

**MINUTES OF THE  
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, May 19, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W25 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Carlene M. Walker, Senate Chair  
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, House Chair  
Sen. Patrice M. Arent  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Rep. Eli H. Anderson  
Rep. Roger E. Barrus  
Rep. David N. Cox  
Rep. Scott Daniels  
Rep. Brad L. Dee  
Rep. Ann W. Hardy  
Rep. M. Susan Lawrence  
Rep. Joseph G. Murray

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Greg S Bell  
Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux  
Rep. D. Greg Buxton

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.le.utah.gov> or by contacting the committee secretary, Wendy Bangerter, at 538-1032.

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Holdaway called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Cox moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2004 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dennis Goreham, AGRC (Automated Geographic Reference Center), explained the status of the GIS Boundary Data Workgroup and Rep. Holdaway invited input from interested Committee members.

**2. Associations of Governments in State Statute and Funding Sources**

Mr. Wayne Welsh and Ms. Leslie Marks, Legislative Auditor's Office, explained their recommendation in their August 2001 audit to formalize the AOG's (Associations of Governments) role as government service providers.

Mr. John Williams, Executive Director, Five County Association of Governments, and designated spokesperson for the seven AOGs, introduced the directors of the other six AOGs. He distributed and explained an updated review of the AOGs and the services they provide to the state. He also distributed survey results indicating the perceived value of AOGs and the history of AOG's funding FY 1992-2005. He expressed the need for more stable funding for the AOGs.

Mr. Wes Curtis, State Planning Coordinator, GOPB (Governor's Office of Planning and Budget), expressed their support for AOGs. He stated the need for them to receive a stable source of funding. He reviewed benefits of having them in statute, one being an increase of oversight and monitoring.

Mr. Gordon Walker, Director, Division of Community Development, Department of Community and Economic Development, explained AOGs are the delivery mechanism for their services. His main concern is the need for accountability of the funding.

Mr. Robert Rees explained that, by statute, AOGs are political subdivisions.

Committee discussion followed.

Mr. Steve White, County Commissioner, Utah County, clarified that there is state agency oversight and explained how. He suggested exempting first and second-class counties if changes are made to the law. He stated that the county sometimes has the ability to provide services at a lower cost than the AOGs.

Mr. Curt Crosby with two sons, Sean and Gabriel, from Delta, Utah and Karmen Sanone, Salt Lake County, Aging Services, spoke to the issue.

### **3. Redevelopment Agencies Overview**

Mr. Robert H. Rees, Committee Staff Attorney, presented an overview of RDAs (Redevelopment Agencies), how they are created, how they function, and where they are located in the state.

Mr. Larry Newton, School Finance Director, State Office of Education, added information.

Committee discussion followed.

### **4. Financial Overview of Redevelopment Agencies**

Mr. Newton distributed and reviewed updated information regarding redevelopment and economic development FY 1993 - 2003, a history of tax increment funds taken by RDAs, and a list of RDAs currently existing in Utah.

Mr. Richard McConkie, President, Utah Redevelopment Association, discussed the Redevelopment Agency Act as an important tool used by municipalities. He stated that RDA projects are important to communities.

Mr. Mike Jerman, Vice-President, Utah Tax Payers Association, spoke in opposition of tax dollars being used to develop projects that would occur even without the RDA. He also expressed concern for the growing rate of RDA diversion of property tax money.

Ms. Sarah Wilhelm, Utah Issues; Mr. Keith Snarr, Murray City; Mr. Brent Gardner, Utah Association of Counties; and Mr. Curt Crosby, Delta, spoke to the issue of RDAs.

### **5. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Murray moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Arent, Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Anderson, Rep. Cox, Rep. Hardy, and Rep. Lawrence absent for the vote.

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Chair Holdaway adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.