

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
February 9, 2001
Room 305, State Capitol**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Parley Hellewell, Co-Chair
Rep. Michael R. Styler, Co-Chair
Sen. Ron Allen
Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. Craig W. Buttars
Rep. Carl W. Duckworth
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Fred J. Fife III
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Brent D. Parker
Rep. Darin G. Peterson

STAFF PRESENT: Steven Allred, Fiscal Analyst
Vanean Bitton, Committee Secretary

VISITORS: Attached to and made a part of these minutes

Rep. Michael R. Styler called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Parker moved to approve the minutes of the February 5 and February 7, 2001 meetings. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright, Rep. Duckworth, and Rep. Ferry absent for the vote.

H.B. 338, Appropriation for Utah Blue Ribbon Fisheries Initiative (*T. Hatch*)

Rep. Hatch requested a one-time appropriation of \$500,000 from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 to the Division of Wildlife Resources for the development and preservation of high quality aquatic systems to produce healthy fish populations for angling and aesthetic experiences.

MOTION: Rep. Johnson moved that the committee support H.B. 338 before the Executive Appropriations Subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

Appropriation Request for Big Game Conservation Fund

Mr. Don Peay, Executive Director of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, requested an appropriation between \$2 million and \$5 million from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 to the Division of Wildlife Resources for a Big Game Conservation Fund. This fund would receive matching private money from Utah-based sportsmen/wildlife conservation organizations and/or private Utah landowners for the purpose of obtaining conservation easements, acquiring school and institutional trust lands, and completing habitat enhancement projects.

MOTION: Sen. Hellewell moved that the committee support funding for Big Game Conservation before the Executive Appropriations Subcommittee. The motion passed with Rep. Ferry voting in opposition.

S.B. 66 Animal Feeding Operation Grants (*L. Blackham*)

Sen. Blackham presented this bill that appropriates, as an ongoing appropriation, \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Food for Fiscal Year 2002 for grants to owners/operators of animal feeding operations. Cary Peterson, Commissioner of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, answered questions from the committee. Sen. Blackham asked the committee for its support.

Mr. Allred presented **FY 2001 Supplemental Budget Recommendations**. The total recommendation is \$384,900 with (\$17,800) from the General Fund. Mr. Allred also recommends prioritization of an additional \$5,500,000 in General Funds for wildland fire fighting.

Mr. Allred also recommended the following supplemental intent language:

It is the intent of the Legislature that any excess monies from the \$5,500,000 FY 2001 supplemental appropriation for wildland fire suppression be deposited in the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund created in UCA 65A-8-6.1.

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Agriculture and Food transfer any lapsing unrestricted balances from FY 2001 appropriations to the FY 2001 Grain Inspection Program.

MOTION: Rep. Gowans moved to approve the recommended FY 2001 supplemental appropriation changes, including associated intent language. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Rep. Fife moved to approve additional one-time General Funds for the following:

• Wildland Fire Fighting:	\$5,500,000
• Information Technology FTE:	50,000
• Field Automation and Information Mgt:	18,600
• Veterinary Diagnostic Lab O&M:	68,000
• Meat Inspector FTE:	19,100
• Water Rights Advertising:	40,000
• Reimbursement for Free Fishing Licenses:	<u>29,600</u>
Total:	\$5,725,300

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Rep. Buttars moved to approve additional one-time General Funds of \$50,000 for herd testing to control Johne's Disease with the balance of needed funding coming from Agriculture's Research Program. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Allen absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Styler moved that the committee reconsider funding for Johne's Disease. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Allen absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Buttars moved to approve additional one-time General Funds for the following:

• Ag in the Classroom:	\$69,700
• Herd Testing for Johne's Disease:	40,000
• Cedar Mountain Science Center:	50,000
• High School Rodeo Competitors:	20,000
• Engineer for Soil Conservation Districts:	55,000
• Water Quality Protection:	<u>40,000</u>
Total:	\$274,700

The motion passed with Rep. Ferry, Rep. Parker, and Rep Peterson voting in opposition and Sen. Allen absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Peterson moved to accept supplemental changes to the Division of Wildlife Resources fees as follows:

- Create new Resident Antlerless Elk: \$60
- Create new nonresident Antlerless Elk: \$208
- Change Resident Control Elk from \$60 to \$20
- Change nonresident Control Elk from \$208 to \$83

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Allen absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Ferry moved to approve the following intent language for Natural Resources Administration:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Natural Resources and the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration join together in reaching a Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum should detail areas of mutual benefit arising from resolution of conflicts in respective mission statements and statutory requirements. The Memorandum should also detail conflict of mission statement and statutory requirements that cannot be resolved by mutual agreement. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be jointly presented to the Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee or the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on or before October 2001.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Allen absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Parker moved to approve the following intent language for Natural Resources Administration:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Natural Resources organize, staff, and conduct a task force to study water rights issues and report back to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on or before their October 2001 meeting. The Water Development Commission shall be kept apprised

of the progress of the task force.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Allen absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Peterson moved to approve the following intent language for the Division of Wildlife Resources:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Division of Wildlife Resources emphasize as much as possible the revenue-generating activities within its mission.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Allen absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Parker moved for final approval for all budgets which the subcommittee oversees. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Allen absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Johnson moved that the Subcommittee Chairs seek additional funding, particularly ongoing funding, for those items on the priority list which the subcommittee could not fund. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Sen. Hellewell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Rep. Styler adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Rep. Michael R. Styler, Co-Chairman

Sen. Parley Hellewell, Co-Chairman