

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

Room 210 Senate Building  
February 2, 2015

**Members Present:** Sen. David P. Hinkins, Chair  
Rep. Mike McKell, Chair  
Rep. Kay J. Christofferson, House Vice Chair  
Sen. Jim Dabakis  
Sen. Margaret Dayton  
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins  
Sen. Peter C. Knudson  
Sen. Ralph Okerlund  
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell  
Rep. Scott Chew  
Rep. Susan Duckworth  
Rep. Brian M. Greene  
Rep. Stephen G. Handy  
Rep. Timothy Hawkes  
Rep. Ken Ivory  
Rep. Justin Miller  
Rep. Michael E. Noel  
Rep. Lee B. Perry  
Rep. Marc K. Roberts

**Staff:** Mr. Ivan D. Djambov, Fiscal Analyst  
Mr. Brian Wikle, 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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

Vice Chair Christofferson called the meeting to order at 8:04.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Sen. Van Tassell moved to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Dayton, Sen. Jenkins, Sen. Knudson, Rep. Ivory, Rep. Noel, Rep. Perry, and Rep. Roberts absent for the vote.

**2. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, REVIEW OF BASE BUDGET**

Mr. Brian Wikle, Fiscal Analyst, presented a brief overview of the Base Budget for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ is tasked with protecting Utah's air, water, and ground resources. Their budget in the Base Bill is \$59,000,000; the bulk of that coming from federal funds. Mr. Wikle discussed FTE and vehicle count, performance measures, and the Budget Effectiveness Review.

Ms. Amanda Smith, Executive Director, DEQ, commented on the department as a whole with a slide presentation highlighting who the employees are, the various regulatory divisions, their mission, and their return on investment. The handouts "Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality" and "Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Radiation Control" were distributed.

Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality (DAQ), noted the first focus of the Division is the health of the public, however, poor air quality also impacts the economy. Mr. Bird discussed the challenges facing DAQ in alleviating poor air quality and reviewed areas where improvements can be made such as: education, real-time information on smart phones, regulations to improve the amount of emissions from the transportation sector, and air research projects. He touched upon a proposal by the EPA for a new national ozone standard pointing to possible challenges resulting from that proposal. Mr. Bird responded to questions regarding wood burning stoves along the Wasatch Front. Efforts have been made to address the issue with public hearings, proposals to limit wood burning, and information gathering from the public comment period.

Mr. Ted Wilson, Director, Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR), addressed the question of media partners and media campaigns to encourage less wood burning. UCAIR was awarded funds to be used to educate people on what individuals can do to reduce emissions in all areas. Their principal job is to give the public information that they can use regarding improving air quality.

Mr. Walt Baker, Director, Division of Water Quality, mentioned that the mission of the division is to protect Utah's rivers, lakes, streams, and ground water from pollution. He explained that they do that through two matters of legislation: (1) Utah Water Quality Act, and (2) Federal Clean Water Act. Mr. Baker reported on the challenges facing the division such as nutrient pollution, the Great Salt Lake, and responding to spills. He then reviewed performance measures and accomplishments and addressed clarifying questions from the committee.

Mr. Ken Bousfield, Director, Division of Drinking Water, noted that the goal of the division is to ensure drinking water is safe and reliably available for all of its uses. He discussed challenges, performance measures, future goals and issues, and operational efficiencies.

Mr. Scott Anderson, Director, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, informed the subcommittee that the division works with those who create, generate, produce, or deal with hazardous waste. Their work is done through inspections, permitting compliance assistance, closure activities, corrective action, and some technical assistance. Mr. Anderson discussed safe waste management, electronic waste, operational efficiencies, and challenges.

Mr. Brent Everett, Director, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation, explained that there are two branches within the division: (1) Superfund Program, and (2) Underground Storage Tank Program. The focus of the Underground Storage Tank Program is compliance through outreach to owners and operators and through inspections on the ground to ensure the tanks are in good shape. He discussed challenges, the Volunteer Cleanup Program, and operational efficiencies.

Mr. Rusty Lundberg, Director, Division of Radiation Control, stated that the mission of the division is to protect Utahns from manmade sources of radiation that pose a significant public health and safety risk or hazard. Their goal is to protect Utahns from the various sources of radiation that may cause or create a potential for harm or significant concern. He offered a brief overview of the programs within the division: X-Ray, Indoor Radon, Radioactive Materials, Low-level Radioactive Waste, and Uranium Mills.

Ms. Smith addressed the requested 2% reduction in the DEQ budget.

### **3. PRIORITIZATION OF THE BUDGET EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW LIST**

Mr. Djambov addressed the first half of the "Budget Effectiveness Review List, Chair's Proposal," which is the 2% potential reductions that departments have been asked to provide. The committee will vote to prioritize the items on the list which adds up to a target of \$1.3 million.

**MOTION:** Rep. Noel moved to approve the list after removing Item #4, \$17,000 PLPCO, and cut from another part of the budget.

Ms. Kathleen Clarke, Director, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO), responded to a request from Vice Chair Christofferson to provide information on PLPCO's budget. She noted that the \$17,000 on the Budget Effectiveness Review List represents 2% of their General Fund budget of \$850,000.

Rep. Noel's motion to remove Item #4 from the list passed with Sen. Dabakis, Rep. Hawkes, Rep. McKell, and Rep. Perry voting in opposition to the motion. Sen. Okerlund, Sen. Van Tassell, and Rep. Duckworth were absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. McKell moved to include on the bottom of the priority list as Item #5, \$17,000 in travel expenses from DWR. The motion passed with Sen. Dayton, Sen Jenkins, and Rep. Hawkes voting in opposition to the motion. Sen. Okerlund, Sen. Van Tassell, and Rep. Duckworth were absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. McKell moved to accept the recommendations as shown on the screen. The motion passed with Sen. Dayton and Sen. Jenkins voting in opposition to the motion. Sen. Okerlund, Sen. Van Tassell, and Rep. Duckworth were absent for the vote.

### **4. VOTE ON S.B. 5, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BASE BUDGET**

Mr. Djambov provided clarification on S.B. 5, Base Budget Bill and characterized it as last year's ongoing items from FY 2015 carried forward into FY 2016.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hinkins moved to pass S.B. 5 out with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Okerlund and Sen. Van Tassell absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Handy moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Okerlund and Sen. Van Tassell absent for the vote. Vice Chair Christofferson adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

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Sen. David Hinkins, Chair

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Rep. Mike McKell, Chair