

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

Room 210 Senate Building
February 5, 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.

Sen. Hinkins called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Roberts moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Greene and Rep. Ivory absent for the vote.

1. Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, directed the committee to information found online (le.ut.gov) for the intent language, federal funds, fees, and building blocks the division is requesting.

Mr. Brian Cottam, State Forester and Director, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, explained that the Forestry Program is responsible to private forest land owners to assist them in making better management decisions on their land. Within the forestry program, the focus is on forest stewardship planning process, the product, and the outcome.

The Fire Program has statutory responsibility for wildfire management on all state lands, as well as on unincorporated private lands. They work closely with federal land managers and local governments. Mr. Cottam offered an update on the previous fire season highlighting the importance of prompt initial attack which is most often accomplished by local resources and volunteers across rural Utah. He discussed three goals: (1) landscape resilience, (2) community preparedness, and (3) improved

wildfire suppression, response, and management.

Rep. McKell assumed the chair.

Director Cottam described sovereign lands as beds and shorelines of lakes and rivers; water bodies that were navigable at statehood. Using a PowerPoint presentation, he reported on balancing for multiple use and sustained yield, and talked about funding, accomplishments, and building block requests.

Mr. Dan Tuttle, Great Salt Lake Advisory Council, introduced members of the council and industry partners in attendance. Activities and industry contribute \$1.3 billion annually to Utah's economy. He addressed Phragmites control, low lake level, and lake bed impacts on air quality.

2. Department of Agriculture and Food

Mr. Djambov introduced intent language, federal funds, fees, and building blocks pertaining to the Department of Agriculture and Food and indicated how each can be found.

Ms. LuAnn Adams, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food, reviewed the building block requests for the department.

Mr. Cody James, Director, Division of Animal Industry, reported on the domestic elk program. In the past, proper inspections have not been done due to an underfunded program. He stressed the importance of trained and knowledgeable inspectors and requested funding to hire a full-time program manager to focus completely on elk and to fulfill statutorily mandated obligations of the domestic elk program.

Mr. Robert Hougaard, Director, Plant Industry and Conservation, addressed the transition of the Utah Association of Conservation Districts employees to the Department of Agriculture and Food. He requested funding of \$480,000 ongoing and \$100,000 one-time. The employees have been requested to have increased accountability, requiring daily reports of their activities. Performance measures and development of standard operating procedures for each position have been put in place. They will continue to work with employees to find efficiencies, consistently maintain employee accountability, and implement on-the-ground conservation for the soil, water, and air in Utah. Mr. Hougaard requested \$500,000 one-time for capital improvements and projects.

Ms. Robin Cahoon, Director, Utah's Own Program, reviewed the steps she and her team have taken to develop a solid success framework for Utah's Own that will help realize efficiencies and increase effectiveness. They intend to develop better, meaningful performance measures and develop a comprehensive mixed-media marketing plan. The refocused goal of the program is to strengthen the state's economy by increasing consumer brand awareness and helping their companies produce safe, quality products.

Mr. Brett Gurney, Program Manager, Weights and Measures, Division of Regulatory Services, explained the importance of weight carts during large scale inspections. The carts enable the inspector to move the weight in a timely, efficient, and safe manner. The division is requesting purchase of new, improved carts.

3. Requests for Appropriations:

- a. Northern Utah Community Fisheries: Rep. Perry distributed the handout "Smith Family Park Community Fishery" and requested \$250,000 for the Smith Family Park Community Fishery. Mr. Chris Penne, Aquatic Biologist, Division of Wildlife Resources and Mayor Lee Dickemore, Farr West City, spoke on behalf of the request.
- b. Conversion to Alternative Fuel Program Fund, HB 87: Rep. Handy requested \$500,000.
- c. Bear Lake Quagga Inspections: Rep. Webb requested \$100,000. Mr. Michael Canning, Assistant Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, spoke on behalf of the request.
- d. Elk Management Fund: Rep. Froerer requested an additional \$50,000 ongoing. Mr. Ron Greene, Utah Elk Breeders Association, and Mr. Jed Hymas, Rush Valley, Utah, spoke on behalf of the request.
- e. Coal Creek Flood Control Project: Rep. Westwood distributed the handout "Cedar City Coal Creek Flood Control Project, Phase 3," and requested \$2,500,000. Ms. Maile Wilson, Mayor, Cedar City, and Mr. Robin Pearson, Deputy Director, Department of Natural Resources, spoke on behalf of the request.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Chair McKell adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Sen. David Hinkins, Chair

Rep. Mike McKell, Chair