

**MINUTES OF THE
FEDERAL FUNDS COMMISSION**

Tuesday, July 16, 2013 – 8:00 a.m. – Room 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Deidre M. Henderson, Chair
Rep. Ken Ivory, Vice Chair
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Daniel McCay
Mr. Evan Curtis
Mr. Richard Davis
Mr. Dan Griffiths
Mr. Roger Jones

Ms. Susan Speirs

Members Absent:

Mr. Robert Spendlove

Staff Present:

Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst
Ms. Shannon C. Halverson, Associate General
Counsel
Ms. Sara J. Thomas, Legislative Secretary

Mr. John Reidhead

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.

1. Commission Business

Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Valentine moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Briscoe, Rep. McCay, and Mr. Griffiths were absent for the vote.

2. Commission Working Groups

Ms. Speirs discussed forming several working groups under the direction of the commission to focus on specific areas and outlined the goals of these working groups. She suggested criteria for each working group to evaluate risk in their respective areas.

The commission discussed prioritizing a few key areas to focus on.

Mr. Dean explained the difference between subcommittees and working groups. He highlighted typical procedures and requirements for each. The commission deliberated on which option would best suit its purposes.

MOTION: Sen. Valentine moved that the commission create four working groups that will focus on local government, education, health and human services, and public safety and corrections. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. McCay and Mr. Griffiths were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Sen. Valentine moved that legislators on the commission chair the working groups. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. McCay and Mr. Griffiths were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Sen. Valentine moved that Rep. Ivory chair the local government working group, Rep. Briscoe chair the education working group, Sen. Jones chair the health and human services working group, and Sen. Valentine chair the public safety and corrections working group. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. McCay and Mr. Griffiths were absent for the vote.

The commission discussed how to determine the membership of each working group and what procedures, benchmarks, and questions would be used to guide the work of each group.

MOTION: Mr. Davis moved that the commission create a risk assessment working group to be chaired by Rep. Ivory. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Valentine and Mr. Griffiths were absent for the vote.

3. Dealing with a Reduction in Federal Funds

Drawing from his experiences as a city manager, Mr. Davis discussed the reduction of federal funds in municipalities. He emphasized the need to diversify sources of revenue for state and local governments. Mr. Davis responded to questions from other members of the commission.

4. Federal Funding Related to Natural Resources and Public Lands in Utah

Mr. Richard Buehler, Director, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands presented information to the commission on the role that federal resources have in wildfire suppression and mitigation. He updated the commission on the status of the fire season this year and explained the need for fire in the ecosystem. Following his presentation, Mr. Buehler responded to questions from the commission.

Mr. Dean distributed information concerning the federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes program and federal mineral royalty disbursements and responded to questions from the commission.

5. Other Items/Adjourn

Chair Henderson reminded the commission that it needs to report to the Government Operations Interim Committee by November 30, 2013, and again by November 30, 2014. She requested that the chair of each working group deliver a report of each group's activities to the commission at its next meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Briscoe moved that the next meeting of the commission be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2013. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Valentine was absent for the vote.

MOTION: Mr. Reidhead moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Valentine was absent for the vote.

Chair Henderson adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.