

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

Wednesday, July 26, 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. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Stewart E. Barlow
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:

Rep. Susan Duckworth
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 Vice Chair Scott H. Chew called the meeting to order at 8:37 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Rep. Albrecht moved to approve the minutes of June 20, 2017. The motion passed with a vote of 11-0-8.

Yeas-11

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. K. Christofferson
Sen. M. Dayton
Rep. S. Handy
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. L. Perry
Rep. K. Stratton
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-8

Rep. S. Barlow
Sen. J. Dabakis
Rep. S. Duckworth
Sen. P. Knudson
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. M. Noel
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. D. Sagers

3. Intro to LFA Tools: Trends Tool

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst (LFA), demonstrated how to access and use the Trends Tool that subcommittee members can use in preparing budget deep dives for the upcoming September and October meetings.

3-Trends Tools
[3-Trends Tools](#)

4. DEQ's Electronic Tools for Environmental Issues

Mr. Brad Johnson, Deputy Director, DEQ, reported on four electronic tools.

4-Communication Tools - DEQ Presentation
[4-Communication Tools - DEQ Presentation](#)

Sen. Hinkins asked about air quality monitoring stations relative to the coal-fired power plants in Emery and Millard counties. Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality (DAQ), responded.

Sen. Okerlund asked if the division collects data on the effects of wildfires on Utah's air quality. Mr. Bird responded in the affirmative and offered to send Sen. Okerlund a report.

Chair Chew requested that DAQ send the report to Mr. Djambov who would forward the report to subcommittee members. Rep. Stratton asked that the report include a comparison to vehicle emissions.

5. LFA Budget Review: Air Quality

Mr. Alex Wilson, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, presented the budget deep dive for the Division of Air Quality using a Power Point presentation.

5a-Air Quality Deep Dive
[5a-Air Quality Deep Dive](#)

5b-DAQ Statutory Authority
[5b-DAQ Statutory Authority](#)

Mr. Bird responded to questions regarding statewide air emissions, pollutant monitoring networks, and research costs.

Chair Chew reminded the subcommittee that the deep dive assignments should focus on the budget and the effective use of monies.

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

Mr. Michael R. Styler, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources, discussed the upcoming Wild Horse and Burros Management Summit scheduled for August 2017.

Mr. Mike Fowlks, Interim Director, Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), discussed how the division plans to use appropriations to mitigate the wild horse and burros issue. He responded to questions.

Chair Chew expressed concern that the plans for funding might not be addressing the overpopulation of horses.

Chair Chew relinquished the chair to House Chair Kay J. Christofferson.

Chair Christofferson offered some introductory remarks about agency fees and the costs associated with fees.

7. Wildlife Resources' Fees Review: Fee Amount vs. Costs to Administer

Mr. Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Chief, DWR, presented the report and responded to questions.

7-DWR Fees

[7-DWR Fees](#)

Chair Christofferson observed that DWS fees balance out with overall costs.

Rep. Stratton commended DWS for its management of costs and fees and asked how Utah's fees align with neighboring states. Mr. Fowlks responded.

8. Parks' Fees Review: Fee Amount vs. Costs to Administer

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, displayed the agency's fee data spreadsheet.

Mr. Fred Hayes, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation, commented on the division's cost accounting system and the impact that increased visitation has had on park facilities.

Mr. Scott Strong, Finance, Division of Parks and Recreation, presented the report and responded to questions.

8-Parks Fees

[8-Parks Fees](#)

Chair Christofferson inquired about fee and cost ratios. Mr. Djambov noted possible errors in the division's data. Mr. Strong indicated that he would review the formulas and update the report.

Chair Christofferson asked about some fees that do not cover costs.

Mr. Hayes commented on efforts to privatize the management of the State's public golf courses.

Rep. Stratton commented on the alignment of fees and costs.

9. Forestry, Fire, and State Lands' Fees Review: Fee Amount vs. Costs to Administer

Mr. Roger Lewis, Finance Director, Department of Natural Resources, presented the report and responded to questions. He was joined by Ms. Laura Ault, Sovereign Lands Program Manager, Forestry, Fire, and State Land's (FFSL).

9-Forestry Fees
[9-Forestry Fees](#)

Sen. Dabakis asked questions and commented on FFSL fees and costs. Mr. Lewis responded.

Ms. Ault commented on issues related to fee noncompliance.

10. Utah Geological Survey's Fees Review: Fee Amount vs. Costs to Administer

Mr. Rick Allis, Director, Utah Geological Survey (UGS), gave an overview of UGS fees.

Ms. Jodi Patterson, Financial Manager, UGS, presented the report.

10-Geological Survey Fees
[10-Geological Survey Fees](#)

Chair Christofferson offered some cost accounting suggestions. Ms. Patterson responded.

Mr. Mike Vanden Burg, Geologic Manager, UGS, explained how fees are calculated for the Utah core centers.

Rep. Sagers spoke on the importance of measuring fees and costs.

Sen. Hinkins asked for an update on the drilling of geothermal wells. Mr. Allis responded.

11. Water Rights' Fees Review: Fee Amount vs. Costs to Administer

Mr. Kent Jones, State Engineer, Division of Water Rights, presented the report. He was joined by Mr. Tom Upton, Financial Manager, Division of Water Rights.

11-Water Rights Fees
[11-Water Rights Fees](#)

Chair Christofferson inquired about the proper balance of fees and costs. Mr. Jones responded.

Sen. Hinkins and Rep. Sagers provided some feedback on balancing fees and costs.

12. Oil, Gas, and Mining's Fees Review: Fee Amount vs. Costs to Administer

Mr. John Baza, Director, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (OGM), gave an overview of OGM fees and services. He was joined by Ms. Paula Dupin-Zahn, Financial Manager, OGM.

12-Oil, Gas, and Mining Fees
[12-Oil, Gas, and Mining Fees](#)

Sen. Hinkins, Rep. Albrecht, and Sen. Dayton asked questions and commented on wind and solar farms.

Sen. Dabakis talked about issues related to the subsidization of non-profit interests.

13. Environmental Quality's Fees Review: Fee Amount vs. Costs to Administer

Mr. Alan Matheson, Executive Director, DEQ, emphasized the department's commitment to keeping costs down and improving operations. He responded to questions.

Mr. Craig Silotti, Finance Director, DEQ, presented the report and responded to questions.

13a-DEQ Dedicated Credits Fees
[13a-DEQ Dedicated Credits Fees](#)

13b-DEQ Restricted Fund Fees
[13b-DEQ Restricted Fund Fees](#)

13c-DEQ Fee Finance Code to Cost Crosswalk
[13c-DEQ Fee Finance Code to Cost Crosswalk](#)

13d-DEQ Hourly Rate Calculation
[13d-DEQ Hourly Rate Calculation](#)

House Vice Chair Chew assumed the chair.

MOTION: Rep. Sagers moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 16-0-3.

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Subcommittee

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Yeas-16

Nays-0

Absent-3

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Chair Chew adjourned the meeting at 11:04 p.m.