

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM
COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, October 23, 2002 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 303 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Parley G. Hellewell, Senate Chair
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson, House Chair
Sen. Leonard M. Blackham
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. Eli H. Anderson
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. Craig W. Butters
Rep. David N. Cox
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson

Rep. Fred J. Fife III
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Darin G. Peterson
Rep. Michael R. Styler
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Absent:

Rep. Thomas Hatch

Staff Present:

Mr. Brian Allred, Research Analyst
Ms. Jeanenne B. Larson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

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, Joy Miller, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Mr. Brian Allred distributed a handout "Utah Department of Community and Economic Development - Utah Recycling Market Development Zone, Year End Report." He said the statute requires the Department of Community and Economic Development to provide an annual report to the Committee on Utah Recycling Market Development Zones.

MOTION: Rep. Gowans moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2002 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Draft Legislation "Water User Notification Amendments"

Rep. Styler discussed draft legislation "Water User Notification Amendments." He stated the legislation proposes to simplify the notification process and make it more customer friendly. He distributed an example of the format for the proposed notice.

Mr. Jerry Olds, State Engineer, indicated that the simplified public notice will state the name, common description, source of water, and the amount. There will also be a reference at the bottom of the notice indicating where detailed information can be obtained. Interested parties can obtain additional information through the Internet, a 1-800 number, or contacting Division of Water Rights staff or one of its offices. Mr. Olds stated one of the benefits of the simplified notice would be a reduction in advertising costs of 30-50 percent. It would also provide more detail and easily understood information to the public. Mr. Kyle Ashby, Advertising Manager, The Spectrum, stated that it would be detrimental to the public to limit the information that is currently in the notice. He stated he did not oppose putting information on the

Internet but said its location on the Internet should be considered. He stressed the need for involvement of a third party.

Mr. Clayton Dunn, Tooele Transcript Bulletin, pointed out that most information that is obtained is from newspapers not the Internet. It is important to make it as easy as possible for individuals to find information.

Rep. Gowans suggested information regarding the use of the water should be kept in the notice format since that is the information which concerns most people.

MOTION: Rep. Styler moved to approve draft legislation "Water User Notification Amendments," giving staff the ability to make technical changes as necessary. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Buttars absent for the vote.

3. Utah State University Extension Service

Mr. Jack Payne, Vice President and Dean, Extension (Utah State University Extension), distributed a booklet "Cooperative Extension - Practical Solutions for a Complex World." Extension is a market driven enterprise that must constantly reinvent itself to meet the rapidly changing demands of its clientele. Educational programs are delivered around four main themes which include agriculture and natural resources; 4-H and youth development; family, home, and garden; and community development. Extension has established many initiatives to address agriculture, water issues, pest management, and many other issues. Mr. Payne discussed the impact the recent budget cuts have had on the Extension.

Mr. Charles Gay, Associate Vice President, Extension, pointed out that often when budget cuts among state agencies are made, training and core issues are reduced. He said they are looking for ways to cooperate with other state agencies to increase efficiency in their programs.

4. Utah Agricultural Experiment Station

Mr. Paul Rasmussen, Director, Station (Utah Agricultural Experiment Station), distributed a handout "Putting the right pieces together to solve problems." He indicated the Station maintains 16 research farms and labs throughout the state. He discussed the different types of research they perform. He indicated that state funding allows researchers to focus on issues important to the people of the state of Utah. Mr. Rasmussen stated some of the challenges they are facing are increasing budget requests, diminished purchasing power, water quality and quantity, research greenhouses, pasture projects, genomics, agrosecurity, and statistical consultants.

Mr. Kermit Hall, President, Utah State University, said he has been studying the impact of H.B. 331 and its ability to allow out-of-state students to be a part of its agricultural programs. Out-of-state students have historically played an important role in helping to subsidize work that can be done with in-state students. He noted that investment in terms of the Extension and the Station are being undermined. He indicated that genomics is the future and Utah must keep pace with that science.

A. Utah Climate Center

Mr. Donald Jensen, Director, Center (Utah Climate Center), stated that the Center provides valuable climate data; dam safety, water use, and construction decisions; and real time and archival data. He pointed out that for the last ten years the Center has been funded by the Station. Present funding needs total \$250,000. Currently the statutory responsibility for the Center is with the UDAF (Utah Department of Agriculture and Food). Mr. Jensen said they are requesting funding support for the Center as well a statutory change in the responsibility for the Center from the UDAF to the Station.

Commissioner Cary Peterson, UDAF, stated he supported the change in statutory authority. The Center has an excellent database and it should not be necessary for the UDAF to duplicate that effort.

B. Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Thomas Baldwin, Director, Laboratory (Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory), explained that in 2001 the Laboratory performed almost 40,000 diagnostic tests. He stated the Laboratory is not accredited by the AAVLD (American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians). It is important to obtain accreditation from the AAVLD because its standards are the laboratory standards accepted throughout the United States and internationally. Dr. Baldwin commented that the Laboratory's biggest need is ongoing personnel. Facilities are also needed for the branch laboratory. An estimated \$300,000 is needed annually to adequately fund the Laboratory.

Commissioner Peterson expressed his support for accreditation of the Laboratory. He said Homeland Security Grants may be available if General Fund monies can't be appropriated at the present time.

Dr. Earl Rogers, Assistant State Veterinarian, distributed a report on the Laboratory. He explained that a branch laboratory has been maintained in Provo since 1943. As of July 1, 2003, the building will no longer be available. It is estimated that an additional one-time appropriation of \$100,000 will be needed to equip and move the facility to new quarters.

5. Report of the Utah Milk Commission Task Force

Mr. Kyle Stephens, UDAF, explained that the task force was created to review dairy pricing issues. Dairy farmers in the state have been victims of inequities created with the recent federal Milk Marketing Order reform and the directive that came from the 1996 farm bill to consolidate federal milk marketing orders across the county. He said the federal system for pricing Grade A fluid milk is a very complicated process and has had a detrimental impact on Utah dairy producers. He outlined some of the issues reviewed by the task force including Utah milk fluid utilization and distribution processes and historical perspective of milk pricing in Utah and nationally.

Mr. Greg Radmall, Executive Director, Utah Dairymen's Association, commented that the federal order was established to have orderly marketing. He said the task force has learned many things and hopes to establish a plan to provide a safety net to Utah dairymen in case the federal order is voted out.

Commissioner Peterson said Utah's congressional delegation has been very supportive of the task force and is trying to make adjustments to take away the disadvantage Utah has experienced as a result of the order. If an adjustment cannot be made, the state would like to return to the previous intermountain order which was much fairer.

MOTION: Rep. Cox moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.