

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

Room 210 Senate Building
February 6, 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.

Chair McKell called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE, AND STATE LANDS

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, introduced Issue Brief, "Forestry, Fire, and State Lands." The Issue Brief summarizes the new funding outline, funding reallocations, proposed intent language, account balances, and fee changes. He recommended the Legislature authorize the division to redirect restricted funds already appropriated for the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands in order to meet new priorities.

Mr. Brian Cottam, Director, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, assisted by Mr. Roger Lewis, Administrative Services Director, provided a slide presentation. The Forestry Program provides technical and forestry assistance to private forest land owners, communities, as well as other state agencies. The emphasis is on well managed forests which benefits the public. It is almost fully funded by Forest Service pass thru dollars. The Fire Protection Program coordinates wildland fire protection for state and unincorporated private lands in cooperation with land management agencies and local jurisdictions. It is done in partnership with all land management agencies in the state that have fire responsibility, along with local governments and fire departments.

Director Cottam reviewed building block requests for Wildland Fire FY 16 and Sovereign Lands FY 16, including requests for Bear Lake, Bear River, navigational needs, Utah Lake, and the Great Salt Lake.

OFFICE OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Energy Development, addressed the subcommittee through a slide presentation. She commented on a building block request of \$200,000 to fund the Utah Energy Research Triangle; a program directed at Utah specific energy research that will support and promote Utah specific energy advances. It is a collaborative initiative across the University of Utah, Utah State University, and Brigham Young University to encourage universities within the state to come together to propose programs that will advance Utah's energy sector.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Mr. Djambov discussed Issue Brief, "Department of Agriculture and Food," summarizing the budget requests for the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF). He focused on Conservation District funding. The plan is to no longer send the funds to the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD), but to hire staff and use the Conservation Commission to distribute the funding.

Commissioner LuAnn Adams, Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF), introduced Deputy Commissioner, Scott Ericson and recognized supervisors and staff in attendance from the Utah Conservation Districts. Mr. Ericson pointed to the importance of conservation districts around the state and the value of conservation rather than mitigation.

Ms. Adams discussed the Utah's Own Program, highlighting growth, product safety, connections to local and national retailers, and a new website.

Mr. Ericson reported on the Weights and Measures Program which is an effort to assure consumer confidence in a fair and accurate marketplace. Due to the tremendous growth and use of alternative fuels, the natural gas sector is currently unregulated. Equipment is needed to inspect compressed and liquified gas vehicle fueling devices and to calibrate, repair, and at times, replace equipment.

Ms. Adams commented on the Grazing Improvement Program (GIP) and highlighted a solar-powered watering project in Monte Cristo.

UTAH STATE FAIR

Mr. Djambov presented a brief overview of the State Fair Corporation which is the private organization managing the state fair.

Mr. Michael Steele, Executive Director, Utah State Fair, introduced Mr. Roger Beattie, Chairman, Utah State Fair Board of Directors, and Randy Parker, board member. Mr. Beattie requested operational funding for the Utah State Fairpark. The challenge for the Fairpark is to generate increased revenues during the days of the year the fair is not in session. Increased investment would enable the park to become market competitive and achieve the goal of not needing ongoing state funding. He requested the Legislature update the statute dealing with the Fair Corporation and extend the lease.

Mr. Steele requested a one-time \$675,000 appropriation for administration and operation of the Fairpark. In addition, a one-time \$100,000 appropriation for a conceptual study of the construction of an exhibition building and completion of the existing rodeo grounds. A discussion of an offer for a proposed minor league soccer stadium at the Fairpark followed.

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to form a committee to review the proposal and report back to the subcommittee in an effort to get a unified position.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Miller moved that the subcommittee authorize the chairs to name members of a working group, to examine this issue and return back to the subcommittee. Furthermore, to extend the same offer to the chairs of Infrastructure and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee to appoint members to join the working group. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Noel and Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

Sen. Hinkins named Sen. Dabakis and Sen. Jenkins to represent the Senate on the working committee.

Rep. McKell named Rep. Miller, Rep. Ivory, and Rep. Greene to represent the House on the working committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comment was presented by the following:

- Mr. Dan Tuttle, U. S. Magnesium
- Ms. Kay Denton, Great Salt Lake Rowing, handout distributed
- Ms. Janet Robbins, Great Salt Lake marina
- Mr. Michael Horrocks, Wasatch Rowing
- Mr. Redge Johnson, citizen

MOTION: Rep. Handy moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Noel and Rep. Perry absent for the vote. Chair McKell adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Sen. David Hinkins, Chair

Rep. Mike McKell, Chair