

**MINUTES OF THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

Thursday, October 17, 2013 – 8:00 a.m. – Room 325 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Stuart C. Reid, Senate Chair

Rep. Brad R. Wilson, House Chair

Sen. Patricia W. Jones

Sen. Ralph Okerlund

Rep. Patrice Arent

Rep. Jim Bird

Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck

Rep. Bradley L. Dee

Rep. Brad G. Last

Mr. Todd Bingham

Mr. Rob Despain

Mayor Tom Dolan

Mr. Spencer Eccles

Mr. Scott Hirschi

Mr. J. Steven Price

Mr. Wesley Smith

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst

Mr. Peter Asplund, Associate General Counsel

Ms. Jennifer Christopherson, Legislative Secretary

Ms. Kristen Ricks, 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 Reid called the meeting to order at 8:08 am.

**MOTION:** Rep. Chavez-Houck moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Eccles and Mr. Price absent for the vote.

The committee agreed to hold the final Economic Development Task Force meeting on November 14, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Chavez-Houck moved to have the committee review economic development bills and determine if they receive the committee's endorsement. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Okerlund and Mr. Price absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Wilson moved to allow the electronic participation of Rep. Arent for the committee's November 14, 2013 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Senator Okerlund and Mr. Price absent for the vote.

## **2. Potential Task Force Recommendations (draft legislation)**

Mr. Christensen distributed "Economic Development Task Force Potential Recommendations/Policy Survey Results" and discussed the method used to create the list. The committee reviewed and discussed the contents of the list and how it could be used to reflect the committee's overall recommendations.

Rep. Last requested Water Infrastructure be included on the list.

Chair Reid asked all committee members to prioritize items on the list, and make a motion to add any new items. He said the staff will review, group like items, and condense or delete redundant items before the next meeting.

Rep. Arent suggested comparing the committee's recommendations with the legislation that created the task force to ensure the committee is on track. She discussed 2013 General Session H.B. 168, "Air Quality Mitigation by Government Entities" and emphasized the need for a more specific level of leadership in air quality monitoring. She reminded the committee the task force is the result of two original task forces: air quality and economic development, which were consolidated. She pointed out that because air quality is specifically mentioned, it should be specifically dealt with in any proposed legislation.

**MOTION:** Sen. Jones moved that recommendations ranked 50 and above on the Economic Task Force Potential Recommendations/Policy Survey Results (Survey), be considered by the committee, and anything below 50 not be considered except by a separate motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Eccles and Mr. Price absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Arent moved to include item 45-M on the Survey: “Establish a state resource or sustainability director to coordinate, share, and help implement best practices by state agencies as identified in the H.B. 168” on the final list. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Eccles and Mr. Price absent for the vote.

Sen. Okerland spoke in support of appropriating money to extend efforts that involve the public in reducing air pollution.

Sen. Jones suggested creating a home base for the push to reduce air pollution. She also discussed the importance of financial literacy.

Rep. Chavez-Houck discussed including an appropriations component to the Utah Clean Air Partnership to aid the government’s ability to model what it expects the public to do. She noted that supporting early childhood education as part of the task force's education and workforce policy statement is one way to cut down on remedial costs and as a way to prepare future generations with necessary resources. She suggested categorizing recommendations by incentives and including an assessment as part of the evaluation. She also suggested moving recommendation 40-C on the Survey, “Economic Gardening in Rural Areas,” onto the list of recommendations to be considered.

Mr. Smith said the committee should prioritize air quality tasks in order to focus resources on actions that will clean air the most.

Rep. Wilson recommended the committee trust the chairs to work with the staff and collapse recommendations into specific buckets of categories that could be further separated into sub-categories. He stated his support for creating or assigning a sustainability director as long as specific guidelines are created to outline what the position is and is not responsible for. He announced his intention to propose the Tourism Marketing Performance Fund receive a portion of state sales tax up to \$30 million, as opposed to \$25 million. He stated his desire to add another item to the Survey, “the study and implementation of a mountain transportation system.” He discussed the misalignment in state policy toward manufacturing.

Rep. Dee reminded the committee of their assignment to create and improve economic vitality in Utah. He counseled the committee to consider all variables that boost economic vitality, instead of focusing on a single issue.

Rep. Last said that more specific statements would be necessary for success.

Mr. Hirschi suggested survey recommendations be defined as actionable items and policy items. He recommended identifying three or four actionable items on the list. He suggested project specific incentive packages be offered to create a formal development area within local government.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hirschi moved that the committee define recommendations as actionable items and policy items in the meeting.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Dee moved that the Chairs and staff rework and consolidate the recommendations for future task force. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Eccles absent for the vote.

Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Department of Air Quality, discussed the success state incentive programs have achieved in the effort to replace inefficient practices and equipment with sustainable, efficient practices and equipment. He concluded he and his department would support draft legislation to expand state incentive program, specifically the Clean Air Retrofit, Repower, and Off-Road Technology (CARROT) Fund.

### **3. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Eccles absent for the vote.

Chair Reid adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.