

**MINUTES OF THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, May 20, 2015 – 2:30 p.m. – Room 20 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Aaron Osmond, Senate Chair  
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards, House Chair  
Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa  
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson  
Rep. Patrice M. Arent  
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck  
Rep. Sophia M. DiCaro  
Rep. Keith Grover  
Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes  
Rep. Bradley G. Last  
Sen. Karen Mayne  
Rep. Val L. Peterson  
Rep. Scott D. Sandall  
Rep. Robert M. Spendlove  
Rep. John R. Westwood

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Ann Millner  
Rep. Brad R. Wilson

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Peter Asplund, Associate General  
Counsel  
Ms. Debra Hale, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Osmond called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. Sen. Millner was excused from the meeting.

**MOTION:** Rep. Westwood moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2014, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Mayne, Sen. Stevenson, Rep. Last, and Rep. Peterson were absent for the vote.

**2. Economic Development and Workforce Services 2015 Legislation – Update**

Mr. Asplund reviewed committee-related bills that passed during the 2015 General Session.

**3. Discussion of Long-Term Planning in Heritage and Arts, Workforce Services, and Economic Development**

Referring to a visual presentation, Mr. Christensen briefed the committee on Legislative Rule [IR2-2-103](#), which requires each interim committee to devote part of its May meeting to long-term planning for the policy areas over which the committee has jurisdiction. He addressed population changes and growth patterns and said that the state's population is growing fast, concentrating on the Wasatch Front, and diversifying rapidly. Mr. Christensen then identified the long-term issues and challenges this will create and stressed the need for an action plan to address them.

Ms. Julie Fisher, Director, Department of Heritage and Arts, introduced Mr. Geoffrey Fattah, Communications Director, Department of Heritage and Arts. They referred to a visual presentation that addressed the vision and mission statements of the department and identified strategic pillars to address its long-term issues: 1) collaboration, 2) education, 3) stewardship, and 4) innovation. They concluded with an audio/visual presentation "2014 MYLS Highlights" of the 3rd Annual Multicultural Youth

Leadership Summit (MYLS), a one-day conference that brings together students, educators, parents, community leaders, state government, and other organizations from across the state. The presentation illustrated the goal of the MYLS to provide participants with an inspiring experience to stimulate educational success and help shape the leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Greg Paras, Deputy Director, Department of Workforce Services, displayed slides describing the primary research objectives of the department regarding: 1) underemployment, 2) hard-to-fill jobs, and 3) prevention long-term unemployment. He discussed the action the department has taken to remedy these concerns.

Mr. Tyson Smith, Regional Economist, Department of Workforce Services, continued with the visual presentation by reporting on data collected from employers on occupations considered difficult to fill. He noted that businesses cited a lack of applicants as the number one reason for this problem, followed by a lack of job-specific knowledge, skills, and abilities, and a lack of work experience.

Ms. Michelle Beebee, Director, Unemployment Insurance Division, Department of Workforce Services, continued with the presentation by describing resources and tools the division is using to assist individuals to return to employment.

Mr. Val Hale, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development, reviewed a visual presentation "GOED Long-Term Planning and Strategy." He addressed the vision and mission of the office and detailed long-term planning for each of the programs the Legislature has given the office to manage, including: 1) tourism; 2) corporate recruitment and international trade; 3) urban and rural business services; and 4) related programs.

Mr. Benjamin Hart, Managing Director, Urban and Rural Business Services, Governor's Office of Economic Development, acknowledged that the office has been proactively seeking under-represented communities to make them aware of the programs that are available.

#### **4. Air Quality and Utah Economic Development**

Mr. Christensen distributed "Open and Public Meetings Act" and invited committee members to seek assistance needed from the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to comply with these provisions.

He addressed a handout "Economic Development Task Force – 2013 Final Report, Policy Findings, and Recommendations – with 2015 Status Updates." He reviewed recommendations for air quality and provided an implementation status update from Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, Utah Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Christensen quoted the report: "poor air quality is a threat to the state's economic development and continued growth." As shown in a handout "Utah Clean Air Legislation – Passed in 2014 and 2015," Mr. Christensen pointed out that 16 bills related to air quality have been passed by the Legislature in the last two years. He concluded that the task force strongly recommends that improvement of air quality be a priority to attract economic development.

Mr. Bird referred to a visual presentation "Utah's Air Quality Program," which discussed:

- 1) days and areas when some counties in Utah exceed current federal health standards for air quality;
- 2) strides made for improvement;
- 3) new federal air quality standards;
- 4) sources of air pollution;

- 5) control strategies developed through an 18-month stakeholder process;
- 6) air quality partnerships;
- 7) incentives, research, standards, and long-term strategies; and
- 8) greenhouse gas regulations.

Mr. Bird also distributed "Utah Division of Air Quality – 2014 Annual Report," which provides an overview of Utah's air quality.

Mr. Robert J. Grow, President and CEO, Envision Utah, referring to a visual presentation "Your Future," noted that Utah's population will nearly double in size by the year 2050 and will result in an increase in air quality challenges. He stressed the impact air quality has on health and reviewed the importance of the kinds of cars, fuel, frequency of driving vs. other methods of transportation, and energy efficiency of Utah homes and businesses.

Mr. Jeff Edwards, President and CEO, Economic Development Corporation of Utah (edcUtah), referring to a handout and visual presentation "Air Quality & Economic Development in Utah," discussed important site selection criteria, air quality impacts on economic development and where companies and individuals locate, and aspects and successes of edcUtah's plan.

Mr. Stephen Sands, Chair, Board of Directors, Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR), displayed a visual presentation "UCAIR – Utah Clean Air Partnership" and "#Show UCAIR – 2014-2015 Inversion Campaign" and reviewed UCAIR's history and mission; partnerships, projects, and grants; attempts to educate the public on air quality; changes made and success as a result of public relations efforts; and lessons learned. He suggested providing an incentive for clean businesses through an air quality bonus.

Mr. Ryan Evans, Vice President, Business and Community Relations, Salt Lake Chamber, thanked the Legislature for its efforts in the last several years to protect and grow the state's economy through air quality and for building air quality in as a function and focus of its legislative economic development work plan. He stated the importance and impact of air quality on corporate relocation, tourism, quality of life, population growth, transportation planning, health care costs, and regulatory burdens on business.

Mr. Evans reviewed suggested opportunities for the committee to continue working on cleaner vehicles in the fleet, alternative fuel fleet, refueling stations, energy-efficient homes and buildings, and transit ridership.

Ms. Linda Johnson, member, Clean Air Action Team, congratulated the presenters for such pertinent addresses regarding air quality and expressed appreciation to the committee for addressing this important issue. She reiterated the concern of building more energy efficient homes and buildings.

## **5. Other Items/Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Westwood moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Stevenson, Rep. Grover, Rep. Hawkes, Rep. Last, Rep. Peterson, and Rep. Spendlove were absent for the vote.

Chair Osmond adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.