

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

Room 210 Senate Building
February 4, 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. 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

Members Absent: Rep. Susan Duckworth

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.

Sen. Hinkins called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

**SUMMARY OF REQUESTS FOR NEW LEGISLATIVE INTENT, NEW FEDERAL FUNDS,
AND BUILDING BLOCKS**

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, briefly commented on the "Draft Calendar" which can be found on the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee webpage under "Related Links" and outlined the budget hearings process. He distributed and reviewed "Legislative Intent Language, Issue Brief," "Agencies' Requests for Federal Funds," "Recommended Funding, 2015 General Session, Non-General Fund Sources," and "Budget Effectiveness Review List, Proposal 4-Feb-15." Mr. Djambov instructed the subcommittee on the documents and asked that they review them for voting purposes on February 12, 2015.

**RECONSIDERATION OF THE PRIORITIES ON THE BUDGET EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW
LIST**

MOTION: Rep. McKell moved to reconsider the "Budget Effectiveness Review List" that was proposed in the last meeting.

Mr. Robert Hougaard, Director, Plant Industry and Stream Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food, responded to a question regarding the suggested 2% budget cut. The Invasive Species Mitigation Projects fund Salt Cedar and Russian Olive removal, however, projects are ranked so some could be cut or reduced.

Mr. Stephen Ogilvie, Finance Director, Department of Agriculture and Food, stated that the 2% proposed reduction would decrease the amount placed into the restricted account this year with fewer projects.

MOTION: Rep. Miller moved to make changes to the "Budget Effectiveness Review List" as follows: (1) Reduce the amount of the Invasive Species Mitigation Projects from \$302,000 to \$170,100 and to make up the difference; (2) Take the fund shift of \$48,900 from Oil, Gas, and Mining moving it from general to restricted and take \$83,000 from Parks Capital. He moved to list Parks Capital on line 5, Oil, Gas, and Mining on line 6, and Natural Resources on line 7. The motion passed with Sen. Van Tassell voting against the motion. Sen. Dabakis, Sen. Knudson, and Rep. Greene were absent for the vote.

Rep. McKell's motion to reconsider the "Budget Effectiveness Review List," passed unanimously with Sen. Dabakis, Sen. Knudson, and Rep. Greene absent for the vote.

PUBLIC LANDS POLICY COORDINATING OFFICE

Ms. Kathleen Clarke, Director, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO), discussed the needs of PLPCO and distributed "Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) Legislative Mandates: (Draft)." She addressed advocacy and participation to promote Utah's interests, endangered species activities, archaeological assistance and permitting, litigation defending the state's interest on public lands, and RS 2477 litigation.

Mr. Tony Rampton, Assistant Utah Attorney General, responded to a question regarding the percentage of RS 2477 roads in litigation. Approximately all 12,500 roads are presently identified in pending law suits, however, all 12,500 won't be litigated. The committee and others discussed the issue.

MOTION: Rep. Perry moved to request the leadership of the subcommittee prepare a letter signed by the chairs to be sent to the office to move forward. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Knudson and Rep. Greene absent for the vote.

Director Clarke commented on the Constitutional Defense Restricted Account indicating revenues have been declining and that the total funds coming in through that account will fall short of the estimated FY 2016 expenditures. She requested the subcommittee consider the \$900,000 suggested in the governor's budget.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Ms. Amanda Smith, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality, distributed "Statewide High Resolution Map Imagery" and provided a slide presentation focusing on several requests.

Request #1 - Director Smith requested \$600,000 one-time for the Enterprise-Wide Land Information Initiative which will allow state agencies to cross division and agency lines to access and use each other's information in real time so that agency decisions are higher quality, more complete, and faster.

Mr. Carlos Braceras, Executive Director, Utah Department of Transportation, stated his support for the Initiative.

Request #2 - Director Smith requested \$135,000 ongoing for the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) for additional support from the Office of the Attorney General.

Request #3 - Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, DAQ, requested \$750,000 ongoing to address the need for air quality research.

Request #4 - Director Bird requested \$360,300 ongoing, Minor Source Compliance, for three FTEs and \$43,600 one-time for a vehicle.

Additional DEQ Requests -

- Program Maintenance and Support, \$600,000 ongoing, Drinking Water Loan Fund
- CARROT grants, \$1,500,000 one-time General Fund
- Transfer \$400,000 to the Hazardous Mitigation Fund one-time from the Environmental Quality Restricted Account
- Water quality dedicated credit increase of \$78,700
- Continuing radon grant work
- Underground storage tanks, \$100,000

OTHER BUSINESS

In a past meeting, Rep. Christofferson asked how he could get information on the detailed expenditures by any state entity. Mr. Djambov addressed that question by explaining the process starting with the website, "transparent.utah.gov."

Mr. Brian Wikle, Fiscal Analyst, responded to a question from Rep. Hawkes regarding federal funds. One can get to originating agencies of federal funds by going to the website "cfda.gov," Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance.

MOTION: Rep. Roberts moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Knudson, Rep. Noel, and Rep. Perry absent for the vote. Sen. Hinkins adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Sen. David Hinkins, Chair

Rep. Mike McKell, Chair