

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

Wednesday, October 18, 2017 • 8:30 a.m. • 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. David P. Hinkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Scott H. Chew, House Vice Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Don L. Ipson
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Stewart E. Barlow
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Karen Kwan
Rep. Michael E. Noel

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

Members Absent:

Rep. Kay J. Christofferson, House Chair
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Stephen G. Handy

Staff Present:

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

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. Chair called the meeting to order 8:36 p.m.

2 . Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Sen. Jim Dabakis moved to approve the minutes of July 26, 2017. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 7 .

Yeas-12

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. J. Dabakis
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. L. Perry
Rep. D. Sagers
Rep. K. Stratton
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-7

Rep. K. Christofferson
Sen. M. Dayton
Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. S. Handy
Sen. P. Knudson
Rep. M. Noel
Sen. R. Okerlund

3 . Water Data Accuracy Report

Mr. Kent Jones, State Engineer, and Director, Division of Water Rights, introduced the report.

Mr. James Greer, Assistant State Engineer, Division of Water Rights, presented the Water Data Accuracy Report and responded to questions.

[3-Water Data Accuracy Report](#)

4 . Budget Review: DEQ Drinking Water, Water Quality (Sen. Vickers)

Sen. Evan J. Vickers reported on the Division of Drinking Water and the Division of Water Quality using a slide presentation.

Mr. Michael Grange, Section Manager, Financial Assistance Programs, Division of Drinking Water, discussed the use of federal funds.

Ms. Jody Garber, Utah Division of Water Quality, identified division activities pertaining to non-perennial streams.

5 . Budget Review: DNR Utah Geological Survey, DEQ Air Quality (Rep. Noel)

Rep. Michael E. Noel provided some background information on the Utah Geological Survey (UGS).

Mr. Rick Allis, Director, UGS, talked about the role of geological information in making land use decisions, reviewed key budget issues, and discussed future federal funding.

Rep. Noel pointed out that the Legislature has talked for years about Utah's dependency on federal funding and what the loss of those funds would mean to state programs. He inquired about an energy project in the Millard County area that he had recently visited. Mr. Allis responded.

Rep. Noel expressed his support for the UGS and commented on the importance of collecting and making geological data available to the public and the end users of public lands.

Sen. David P. Hinkins inquired about a potential geothermal project in Milford, Utah, one of two sites being considered by the federal government for funding. Mr. Allis responded.

Sen. Dabakis expressed his support for the Milford site.

Rep. Noel commented further about southern Utah's energy potential.

6 . Budget Review: DEQ Executive Director's Office, Waste Management and Radiation Control, Environmental Response and Remediation, Hazardous Substance Mitigation Fund (Rep. Perry)

Rep. Lee B. Perry presented the report. He invited Mr. Scott Anderson, Director, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, and Mr. Brent Everett, Director, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation, to join him.

Rep. Perry indicated that he would be opening a bill file to address some fee inequities identified in H.B. 115, Solid Waste Revisions (2017 General Session).

Rep. Perry responded to questions and comments from Sen. Dabakis, Rep. Noel, and Sen. Vickers regarding H.B. 115.

7 . Budget Review: DNR Internal Service Fund, Restricted Funds (Rep. Albrecht)

Rep. Carl R. Albrecht reported on the Invasive Species Mitigation Fund, Grazing Improvement Program, Wildlife Services, and Constitutional Defense Fund. He was joined by Mr. Scott Erickson, Deputy Director, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

8 . Budget Review: DNR Parks and Recreation (Rep. Sagers)

Rep. Douglas V. Sagers presented the budget review for DNR Parks and Recreation using an online interactive tool.

[8-Parks Revenues, Visitors, and Staff](#)

[8-Parks Profit - Loss 2013 - 2017](#)

Rep. Sagers responded to questions from Rep. Stratton, Rep. Barlow, and Sen. Dabakis regarding Parks' profit and loss data.

9 . Budget Review: State Fair, UDAF Predatory Animal Control, Regulatory Services, Resource Conservation, Salinity (Rep. Stratton)

Rep. Keven J. Stratton presented the report on the State Fair Park using the Compendium of Budget Information.

Sen. Hinkins asked if the State Fair Park had signed a long-term lease with the State, which would help with corporate sponsorship. Ms. Luann Adams, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food, responded.

Commissioner Adams discussed State Fair Park improvements resulting from the new management.

Rep. Stratton suggested improving the communication between the different funding sources, the State, and the Utah State Fair Park Corporation. He also cautioned about overpricing which might exclude some people from attending the State Fair.

Rep. Stratton reported on the Animal Predatory Control followed by comments from Commissioner Adams, Sen. Hinkins, and Chair Chew.

Rep. Stratton reported on the Regulatory Services followed by comments from Commissioner Adams.

Rep. Stratton reported on Resource Conservation. Commissioner Adams noted that the Conservation Districts will now receive funding on a reimbursement basis to ensure that money is being spent properly. She gave one example of how the funding is being put to good use.

Rep. Stratton reported on the Salinity Offset Program and asked about legislative input and overview. Sen. Hinkins responded followed by comments from Chair Chew.

Mr. Rob Houggard, Director, Division of Plant Industry and Conservation, explained how his division works cooperatively with the Division of Water Resources and the Division of Water Quality before putting projects in place.

Rep. Karen Kwan was interested in knowing how state agencies who do the same things work together to achieve efficiencies. Commissioner Adams responded.

10 . Budget Review: UDAF Admin, Animal Health (Rep. Watkins)

Rep. Christine F. Watkins presented the report. She was joined by Mr. Scott Erickson, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food.

11 . Budget Review: DNR Oil, Gas and Mining (Rep. Duckworth)

Rep. Susan Duckworth presented the report and a short video. She was joined by Mr. John Baza, Director, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (OGM).

Mr. Baza used a slide presentation to discuss the demand for oil, gas, and mining; reclamation efforts; and sources of funding.

Chair Chew inquired about the number and size of abandoned mines. Mr. Baza responded followed by questions and comments from Sen. Hinkins.

Mr. Baza discussed how the loss of General Fund monies along with increased activity would impact OGM.

12 . Budget Review: DNR Admin, Building, Pass Thru, Species Protection (Rep. Barlow)

Rep. Stewart E. Barlow presented the report that included DNR Admin, Building, Pass Thru, and Species Protection.

13 . DNR Public Relations Consolidation Report

Mr. Robyn Pearson, Deputy Director, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), introduced the report.

Mr. Nathan Schewach, Communications Director, DNR, presented a review on possible public relations consolidation.

[15-DNR Public Relations Consolidation Report](#)

14 . Other Business

MOTION: Rep. Watkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 8 .

Yeas-11

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. J. Dabakis
Rep. S. Duckworth
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. L. Perry
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-8

Rep. K. Christofferson
Sen. M. Dayton
Rep. S. Handy
Sen. P. Knudson
Rep. M. Noel
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. D. Sagers
Sen. E. Vickers

Chair Chew adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.