

**MINUTES OF THE  
AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE**  
Monday, September 16, 2002 – 9:00 a.m. – Utah State University Botanical Gardens

**Members Present:**

Sen. Dan Eastman, Senate Chair  
Rep. Craig W. Buttars, House Chair  
Sen. Millie Peterson  
Rep. Eli H. Anderson  
Rep. Cindy Beshear  
Rep. Glenn Donnelson  
Rep. James R. Gowans  
Rep. Peggy Wallace  
Mr. Chris Falco\*  
Mr. Flint Richards\*

Rep. Darin Peterson  
Mr. Todd Ballard\*  
Mr. Arthur Douglas\*  
Dr. Bruce Godfrey\*  
Mr. Stan Hamblin\*  
Mr. Richard Nielson\*  
Mr. Randy Parker\*  
Mr. Clark Willis\*

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Mike Dmitrich  
Sen. Parley Hellewell  
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. Committee Business**

Chair Buttars called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Sen. Hellewell was excused from the meeting.

**2. Financial Responsibility for Certain Agricultural Industries**

Mr. Wilson reviewed "Statutory Provisions Requiring Financial Responsibility for Certain Agricultural Industries" as distributed prior to the meeting. He indicated that a number of questions have arisen concerning financial protections of agricultural industries.

Mr. Cary Peterson, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food, explained that the bond level is probably inadequate. He indicated that it would be beneficial to have guidelines established in statute. He stated that the suppliers should have claims in bankruptcy hearings. Commissioner Peterson highlighted that a \$100,000 limit is not adequate for large producers. He indicated that he has asked his legal counsel to draft a bill with a remedy for the concerns. He responded to questions.

Mr. Wes Quinton, Utah Farm Bureau, stated that the Bureau is studying the creation of a lien on agricultural products and placing the lien on the accounts receivable when it is sold. He indicated that a study to increase the bond level is also underway. He responded to questions.

**MOTION:** Sen. Peterson moved that staff work with the attorney general's office to draft legislation which would increase the \$100,000 bond limit.

Rep. Beshear asked Sen. Peterson to amend her motion to include language to increase the floor as well as the ceiling bond level. Sen. Peterson amended her motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Rep. Beshear moved that staff work with outside individuals to draft legislation addressing the lien law. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Utah State University Botanical Gardens**

Dr. Paul Rasmussen, Utah State University Botanical Gardens, explained the design of the Botanical Gardens and reviewed the new center. He explained that some of the work will be delayed due to unexpected costs and that the land will be used for experimental plants and vegetables. Dr. Rasmussen explained a memorial that will be funded and created by the Youth of Promise and indicated that this will help keep vandalism away.

Dr. Rasmussen explained that the farmers market, water reuse, new crops, along with various projects and research will assist agricultural sustainability in Utah.

### **4. Tours**

Chair Buttars adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m. and the Task Force toured the Botanical Gardens, Black Island Farm, and Stephen's Gourmet Coconuts.