

**MINUTES OF THE  
AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE**  
Monday, May 20, 2002 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 403 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Dan Eastman, Senate Chair  
Rep. Craig W. Buttars, House Chair  
Sen. Mike Dmitrich  
Sen. Parley Hellewell  
Sen. Millie Peterson  
Rep. Eli H. Anderson  
Rep. Glenn Donnelson  
Rep. James R. Gowans  
Rep. Darin Peterson  
Rep. Peggy Wallace  
Mr. Arthur Douglas\*  
Mr. Chris Falco\*  
Dr. Bruce Godfrey\*  
Mr. Richard Nielson\*

Mr. Randy Parker\*  
Mr. Flint Richards\*  
Mr. Clark Willis\*

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Cindy Beshear  
Mr. Todd Ballard\*  
Mr. Stan Hamblin\*  
Sen. Bill Wright

**Staff Present:**

Mr. O. William Asplund, Assistant Director  
Mr. James L. Wilson, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Sandra Wissa, Legislative Secretary

\*Non-voting members

**Note:** A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary at 538-1032.

**1. Introduction of Committee Members**

Chair Buttars called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and asked the members to introduce themselves.

**2. Review of 2002 General Session H.B. 317 "Legislative Task Force Amendments"**

Mr. Wilson distributed and reviewed 2002 General Session H.B. 317 "Legislative Task Force Amendments" and explained the five duties of the Task Force. These duties and responsibilities include:

- (1) The Agricultural Sustainability Task Force shall study the following issues:
  - (a) state funding and support for agricultural research and development;
  - (b) innovative methods to market and promote Utah agricultural products, including current efforts of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to market and promote Utah agricultural products;
  - (c) Utah agriculture forecasts for the next five to ten years;
  - (d) strategies for preserving productive agricultural lands amidst urban growth, with an emphasis on market driven responses; and
  - (e) preserving grazing on public lands.
- (2) The Agricultural Sustainability Task Force shall make a final report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on or before its November interim meeting.

### **3. Presentation on "Utah Agriculture Forecasts for the next Five to Ten Years"**

Dr. Bruce Godfrey, Department of Economics, Utah State University, distributed the handout "Utah Agricultural in Transition: Lessons for the past and Insights into the Future" and made a power point presentation. He explained the changes through time of Utah's agricultural sector and listed some general conclusions regarding productivity, concentration, and specialization. This report can be found at <http://le.state.ut.us>.

### **4. Presentation on "Innovative Methods to Market and Promote Utah Agricultural Products"**

Commissioner Cary G. Peterson, Director, Department of Agriculture and Food, commended this Task Force for studying this issue. He stated that growing green crops improves the air quality of the area.

Mr. Randy Parker, Department of Agriculture and Food, distributed the handout "Utah Department of Agriculture and Food" and made a presentation on the various marketing programs of the Department.

### **5. Committee Discussion and Prioritizing of H.B. 317**

Rep. Peterson asked if there were any tax related issues that may be a detriment to the agricultural situation.

Dr. Godfrey asked if a policy statement regarding the agricultural industry would be useful.

Rep. Wallace stated that she would like to raise the public awareness of the importance of the agricultural industry and what can be done to support, sustain, and increase agricultural productivity.

Sen. Peterson asked about liability issues when farms are open to the public.

Sen. Eastman stated that his major concerns were preserving agricultural lands and grazing on public lands.

### **4. Meeting Schedule for 2002**

After discussion, Chair Buttars stated that the Task Force would be meeting on the the third Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the morning.

### **5. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Buttars adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.