

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

Room 210 Senate Building
February 3, 2016

Members Present: Sen. David P. Hinkins, Co-Chair
Rep. Mike McKell, Co-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. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Ken Ivory
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 Hinkins called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

1. Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

Mr. Brian Wikle, Fiscal Analyst, directed the committee to the Legislature's webpage (le.utah.gov), Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee, "Issues" tab in COBI. He addressed unused balances from last year's appropriations and suggested committee members contact the agencies to find out their plans for those appropriations. Mr. Wikle introduced issue briefs "Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office's Adjustment Request," and "Department of Environmental Quality's Reallocation and Adjustment Requests." These two issue briefs reflect requests from the agencies to reallocate a particular line item or for broader discretion as to how those funds are used.

2. Office of Energy Development

Dr. Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Energy Development, provided a slide presentation. She briefly discussed non-lapsing funds related to the Petroleum Violation Escrow Account and funding for the Energy Research Triangle. Dr. Nelson addressed the following building block requests:

- a. \$32,000 one-time - cover a lease short fall for FY 2016;
- b. \$100,000 - one full-time equivalent employee;
- c. \$35,000 ongoing - office space lease.

Dr. Nelson responded to clarifying questions from the committee.

3. Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Wikle discussed a technical correction found within the issue brief, "Department of Environmental Quality's Reallocation and Adjustment Requests." He informed the committee of the process used when responding to requests from agencies for reallocations and adjustments.

Mr. Alan Matheson, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality, presented an overview of the department. The services provided by the department deal with the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens. Employees are technically skilled, have good judgement, and care about the people of Utah. Tools required to perform necessary functions need to be reliable and principles and values that drive decisions and actions need to be responsive.

Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, reported on an existing need to monitor air quality and requested the following:

- a. \$2,160,000 one-time - monitoring equipment and network expansion;
- b. \$424,000 ongoing - maintenance on monitoring equipment and network expansion;
- c. \$500,000 one-time - CARROT Grants.

He distributed the handout "Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Research Projects, 2014-2015."

Mr. Ken Bousfield, Director, Division of Drinking Water, discussed six recommendations from the legislative audit, four of which have been addressed. He gave an in-depth explanation of the two remaining recommendations stating that more data is needed before implementation can occur. The committee discussed issues of concern.

Mr. Bousfield summarized the following requests:

- a. \$1,500,000 one-time - Water Development Security Fund;
- b. \$4,000,000 one-time - General Fund;
- c. \$800,000 ongoing - Water Development Security Fund.

Chair McKell assumed the chair.

4. Water Issues

Mr. Eric Millis, Director, Division of Water Resources, addressed the document, "Performance Audit of Projections of Utah's Water Needs." Recommendations were made in the areas of accuracy of the data, education of the water suppliers, accountability for the data, efficiency, and frequency. The division has worked with other agencies, water organizations, and the League of Cities and Towns in an effort to identify ways to improve their processes. They have updated the water use data form making it more clear and intuitive. Providers have been contacted to introduce them to the new form and educate them

on the importance of accurate data submission. Currently, they check data for inaccuracies on a five-year cycle; the audit recommended they change that to an annual cycle.

Mr. Kent Jones, State Engineer and Division Director, Utah Division of Water Rights, concurred with Mr. Bousfield and Mr. Millis, noting they have been working to provide accuracy in reporting. The key to getting accurate data is to work together as agencies, providers, and consumers.

Mr. Millis requested one additional employee to help analyze water use data reporting on a yearly basis. In addition, some employee time could be used to get state water plan documents out more frequently as recommended in the audit.

5. Request for Appropriation: Carp Removal at Utah Lake

\$400,000 - Carp Removal at Utah Lake (Rep. Greene): Mr. Eric Ellis, Executive Director, Utah Lake Commission, and Mr. Michael Mills, Chair, Utah Lake Commission, Technical Committee, distributed the handout "Utah Lake is Utah's Gem" and spoke on behalf of the request.

MOTION: Rep. Christofferson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Chair McKell adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Sen. David Hinkins, Chair

Rep. Mike McKell, Chair