

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

Thursday, February 9, 2017 • 8:00 am • 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. David P. Hinkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Ken Ivory, House Chair
Rep. Scott H. Chew, House Vice Chair
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Don L. Ipson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Kay J. Christofferson
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Brian M. Greene
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes
Rep. Karen Kwan

Rep. Lee B. Perry
Rep. Marc K. Roberts
Rep. Keven J. Stratton

Members Absent:

Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Rep. Michael E. Noel

Staff Present:

Mr. Ivan D. Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Alexander R. Wilson, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Greta G. Rodebush, Administrative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at le.utah.gov.

1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Hinkins called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. There were no minutes to approve. The following meeting materials were posted to the legislative website and distributed to the committee:

[Summary of Requests for Appropriations, 2017 General Session](#)

[Summary of Building Block Requests, 2017 General Session](#)

2. RFA - Utah Lake Carp Removal - Rep. Greene

Rep. Greene introduced members of the Utah Lake Commission.

Mr. Michael Mills, Chair, Utah Lake Commission, explained that the funding would help in the ongoing efforts to remove carp from Utah Lake. A handout was distributed to the committee.

Mr. Eric Ellis, Executive Director, Utah Lake Commission, spoke in support of the request.

Rep. Greene emphasized the importance of completing the carp removal project in Utah Lake.

3. RFA - Wellington City Water Damage Cleanup - Rep. Watkins

Rep. Christine F. Watkins offered some introductory remarks about flooding issues in Carbon County.

Ms. Joan Powell, Mayor, Wellington City, highlighted a number of flooding issues associated with the Price River.

4. RFA - Bear Lake Marina Environmental Impact Statement - Sen. Hillyard

Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard explained that the request for funding pays for an environmental impact statement that is required before beginning work on the new Bear Lake Marina.

5. RFA - Rebate Program for Water Reduction Devices - Rep. Christofferson

Rep. Christofferson introduced the request.

Mr. Michael R. Styler, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), explained that the rebate program offers an incentive for water users to purchase smart watering devices that help reduce water consumption.

Mr. Todd Adams, Deputy Director, Division of Water Resources, spoke to the request.

Rep. Hawkes spoke in favor of the rebate program and the impacts on water conservation.

6. RFA - Bear Lake Invasive Species Inspections - Rep. Webb

Rep. R. Curt Webb explained that the request will fund inspections of vessels coming into the Bear Lake Valley that could potentially be carrying Quagga Mussel.

Mr. Greg Sheehan, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), spoke to the request.

7. RFA - State Watershed Initiative Match - Sen. Okerlund

Sen. Okerlund explained that the \$2.0 million request will leverage \$5.0 million in federal funding that will be used for watershed projects.

Mr. Mark Whitney, Commissioner, Beaver County, and President, Utah Association of Counties, explained that the initiative will help provide water to lands in southern Utah.

Rep. Chew spoke in support of the initiative.

8. RFA - Surveyor's Monument Replacement - Sen. Okerlund

Sen. Okerlund gave some background information on the Surveyor Monument Replacement program.

Mr. Reid Demman, Salt Lake County Surveyor, and President, Utah Association of County Surveyors, spoke to the request and responded to questions related to penalties for destroying historical markers and the possibility of using civil engineering students to help with these efforts.

9. RFA - Avian Sanctuary and Protection - Rep. Romero

Rep. Angela Romero introduced Mr. Richard Nowak, a constituent who runs an aviary in her district.

Mr. Richard Nowak, Assistant Director, Avian Sanctuary and Protection, identified some ongoing operational needs and avian services that the request for funding will help support.

10. RFA - Constitutional Defense Fund - Sen. Van Tassell

Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell reported that the \$300,000 one-time request for the Constitutional Defense Fund will be used to pay for settlement disputes of land ownership inside townships.

Rep. Ivory assumed the chair.

11. RFA - Wild Horses and Burros Management - Rep. Stratton

Rep. Stratton explained that the funds will be used by the DWR to reduce the wild horse and burro population to the Bureau of Land Management's appropriate management levels.

Ms. Tammy Pearson, Commissioner, Beaver County, spoke about the dire situation to range lands and the wild horse themselves in Beaver County and responded to questions.

Mr. Greg Sheehan, Director, DWR, talked about the complexity of the issue and planning efforts to manage the wild horse and burro population.

Chair Hinkins resumed the chair.

Mr. David Ure, Director, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), remarked that the actual number of wild horses well exceeds the estimated numbers. He also stressed the importance of educating the public about the unhealthy conditions of the horses.

Commissioner Pearson discussed the counties' inability to gather and house the animals due to the lack of funds.

Rep. Stratton emphasized the importance of maintaining a healthy horse population.

Rep. Kwan was interested in seeing that the wild horse and burro management plan is humane and keeps the public well-informed of the process.

12. RFA - Federal Deficit to Virgin River Program - Rep. Noel

Rep. Noel was not in attendance due to a funeral.

Mr. Henry Maddox, Director, Sensitive Species, DNR, presented the request. He discussed the federal government's inability to meet its financial commitment to the Virgin River Program. The request for funding will be used to repair a gorge barrier that will prevent an invasive species from entering Utah.

