

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

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 • 8:30 a.m. • 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. David P. Hinkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Kay J. Christofferson, House Chair
Rep. Scott H. Chew, House Vice Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Don L. Ipson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Stewart E. Barlow
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Stephen G. Handy

Rep. Karen Kwan
Rep. Lee B. Perry
Rep. Douglas V. Sagers
Rep. Keven J. Stratton
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Members Absent:

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 copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Call to Order

House Chair Kay J. Christofferson called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

Members of the subcommittee and staff introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Rep. Karen Kwan moved to amend the minutes of February 9, 2017 as follows: Original text: "Rep. Kwan was interested in seeing the wild horse and burro management plan move forward and in keeping the public well-informed." Corrected text: "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."

Rep. Kwan spoke to the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 16-0-3.

Yeas-16

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. K. Christofferson
Sen. J. Dabakis
Sen. M. Dayton
Rep. S. Handy
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. K. Kwan
Sen. R. Okerlund

Nays-0

Absent-3

Rep. S. Duckworth
Sen. P. Knudson
Rep. M. Noel

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Rep. L. Perry

Rep. D. Sagers

Rep. K. Stratton

Sen. E. Vickers

Rep. C. Watkins

MOTION: Rep. Kwan moved to approve the minutes of January 26, February 1, February 3, February 7, February 9, and February 13, 2017.

Rep. Keven J. Stratton spoke to Rep. Kwan's motion to amend the February 9, 2017 minutes.

Rep. Kwan clarified that the motion to amend reflects the intent of the subcommittee.

The motion passed with a vote of 16-0-3.

Yeas-16

Rep. C. Albrecht

Rep. S. Barlow

Rep. S. Chew

Rep. K. Christofferson

Sen. J. Dabakis

Sen. M. Dayton

Rep. S. Handy

Sen. D. Hinkins

Sen. D. Ipson

Rep. K. Kwan

Sen. R. Okerlund

Rep. L. Perry

Rep. D. Sagers

Rep. K. Stratton

Sen. E. Vickers

Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-3

Rep. S. Duckworth

Sen. P. Knudson

Rep. M. Noel

3. State Parks: Possible Expansions of Parks and Services

Mr. Fred Hayes, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), discussed possible expansions of parks and services and the current condition of existing state parks.

Mr. Hayes and Mr. Scott Strong, Financial Manager, Division of Parks and Recreation, DNR, responded to committee comments and questions.

Mr. Hayes indicated that he would be approaching the Legislature in the next General Session about using restricted fund balances to improve the facilities at the existing state parks.

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, reported on fund balances in three restricted accounts as shown in the Compendium of Budget Information (COBI).

Mr. Djambov indicated that he would provide the subcommittee with an updated five-year capital needs prioritization plan.

4. Intro to LFA Tools: Data Viz

Mr. Djambov demonstrated how to use Data Viz, an online data visualization tool located at www.budget.utah.gov.

5. Intro to Legislators' Assignments

House Chair Christofferson explained that the legislators' assignments for budget deep-dive would increase subcommittee oversight of agency budgets.

6. LFA Budget Review: Water Rights

Mr. Djambov presented an overview of the Division of Water Rights budget.

6-Issue Brief - 2017 Interim - LFA Budget Review - Water Rights
[6-Issue Brief - 2017 Interim - LFA Budget Review - Water Rights](#)

7. Water Rights Adjudication, Pilot Project: Results, Plans, Goals

Mr. Kent Jones, State Engineer and Director of the Division of Water Rights, presented the report and responded to questions.

Mr. Blake Bingham, Assistant State Engineer, Adjudication Program, discussed a three-pronged approach to streamline the water rights adjudications process and responded to questions.

7-Water Rights Adjudication Presentation
[7-Water Rights Adjudication Presentation](#)

8. Water Rights Adjudication, Special Master: Results, Plans, Goals

Mr. Ben Jensen, Assistant Attorney General, Utah Attorney General's Office, present the report and responded to questions.

8a-Order Appointing a Master and Order of Reference in the Utah Lake and Jordan River General Adjudication
[8a-Order Appointing a Master and Order of Reference in the Utah Lake and Jordan River General Adjudication](#)

8b-Special Master's Second Status Report to the Court
[8b-Special Master's Second Status Report to the Court](#)

9. Plans for Potential Harmful Algal Blooms

Mr. Brad Johnson, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Quality, introduced the new director of the Division of Water Quality and responded to committee comments and questions.

Ms. Erica Gaddis, Director, Division of Water Quality, presented the report and responded to questions.

9-Nutrient and Harmful Algal Bloom Programs
[9-Nutrient and Harmful Algal Bloom Programs](#)

10. DEQ's Electronic Tools for Environmental Issues

The subcommittee did not hear this item.

11. Impacts from the Gold King Mine Spill

Ms. Gaddis gave an update on the Gold King Mine Spill and responded to questions.

11-Gold King Mine Spill_Status Update
[11-Gold King Mine Spill_Status Update](#)

12. Wild Horses and Burros: DWR Plan for the Appropriations

The subcommittee did not hear this item.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 15-0-4.

Yeas-15
Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Barlow

Nays-0

Absent-4
Sen. J. Dabakis
Sen. P. Knudson

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House Chair Christofferson adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.