

**MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 • 4:10 pm • 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Dean Sanpei, House Chair
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell, Senate Vice Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, House Vice Chair
Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Luz Escamilla
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Karen Mayne
President Wayne L. Niederhauser
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe

Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Sandra Hollins
Speaker Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. John Knotwell
Rep. Angela Romero

Members Absent:

Rep. Brad R. Wilson

Staff Present:

Mr. Jonathan Ball, Director
Mr. Steven M. Allred, Deputy Director
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. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

Chair Sanpei called the meeting to order at 4:22 p.m. There were no minutes to approve.

2. Requests for Appropriation

2a. National Ability Center

Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell offered some introductory remarks about the National Ability Center (NAC). The request for appropriation is \$500,000 One-time General Fund (GF). A handout was distributed to committee members.

Ms. Gail Barille, Executive Director, NAC, explained that the NAC is a non-profit organization. The NAC will use this funding for program expansion and capital improvements.

Mr. Brad Peterson, Incoming Chairman of the Board, NAC, spoke in support of the program.

Mr. Lane Hill, former member of the U.S. Air Force, participant and volunteer at the NAC, shared how he and his family has benefited from recreation therapy both physically and psychologically.

2b. Veterans Memorial Hall

Rep. Craig Hall introduced the funding request for the Veterans Memorial Hall in West Valley City. The request for appropriation is \$100,000 One-time GF.

Mr. Ron Bigelow, Mayor, West Valley City, explained the purposes of the Veterans Memorial Hall. The funding will go toward the architectural and engineering plans to build the Veterans Memorial Hall.

Mayor Bigelow noted that the project has both public and private support.

Sen. Mayne spoke in support of the project.

3. Subcommittee Budget Reports

Mr. Allred explained the structure of the subcommittee budget reports. He used the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee as an example.

Retirement and Independent Entities (Tab 8)

[3a-Retirement and Independent Entities Appropriations Subcommittee Report \(2017 GS\)](#)

Rep. LaVar Christensen reported that the subcommittee's budget review process resulted in savings.

Sen. Hemmert and Rep. Christensen reviewed the ongoing and one-time funding request priority lists on page 8-1.

Sen. Hemmert discussed changes to rates and fees on page 8-5.

Rep. Last inquired about usage data related to Utah Futures and the possibility of moving the Electronic High School to UETN.

Public Education (Tab 7)

[3e-Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee Report \(2017 GS\)](#)

Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard presented the ongoing and one-time funding request priority lists on pages 7-1 and 7-2. He noted that in addition to ongoing funding for FY 2018, Enrollment Growth and Regional Service Centers will need one-time funding to finish out the school year.

Rep. Briscoe inquired about current appropriation levels for Item 14, Special Education Intensive Services, on the Ongoing Funding Request Priority List on page 7-1.

Rep. Gibson complimented Rep. Daniel McCay for his work on the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Sen. Stevenson expressed his appreciation to the chairs and the subcommittee members.

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality (Tab 6)

[3b-Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Enviro. Quality Appropriations Subcommittee Report \(2017 GS\)](#)

Sen. David P. Hinkins referred to Mr. Allred's earlier presentation of the subcommittee budget reports.

Sen. Stevenson inquired about the non-state appropriation for Air Quality Monitors on page 6-3.

Sen. Stevenson also asked about Item 2, Foundation for Integrated Resource Management (FIRM) - \$400,000 on the One-time Funding Priority List on page 6-1. He noted intent language directing how the funding, if approved, should be spent by the organization. Sen. Stevenson pointed out that FIRM is a non-state entity and that any awards of funding would require a competitive bid process first.

Sen. Hinkins responded that according to legal counsel, the intent language needs to be removed.

Rep. Ivory pointed out that the \$400,000 could go directly to the Constitutional Defense Council, which has grant making ability.

Rep. Gibson inquired about Item 17, Greater Sage-Grouse Litigation - \$1.0 million on the One-time Funding Request Priority List on page 6-1.

Business, Economic Development, and Labor (Tab 2)

[3c-Business, Economic Development, and Labor Appropriations Subcommittee Report \(2017 GS\)](#)

Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa reported on restricted fund and dedicated credit increases, non-lapsing intent language, fees, and reallocations as outlined in the report. The subcommittee also prioritized agency funding requests, requests for appropriation, and bills as found on pages 2-1 and 2-2.

Rep. Sandra Hollins asked if the subcommittee funded El Systema@Salty Cricket. Sen. Shiozawa responded in the affirmative. Mr. Ball clarified that while the subcommittee had recommended reallocating \$2.8 million from the Commerce Service Fund to various programs, the Legislature would still have to vote on a bill.

Sen. Luz Escamilla and Rep. Briscoe asked clarifying questions about the subcommittee's internal reallocations.

President Niederhauser asked about one-time funding for Tourism Marketing on page 2-1 and 2-3.

Sen. Shiozawa offered some suggestions that would improve the transparency for ongoing funding, pass through funds, and contract funds. He remarked that Heritage and Arts could play a greater role in vetting some of the requests for funding.

Speaker Hughes asked about Item 19, Outdoor Retailers Convention, \$2.4 million on the One-time Funding Request Priority List on page 2-1 and its return on investment.

Social Services (Tab 9)

[3d-Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee Report \(2017 GS\)](#)

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Rep. Paul Ray, and Rep. Ray Ward gave an overview of the subcommittee's recommendations as outlined in the report. Sen. Christensen indicated that the subcommittee was able to reduce building block requests by making changes in three areas: internal savings and reductions in the

base budget, reducing funding levels for building blocks, and encouraging sponsors to reduce the amounts requested in their requests for appropriation.

Sen. Christensen also commented on the subcommittee's Medicaid caseload recommendation.

Rep. Gibson asked about performance measures for providers and funding for Item 12, Baby Watch Early Intervention, on page 9-1.

Rep. Last inquired about Item 1, Medicaid Match Funds for Local Health Authorities, on the Ongoing Funding Request Priority List on page 9-1.

Sen. Okerlund inquired about TANF funding for the Marriage Commission.

Sen. Escamilla spoke in support of funding Baby Watch Early Intervention.

President Niederhauser asked clarifying questions about intent language that restricts administrative salary adjustments for Items 5, 6, and 7 on the Ongoing Funding Request Priority List on page 9-1.

Rep. Gibson complimented Rep. Ray for his efforts. He also inquired about Item 11, DSPD Waiting List Services, and Item 18, Disability Waiting List, on the Ongoing Funding Request Priority List on page 9-1.

Rep. King asked for more information about the Marriage Commission and its performance measures.

Sen. Stevenson offered some concluding remarks about available revenues and funding requests.

4. Other Business/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Stevenson moved to adjourn.

The motion passed with a vote of 18-0-2.

Voting in the affirmative were:

Stevenson J, Sanpei D, Van Tassell K, Last B, Davis G, Escamilla L, Iwamoto J, Knudson P, Mayne K, Niederhauser W, Okerlund R, Briscoe J, Gibson F, Hollins S, Hughes G, King Brian S, Knotwell J, Romero A

Absent or not voting were:

Adams J S, Wilson B

Chair Sanpei adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.