

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 25 House Office Building

January 29, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chair
Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-Chair
Rep. Mike McKell, House Vice Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Jerry Anderson
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Brian Greene
Rep. Ken Ivory
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Lee B. Perry
Rep. Jon Stanard
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. John L. Valentine

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Margaret Dayton

STAFF: Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Angela Oh, Economist
Ms. Linda Service, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Chair David Hinkins called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Sen. Hinkins welcomed the members of the committee and asked each to introduce themselves.

2. SUBCOMMITTEE INFORMATION

Ms. Angela Oh presented an overview of the Compendium of Budget Information (COBI) which provides historic and detailed budget information at a program level. She instructed committee members on the process to access this and other pertinent information. All materials are available on line by going to the committee on the Legislature home page.

Mr. Ivan Djambov introduced Issue Brief, "Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee, Overview." The purpose of this document is to provide a general understanding of the budget for the following agencies: Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Department of Environmental Quality, Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, and Office of Energy Development. Unless there is a shortfall, the ongoing appropriations from the current

fiscal year become the agencies' base budgets for the next fiscal year. The Analyst reviewed the following charts: "Agencies' Budgets Over Time," "Major Funding Sources for the Subcommittee," "Restricted Funds," "Federal Funds," "General Fund," and "Dedicated Credits." He commented on "Fund Balances of the Restricted Accounts at the End of FY 2012," "Agencies' Expenditures," "Full Time Equivalent," "Operating and Capital Budgets," "Business-like Activities," "Transfers to Restricted Funds and Accounts," and "Transfers to Free Revenue."

After commenting on Issue Brief, "Report on Implementation of Past Legislative Intent Language," Mr. Djambov discussed Issue Brief "Legislative Intent Language," which is a summary of all the legislative intent language requested by the agencies. He briefly reviewed the document "Funding Requests for the 2013 General Session," a summary of what was requested by the agencies, what was recommended by the Governor, and the recommendations of the Legislative Analyst.

3. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Djambov presented Budget Brief, "DNR Administration." The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Administration line item develops, implements, and coordinates the management of Utah's natural resources. The Analyst recommends an FY 2014 budget of \$3,183,700. There is a request for two pieces of intent language. The three top measures chosen by the division management to gauge the success of the line item are: out-of-state travel, employee-to-manager ratio, and funding.

The Analyst discussed the following: (1) "DNR Administration, Budget Details Over Time," a document to demonstrate trends from FY 2008 to FY 2012; (2) Budget Briefs, "DNR Internal Service Fund," "Watershed Restoration Program," "Species Protection Program," and "DNR Building Operations," and (3) Issue Brief, "Natural Resources - Federal Funds."

Agency Presentation

Mr. Mike Styler, Director, Department of Natural Resources, introduced division directors and staff and discussed a handout detailing the mission, accomplishments, issues and challenges, and plan of action for the coming year. With the assistance of Mr. Rory Reynolds, Assistant Director, Wildlife Resources, and Mr. Alan Clark, Watershed Coordinator, Director Styler highlighted the Great Basin Research Center in Ephraim, Utah, a seed storage and processing facility. Mr. Clark was invited to comment on the fire mitigation and watershed restoration programs. They subsequently responded to questions.

4. DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

Mr. Djambov reviewed Budget Brief, "Division of Water Rights." The Division of Water Rights is administered by State Engineer, Kent Jones, and is responsible for the measurement, appropriation, apportionment, and distribution of water in Utah. The staff oversees dam safety, stream channel alterations and water well drilling. The total budget proposed for FY 2014 is \$9,179,200. The three top measures chosen by the division management to gauge the success of

its programs are: proof and elections backlog, report of conveyances backlog, and processing time. The Analyst commented on documents, "Division of Water Rights, Budget Details Over Time" and Issue Brief, "Water Rights Fees." There have been no requests for changes in fees. He then responded to questions.

Agency Presentation

Mr. Kent Jones, State Engineer and Director, assisted by Mr. Boyd Clayton, Deputy Director, distributed a handout detailing primary services, primary customers, activities, and issues and challenges of the Division. The mission of the Division of Water Rights is to promote order, certainty, and safety in the beneficial use of Utah's water. Director Jones touched upon ways in which the Division has been accomplishing their mission.

MOTION: Rep. Wiley moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Sen. David Hinkins, Co-chair

Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-chair