

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

Thursday, January 26, 2017 • 8:00 a.m. • 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. David P. Hinkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Ken Ivory, House Chair
Rep. Scott H. Chew, House Vice Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Don L. Ipson
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Kay J. Christofferson
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Brian M. Greene
Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes
Rep. Karen Kwan
Rep. Lee B. Perry

Rep. Marc K. Roberts
Rep. Keven J. Stratton

Members Absent:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
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.

Chair Ken Ivory called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

1. Office of Energy Development Base Budget

Dr. Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Office of Energy Development (OED), joined by Ms. Michele Paskar, Finance Manager, OED, continued the discussion on OED's base budget from the January 26, 2017 meeting.

[Office of Energy Development Presentation](#)

Chair Ivory asked about private investment leverage.

Sen. Jim Dabakis inquired about the OED travel expenses in FY 2016.

Chair Ivory pointed out that the OED had taken over the Governor's Advisory role without receiving any funding.

2. Parks and Recreation Base Budget

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, presented the base budget overview for the Division of Parks and Recreation using a variety of online budgeting tools posted on the subcommittee webpage under meeting materials for January 24, 2017.

[Budget Tools](#)

[Historic Trends Tools](#)

[COBI 2017 - Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality](#)

[Linked NRAEQ Base Budget Bill \(SB0005\)](#)
[Intent Language for Performance Measures](#)
[Report on How the Funding Appropriated for FY 2016 was Used](#)

Rep. Stratton asked about the growth in revenue for the Division of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Djambov showed how to access the information in COBI.

Mr. Fred Hayes, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation, reported on activities at the various state parks using a slide presentation. He was joined by Mr. Scott Strong, Finance Director, Division of Parks and Recreation.

Rep. Chew asked about renovations at the Steinaker and Red Fleet State Parks.

Sen. Ipson expressed his appreciation to Mr. Hayes and his team members.

Rep. Christofferson appreciated State Park's willingness to contract with the private market in the management of parks.

Rep. Stratton asked about increasing the size of state parks and/or creating new state parks. Mr. Hayes responded.

3. Wildlife Resources Base Budget

Mr. Djambov presented the base budget for the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR).

Rep. Ken Ivory asked about restrictions associated with federal funds spending and the possibility of removing the restrictions.

Mr. Greg Sheehan, Director, DWR, responded that the existing restrictions on federal funds spending were not overbearing or burdensome to the State.

Rep. Greene inquired about federal grant money that had not been spent. Mr. Sheehan responded that the majority of these funds would be used for wildlife conservation.

Mr. Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Chief, DWR, was available to answer questions.

Mr. Sheehan introduced members of the DWR staff and gave an update on fishing licenses, the deer population, emergency wildlife feeding, and Quagga Mussel prevention. Mr. Sheehan responded to committee questions.

Rep. Chew commented on the winter deer fatalities.

Rep. Perry talked about efforts to prevent the spread of Quagga Mussel in the Bear Lake area.

In regards to the Bears Ears Monument designation, Mr. Sheehan indicated that the DWR would take into consideration watershed restoration and hunting access.

Mr. Sheehan discussed prairie dog management.

Mr. Sheehan showed a short video about the fish in Utah.

Rep. Stratton expressed his appreciation to Mr. Sheehan and the DWR.

4. Forestry, Fire, and State Lands Base Budget

Mr. Djambov presented the base budget for the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (FFSL).

Rep. Christofferson and Chair Ivory talked about maintaining appropriate balances in the divisions' budgets. Rep. Hawkes remarked that the subcommittee also needed to pay close attention to the purposes for which monies are spent.

Mr. Brian Cottam, State Forester, and Director, FFSL, presented the division's base budget that included a slide presentation. He responded to questions regarding biomass utilization and the costs associated with wildfire prevention and wildfire suppression.

Mr. Roger Lewis, Director, Administrative Services and Finance, FFSL, provided assistance.

Rep. Hawkes complimented Mr. Cottam and his staff on their ability to reach out to industries on the Great Salt Lake.

5. Water Resources Base Budget

Mr. Djambov discussed the base budget for the Division of Water Resources.

Mr. Todd Adams, Deputy Director, Division of Water Resources, discussed the status of the Lake Powell pipeline, three revolving loan funds, dam safety projects, Slow-the-Flow campaign, the Great Salt Lake breach, cloud seeding, snow pack levels, and reservoir storage.

Mr. Joel Williams, Assistant Director, Division of Water Resources, distributed the handout, "Water for Utah."

Mr. Jim Egbert, Financial Manager, Division of Water Resources, provided assistance.

Rep. Chew inquired about canal mapping, inclusion of pipelines, and canal safety.

Mr. Kent Jones, State Engineer and Director, Division of Water Rights, responded.

Mr. Adams responded to questions regarding storage capacity of reservoirs, flooding, slide potential, and funding of the Central Utah Project.

6. DNR Admin Base Budget

Mr. Djambov reviewed line items within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Administration base budget.

Mr. Michael R. Styler, Executive Director, DNR, briefly commented on the use of Pass Through funds and the difficulties DNR had in understanding legislative intent.

Mr. Dennis Carver, Finance Director, DNR, reported on Pass Through funds.

Mr. Styler reported on DNR Regional Buildings in Richfield, Cedar City, Vernal, and Price.

Mr. Styler introduced Mr. Henry Maddox, Director, Species Protection Program.

Sen. Dayton inquired about the funding of the Richfield Building and how DNR interfaces with the Division of Facilities Construction and Management. Mr. Styler responded.

Mr. Styler recognized Mr. Sid Grove, who coordinates DNR's law enforcement efforts.

Rep. Perry identified instances where DNR's law enforcement has lent support to the Utah Highway Patrol.

7. Zoos

This agenda item was not heard.

8. Other Business

MOTION: Sen. Vickers moved to adjourn.

The motion passed with a vote of 13-0-6.

Yeas:

Rep. S. Chew
Rep. K. Christofferson
Sen. M. Dayton
Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. B. Greene
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. K. Ivory
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. L. Perry
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. K. Stratton
Sen. E. Vickers

Nays:

Abs:

Sen. J. Dabakis
Rep. S. Handy
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. P. Knudson
Rep. M. Noel
Sen. R. Okerlund

Chair Ivory adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.