13. RFA - Foundation for Integrated Resource Management (FIRM) - Rep. Noel

Chair Hinkins indicated that Rep. Noel could possibly present this request during the next subcommittee meeting.

14. RFA - Energy Education Campaign - Rep. Noel

Chair Hinkins explained that the request for funding would support public/private partnerships in educating the public and the public education system on the benefits of energy production in Utah.

15. Agriculture and Food

Ms. LuAnn Adams, Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), invited division directors to present the building block requests for the department.

Mr. Cody James, Director of Animal Industry, UDAF, presented the building block request for a new fee for the Domestic Elk Program and a fee increase for Certificate of Veterinary Inspection Books.

Mr. Scott Erickson, Deputy Commissioner, UDAF, presented the building block request for Resources Conservation Capital Projects and Resource Conservation Employees and showed a short video.

Mr. Erickson also presented the building block request for Food & Dairy and Weights & Measures Inspections using dedicated credits.

Commissioner Adams presented the building block request for Agriculture Water Efficiency Grants and Study.

Chair Hinkins questioned whether or not the funding for this study could not be taken from the Water Infrastructure Restricted Account.

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, indicated that statute would need to be changed in order for the funding to come out of the Water Infrastructure Restricted Account.

Rep. Hawkes spoke in support of water research.

Mr. Wayne Bradshaw, Marketing Director, UDAF, presented three fees and one building block request for Utah's Own.

Rep. Christofferson asked if steps were being taken to make Utah's Own self-funding.

Rep. Stratton spoke in support of Utah's Own and inquired about the qualifications for membership.

16. RFA - Federalism Curriculum - Phase II - Rep. Ivory

Rep. Ivory offered some introductory remarks about federalism and the development of curriculum.

Mr. Rod Smith, Director, Center for Constitutional Studies, Utah Valley University, discussed the importance of increasing the knowledge of federalism among students and decision makers. He distributed a handout.

Mr. Mike Anderson, Jordan School District, spoke in support of educating students K-12 about the American system of federalism.

Rep. Ken Ivory added some final comments and responded to questions from Rep. Kwan.

17. RFA - Funding for Expansion of Willard Bay State Park Day Use Area - Rep. Perry

Rep. Perry indicated that the funding would be used to plan and develop an additional recreational area at Willard Bay State Park, which is experiencing continued growth and heavy use. He said that he would be submitting some intent language to go along with the request to look for ways to expand other state parks.

18. RFA - Foundation for Integrated Resource Management (FIRM) - Rep. Noel

Mr. Johnny Miller, Executive Director, FIRM, discussed FIRM's efforts to educate, provide research, and take legal action on issues related to public lands.

19. State Fair Corporation

Mr. Larry Mullenax, Executive Director, Utah State Fairpark, distributed a handout and explained that the funding will help compensate the Fairpark for revenue losses and monies that were spent on the development and construction of a new arena. He was joined by Mr. David Lewis, Chairman, State Fairpark Board.

Mr. Mullenax gave a brief overview of the Fairpark's history, 2016 accomplishments, 2017 budgeted operating expenses, and the FY 2018 appropriation request. His report included a [State Fair Park Presentation](#).

Mr. Mullenax responded to committee questions regarding the Fairpark's gains and losses, long-term planning, and space for home and heritage arts displays.

Rep. Kwan spoke in support of the State Fair.

Chair Hinkins inquired about the Days of 47 Rodeo that will be held at the new Fairpark arena.

Rep. Chew invited Rep. Sandra Hollins to comment on how her constituents feel about the State Fairpark and the opportunities for employment.

20. Wildlife Resources

Mr. Greg Sheehan, Director, DWR, explained that the building block request will provide funding for

emergency feeding of deer and elk, fencing materials to protect haystacks, and compensation to farmers and ranchers for damages. The funding will come from the Wildlife Resources Restricted Account.

21. School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration

Ms. Lisa Schneider, Finance Director, SITLA, discussed SITLA's revenue sources and budget line items. She explained building block requests for a RS 2477 Right of Way Specialist, the Land Exchange Program, a reduction in the SITLA Stewardship budget, and four fee increases.

In regards to RS 2477 and state litigation, Rep. Ivory asked how the shut down of roads has impacted SITLA lands throughout the State.

Mr. David Ure, Director, SITLA, indicate that it depends on the county and that SITLA is working hand in hand with the counties to effect the permanent installment of the RS 2477s.

22. RFA - Public Hunting Access - Sen. Hinkins

Chair Hinkins explained that the request for \$1.0 million ongoing provides for continued public hunting access to SITLA lands.

MOTION: Rep. Ivory moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 14-0-5.
Voting in the affirmative were:

Hinkins D, Ivory K, Chew S, Dayton M, Ipson D, Okerlund R, Vickers E, Christofferson K, Duckworth S, Greene B, Handy S, Hawkes T, Kwan K, Stratton K

Absent or not voting were:
Dabakis J, Knudson P, Noel M, Perry L, Roberts M

Chair Hinkins adjourned the meeting 10:48 a.m.