

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

Room 25 House Office Building

January 31, 2014

Members Present: Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chair
Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-Chair
Rep. Mike McKell, House Vice Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. John L. Valentine
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Jerry Anderson
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Jon Cox
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Brian Greene
Rep. Ken Ivory
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Lee B. Perry
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

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

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

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

1. Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Water Quality

Mr. Walt Baker, Director, Division of Water Quality, reaffirmed the mission of the Division of Water Quality is to protect Utah's waters for their beneficial uses. He commented on three pillars which are utilized to protect the waters: (1) development of standards, (2) permitting program, and (3) enforcement. In addition, Mr. Baker spoke to the priorities, challenges, successes, and efficiencies within the division.

Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Drinking Water

Mr. Ken Bousfield, Director, Division of Drinking Water, commented on their mission which is to cooperatively work with drinking water professionals and the public to ensure a safe and reliable supply of drinking water. Drinking water systems provide a life sustaining commodity, improved public health, fire protection, industrial and commercial endeavors, and water for landscaping. Along with reviewing challenges and opportunities, Mr. Bousfield discussed statutory requirements and performance measures.

Mr. Craig Silotti, Finance Director, responded to a question from the subcommittee regarding the division's line item for personnel services.

Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste

Mr. Scott Anderson, Director, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, indicated the mission of the division is to protect Utah's citizens and their environment through proper management of solid and hazardous waste. The mission is accomplished through safe waste management, compliance monitoring, cleanup of contaminated sites, promotion of recycling and reuse, and technical assistance. Mr. Anderson discussed the challenges of newly regulated wastes, new waste management technologies, and maintaining the pace of cleanup of contaminated sites.

Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Radiation Control

Mr. Rusty Lundberg, Director, Division of Radiation Control, commented on the mission of the division which is to protect Utah citizens and the environment from sources of radiation that pose a significant health and/or environmental risk or hazard. The division manages a number of programs to accomplish their mission; he highlighted their process improvement efforts, specifically targeting licensing and permitting for the Energy Solutions site.

Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Environmental Response and Remediation

Mr. Brent Everett, Director, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation, stated the mission of the division is to protect public health and Utah's environment through the cleanup of chemically contaminated sites, ensuring underground storage tanks are used properly, and providing chemical usage and emission data to the public and local response agencies. He provided an overview of the division's programs with an emphasis on the Superfund Program and the Brownfields, Voluntary Cleanup Program.

Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Air Quality

Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, outlined the mission of the division which is to achieve and maintain levels of air quality that will protect human health and safety. Mr. Bird highlighted issues relating to the three branches of the division - planning, permitting, and compliance.

Ms. Amanda Smith, Director, Department of Environmental Quality, responded to questions concerning to what extent federal funds influence the performance of the department and what contingencies are in place should federal funding be eliminated.

2. Department of Agriculture and Food

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Analyst, LFA, briefly introduced the resources available by going to this committee on the Legislature's website and clicking on "meeting materials" for the Department of Agriculture and Food. He commented on the trend analysis pointing out the addition of the "percentage of change" column.

Ms. LuAnn Adams, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), noted the mission of the department is to help farmers conserve the land, prosper, and maintain a safe food supply. She focused on the importance of the Grazing Improvement Program (GIP) and the Invasive Species Mitigation Program (ISM) to the welfare of the land, and mentioned that through improved equipment and innovative technology, farmers have been able to feed increasing numbers of people.

Mr. Kyle Stevens, Deputy Commissioner, UDAF, distributed the handout, "UDAF, Department Overview." The department accomplishes their mission by improving communication and awareness, conserving and enhancing Utah's lands and natural resources, ensuring food safety and consumer protection, building partnerships and advocates, and developing agricultural leaders.

Department of Agriculture and Food - Plant Industry and Conservation Division

Along with GIP and ISM, Mr. Robert Hougaard, Director, Division of Plant Industry and Conservation, highlighted the Insect and Quarantine Program.

Department of Agriculture and Food - Utah Conservation Commission

Mr. Thayne Mickelson, Executive Director, Utah Conservation Commission (UCC), reviewed the history of the commission and introduced their main programs. He focused on Agriculture Resource Development Loans, Agriculture Certificate of Environmental Stewardship, and resource assessments to identify major resource concerns.

Department of Agriculture and Food - Animal Health Division

Dr. Bruce King, State Veterinarian and Director of Animal Industry, reviewed the mission statement which is to "protect the livestock, poultry, and fish population of the state, assist and aid the farmers, ranchers, and dealers of these products to insure they maintain a viable and profitable industry, and guarantee the general population of the state a wholesome, top quality animal, poultry, and fish product." The division is involved in a number of programs relating to animal and fish health, meat and poultry inspection, and veterinary diagnostic testing.

Department of Agriculture and Food - Regulatory Services Division

Mr. Jay Schvaneveldt, Acting Director, Regulatory Services, noted the mission of the division is to "regulate oversight of products in the areas of food, weights and measures, dairy, bedding, upholstered furniture, and quilted clothing." He discussed the importance of their main programs, along with reporting on growth challenges and future goals.

Department of Agriculture and Food - Marketing and Economic Development Division

Mr. Jed Christensen, Director, Division of Marketing and Economic Development, commented on the programs the division administers, acknowledging the importance of the Utah's Own program. Through the success of the program, Utah's Own fuels the state's economy, creates jobs, and increases the tax base.

Department of Agriculture and Food - Wildlife Services

Mr. Mike Linnell, Director, Division of Wildlife Services, stated that the agency is a cooperative program between the state and federal government to maintain healthy populations of wildlife and concurrently sustain productive agriculture. In addition to livestock protection, which is their primary function, work is done to recover Sage Grouse populations, detect early infestations at dairies and feedlots, and mitigate other types of damage from wildlife.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. Rep. Mathis adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chair

Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-Chair