy Irvin, Senate Chair, Scott Flippo, Jim Hendren, Bart Hester, Bryan King, and Greg Standridge; and Representatives Betty Overbey, House Chair, Mary Bentley, Charles Blake, Jana Della Rosa, Lance Eads, David Fielding, and Justin Gonzales.

Other Legislators attending were Senators Cecile Bledsoe and Jeremy Hutchinson; and Representatives Mary Broadaway, Jim Dotson, Dan Douglas, Lanny Fite, Jeremy Gillam, Grant Hodges, Douglas House, Fredrick Love, Ron McNair, Stephen Meeks, Matthew Pitsch, James Ratliff, Sue Scott, and Dwight Tosh.

Call to Order

Representative Overbey called the meeting to order.

Opening Remarks by Senate and House Chairs – Representative Betty Overbey

Representative Overbey welcomed the legislators to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes – December 2-3, 2015 [Exhibits C, C-1]

Representative Fielding made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2 and 3, 2016 committee meetings. Senator Flippo seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Welcome by Ms. Alex Johnston, Director, Arkansas Department of Rural Services

Representative Overbey introduced Ms. Alex Johnston, Director, Arkansas Department of Rural Services. Ms. Johnston gave a brief overview of the Arkansas Rural Development Conference and highlighted various workshops and panels.

Consideration for Adoption of Senate Resolution 7 of the 2016 Fiscal Session

"ENCOURAGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE TO STUDY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS AND TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSOLIDATION OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS" by Senator Keith Ingram. Upon motion by Representative Fielding, and second by Senator Flippo, Senate Resolution 7 of the 2016 Fiscal Session was adopted.

Overview of Bikeways, Trails, and the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) Epic Trails and the Upcoming 2016 IMBA World Summit Being Held November 10-12, 2016, in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Mr. Steve Schneider, South Central Region Director, IMBA, was recognized. Mr. Schneider presented a PowerPoint titled, "International Mountain Bicycling Association." Mr. Schneider gave a brief overview of IMBA, which includes:

- 45,000 IMBA members
- 50 U.S. states
- 30 countries around the world
- 750 bicycle clubs and 206 chapters
- 250 bicycle retailers
- 150 corporate supporters

IMBA's 2015 member survey showed that 75% of members were males and 73% had a college degree or post-graduate degree with an average household income of \$95,000 or more. More than 1 in 5 Americans aged sixteen and over own a mountain bike. By the number of outings, biking is the favorite outdoor activity of American youth aged 6-17. Notably, there are 1½ times more mountain bikers than golfers in America. In addition, the voting strength of mountain bikers is significant, over 90% of riders are registered to vote.

IMBA/Arkansas is spearheading KIDS Mountain Bike Camps in an effort to provide a better quality of life, wellness initiatives, and to continue promoting a healthier outdoor natural experience. The mountain states participating include Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Montana, Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming. They contribute \$6.3 billion to the regional economy, supporting 60,000 jobs across the region, generating more than \$1 billion in annual state and federal tax revenues, and producing approximately \$4.1 billion annually in retail sales and services. Moreover, the Mountain States are home to more than 4 million bicyclists—27% of the adult population.

2,500 bikes have been placed in Northwest Arkansas schools, as well as offering school cycling courses. It is important to note that cyclists, when traveling, are interested in comfortable lodging, natural features, historic sites, great food and beverages, safe routes, plus maps to help access information. Arkansas is equipped to provide all these needs. Mr. Schneider announced the 2016 World IMBA Summit will be held in November in Bentonville, Arkansas. Plans are for the Committees to meet during the Summit.

Senator Irvin announced the Committees may schedule a meeting at a camp this summer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.