

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

Utah State Fairpark
July 31, 2014

Members Present: Sen. David P. Hinkins, Co-Chair
Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-Chair
Rep. Mike K. McKell, Vice Chair
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. Jerry B. Anderson
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Jon Cox
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Brian M. Greene

Members Excused: Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Ken Ivory
Rep. Lee B. Perry

Members Absent: Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

Staff Present: Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
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.

Vice Chair McKell called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

1. Air Quality: Update on Issues and Plans for Recent Appropriations

Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, distributed the handout, "Highlights of Findings from the Uinta Basin Ozone Study (UBOS): Preliminary Update from 2014 Field Study." Ozone concentrations in excess of the current national ambient air quality standard have been measured in the Uinta Basin during winter inversion periods when the ground is covered by snow. Results from a more recent field campaign conducted during January – March 2014 confirm findings from the prior two years. The preliminary analyses of the 2014 UBOS includes air quality and meteorological conditions during UBOS 2014, key findings, and next steps.

Mr. Bird discussed 2014 air quality legislation and immediate air quality issues, along with a handout, "Research Projects Selection and Updates," which highlights selected projects, principle investigators, and percent of funding per project.

2. State Fair Corporation: Facility Tour, Consultants' Report, Update on Finances and Plans

Mr. Michael Steele, Executive Director, Utah State Fair Corporation, conducted a tour of the fairgrounds, which included an on-site visit to the Promontory, Grand, and DNR buildings, condemned barns now under renovation, rodeo grounds, and grandstand.

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, informed the committee that a recent land-use study was commissioned and prepared by the Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM), Cooper, Roberts, and Simonsen Architects (CRSA), Zions Bank Public Finance, Integra Realty Resources, Ensign Engineering, and Landmark Title.

Ms. Kathy Wheadon and Mr. Ryan Wallace of CRSA, along with Mr. Josh Haines of DFCM, presented the findings of the study. In a powerpoint presentation, Ms. Wheadon outlined the needs of and priorities for the Fairpark. The following options were presented:

- Maintaining and upgrading the Fairground facilities and the infrastructure could cost more than \$33 million over the next 20 years.
- Constructing new commercial facilities, including rodeo grounds and arena, retail venues, convention center, and multi-sports arena could cost an additional \$47 million.
- Several options for relocating the Fairpark were explored, ranging from rebuilding the same structures at a new location (\$160 million) to creating a traveling fair partnering with county fairs (\$380,000).

Chair Hinkins assumed the chair.

Mr. Steele distributed a handout, "Utah State Fairpark Board of Directors Announces Renovation Proposals Which Include a Real Salt Lake Minor League Soccer Stadium." He discussed the improvements currently being implemented at the Fairpark and the possibility of future development such as a new soccer team and stadium.

Mr. Roger Beattie, Chairman of the Utah State Fair Board, expressed his hope that the Legislature will invest in the Fairpark to ensure the Utah State Fair and the Fairpark continue to contribute to the community for future generations. In addition, he emphasized the importance of receiving direction from legislators.

Mr. Randy Parker, CEO, Utah Farm Bureau, expressed concern with comparisons found in the study and commented on the importance of the fair staying at the Fairpark.

3. DNR Sage Grouse Contract

Mr. Mike Styler, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources, and Mr. Greg Sheehan, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, discussed the process of implementing intent language to hire contractors for the purpose of delaying the listing of Sage Grouse on the Endangered Species List.

4. Watershed Program: Report on the Pre-Suppression Projects

Mr. Alan Clark, Watershed Program Director, along with Mr. Brian Cottam, State Forester and Director, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, distributed a handout, "FFSL Pre-Suppression Funded WRI Projects Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015," detailing watershed projects completed by July 2014 and those slated to be completed by July 2015. The purpose of these projects is to suppress fires or to keep them from developing at all. Following are the three main points covered by Mr. Clark:

- The funding process, which enables the program to maximize the amount of work completed;
- The formal process of reviewing and ranking projects by local teams, and in turn, running them through the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands;
- The emphasis to contract with private businesses for work done through the Watershed Restoration Initiative.

Mr. Clark, Mr. Cottam, and Mr. Styler responded to questions. Mr. Styler made the point that funding and completed projects are a great success with tremendous impacts on fire behavior. He also noted that the cooperative relationship between agencies adds to the success of the Watershed Restoration Initiative.

MOTION: Rep. Mathis moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hinkins adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.