

Report to Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
September 10, 2013

# Department of Agriculture – Budget Issues Follow-up

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# Utah Conservation Commission

- The Utah Conservation Commission is established in UCA 4-18-4.
- There are 7 members who provide district representation.
- Today those members are Zone Leaders and also sit on the Utah Association of Conservation District Board
- Gives a majority of votes to UACD

# Recommendations

- Commissioner of Agriculture find ways to revitalize UCC and make it more relevant.

# Performance Measures

- Resource Assessment – [www.uacd.org](http://www.uacd.org)
- Identification of water conservation/irrigation improvements
- Expansion of agricultural production capacity
- Development of one watershed in each zone
- Identification of land ownership in select areas
- Creation of a Natural Resource contact list
- Outline a process and cost of a Coordinated Resource Management Plan
- Seek funding opportunities for projects and plans

# Recommendations

- Commissioner of Agriculture find ways to revitalize UCC and make it more relevant.
- Funding to districts should be based on outcomes

# UACD Reserve Balance

- Increase in Balance - 2006-2011

■ Unreserved/unassigned account	\$466,679
■ Restricted account	96,696

**Cumulative Total**

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**\$563,375**

- Reserve balance was \$1,291,989 in 2006
- Reserve balance was \$1,855,364 in 2011
  - 44% increase over 5 years

# Spend down of account

- FY 2013\*
  - Spent \$150,000 in reserve for employee expenses.
  - Additional \$450,000/yr is requested to maintain current employee level.

\* Information was provided by UACD, year end audit was requested but not provided by prior to presentation. Therefore, independent verification was not obtained and not being recommended.

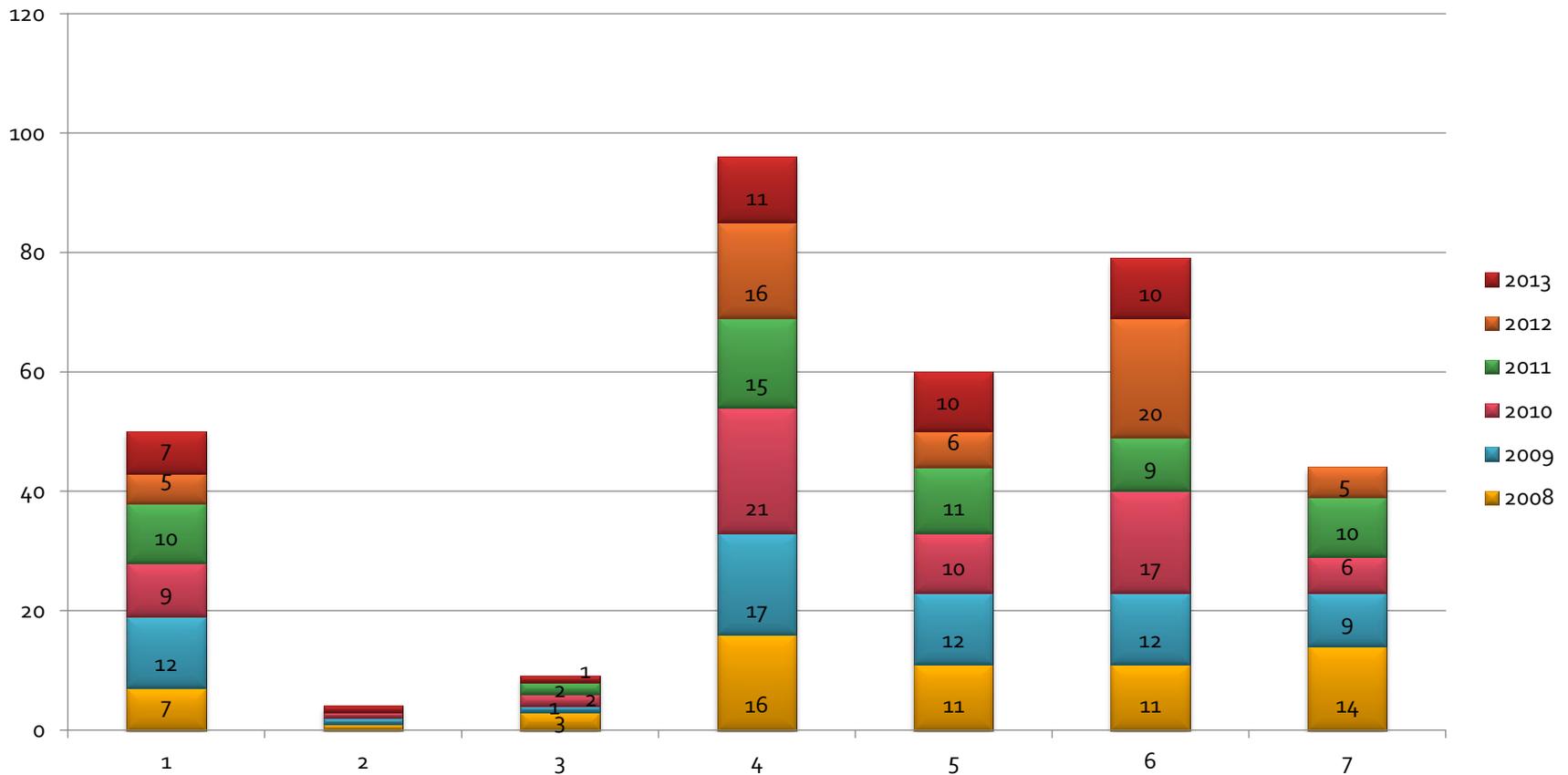
# Department Funding to Districts

- Funding from the Department for Operations, Technical Assistance and Supervisor Reimbursement is listed below

Zone	SERA	Operations	Technical Assistance	Grand Total
Zone 1	\$23,566	\$10,000	\$11,215	\$44,781
Zone 2	\$31,404	\$12,000	\$11,714	\$55,118
Zone 3	\$19,980	\$10,000	\$11,215	\$41,195
Zone 4	\$25,782	\$14,000	\$11,215	\$50,997
Zone 5	\$22,514	\$14,000	\$11,214	\$47,728
Zone 6	\$13,822	\$6,000	\$11,214	\$31,036
Zone 7	\$18,332	\$10,000	\$13,215	\$41,547
Total	\$155,400	\$76,000	\$81,002	\$312,402

# ARDL Loans

Total Number of ARDL Loans by Zone and Year



# Recommendations

- Commissioner of Agriculture find ways to revitalize UCC and make it more relevant
- Funding to districts should be based on outcomes
- **UACD anticipates upcoming retirements**
  - Through attrition there is potential for re-organization
  - Zones that are not as productive or efficient could be combined
  - In-depth look at the system
  - Look for capacity and utilization

# Grazing Improvement Program

- Improved transparency and accountability
  - Updated website  
<http://ag.utah.gov/divisions/plant/grazing/index.html>
  - New database  
<http://grantreporting.udaf.utah.gov/Public>
    - 3 year process at a cost of \$187,600

# Grazing Improvement Program & Watershed Restoration Initiative

- Two programs have similar purposes and benefits
- Intent language requiring GIP and WRI to work cooperatively and collaboratively