



MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, August 20, 2019 | 1:15 p.m. | 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. David P. Hinkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Stewart E. Barlow, House Chair
Rep. Scott H. Chew, House Vice Chair
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Sen. Ronald Winterton
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Kay J. Christofferson
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Suzanne Harrison

Rep. Phil Lyman
Rep. Lee B. Perry
Rep. Casey Snider
Rep. Keven J. Stratton
Rep. Logan Wilde

Members Absent:

Sen. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Karen Kwan

Staff Present:

Mr. Timothy G. Dinehart, Financial Analyst
Mr. Ivan D. Djambov, Finance Manager
Ms. Nancy Skidmore, Committee Secretary

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

Chair Chew called the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m.

1 . Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Sen. Okerlund moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2019 meeting.

The committee did not have a full quorum so the vote to approve minutes was invalid. Another vote was taken later in the meeting when the committee had a full quorum.

2 . Accountable Budget Review Process - Forestry, Fire and State Lands

[2-Accountable Budget Review Process - Forestry, Fire, and State Lands](#)

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Finance Manager, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, presented the report.

Rep. Harrison asked a clarifying question about the table on page 7, Fire Suppression and Rehabilitation Costs. She wanted to know the amount of federal contributions and also asked for the breakdown of state and federal funds.

Mr. Djambov responded.

Rep. Perry asked about Bear Lake funding.

Mr. Djambov broke down the funding and said that the money had not yet been spent.

MOTION: Sen. Okerlund moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2019 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-15

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. K. Christofferson
Rep. S. Handy
Rep. S. Harrison
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. P. Lyman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. L. Perry
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. L. Wilde
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-4

Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. K. Kwan
Sen. D. Thatcher

Mr. Brian Cottam, Director, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, made a presentation about Utah's 2019 Fire Season.

Rep. Stratton asked if there was a breakdown of the cost of federal managed and state managed lands. He also asked about how many total acres burned last year.

Mr. Cottam replied that last year's fire season was three times the normal acres and cost.

Mr. Cottam continued his presentation.

Rep. Christofferson asked what could be done to make FEMA money available to the state more quickly.

Mr. Cottam replied that FEMA has staff shortage at their Denver office and is not able to process the payments.

Rep. Perry asked how many people were caught starting fires and how many were being charged.

Mr. Cottam said that every fire is investigated and a cost recovery is pursued.

Mr. Cottam continued his presentation.

Rep. Lyman asked about the slippery slope of seeking damage recoveries.

Mr. Cottam responded that to proceed with cost recovery, there has to be evidence that the individual broke the law and that there was intent. He emphasized that there has been a lot of thought put into who will be prosecuted and cost recovery.

Mr. Cottam continued his presentation and talked about the forestry program.

Rep. Barlow asked about the assessment for the Tree City USA program.

Mr. Cottam explained that a city needs to do four things to be considered to be a Tree City USA: an assessment (about \$3 per resident), a tree board, a community tree plan, and celebrate Arbor Day.

Rep. Snider asked about appropriations and the division's long term plan.

Mr. Cottam addressed economic development.

Rep. Harrison asked Mr. Cottam to elaborate on how wood clearing has or has not changed through the years in regards to federal lands.

Mr. Cottam replied that it is a supply issue and a market issue.

Rep. Stratton commented that the root of the market is regulation.

Sen. Hinkins asked why Sevier Lake is not on the list.

Sen. Okerland commented that Sevier Lake is usually dry most of the year.

Sen. Hinkins asked who receives mineral resources from Sevier Lake.

Mr. Cottam replied that the federal government will receive the revenues from Sevier Lake.

Mr. Cottam continued with his presentation.

Chair Chew asked what criteria determines a restored area.

Mr. Cottam explained the criteria for a restored area.

Rep. Chistofferson asked about the phragmites problem in Utah.

Mr. Cottam commented on the good work that is being done to address the phragmites problem, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Mr. Cottam continued with his presentation.

3 . Review of Agencies' Fee Data

[3-Review of Agencies' Fee Data, DNR, and SITLA](#)

Mr. Ivan Djambov presented the report.

Rep. Stratton asked for an explanation of the "no's" in the report.

Mr. Djambov provided an explanation.

Rep. Christofferson asked if the agencies that were present would comment on their fees' data.

A discussion followed on whether the agencies were prepared to present at this time or if this item should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Rep. Christofferson proposed that the agencies report back in a month with a response to the report.

Rep. Lyman asked about the history of the report.

Rep. Christofferson responded.

Mr. John Basa, Director, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, responded.

Rep. Christofferson discussed fees with Mr. Basa.

Sen. Hinkins expressed his frustration with fees.

4 . Report on Performance Measures for New Funding, 2018 General Session

[4-Performance Measures over 20k evaluation Report](#)

Mr. Tim Dinehart, Financial Analyst, presented the report.

Chair Chew reflected back on the fee discussion and the need to have questions asked and answered by the agencies. He asked agencies to report back to the Fiscal Analyst's Office.

Rep. Stratton discussed fees with Sen. Hinkins and Mr. Djambov.

5 . Other Business

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 6.

Yeas-13

Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. K. Christofferson
Rep. S. Handy
Rep. S. Harrison
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. L. Perry
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. K. Stratton
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-6

Rep. C. Albrecht
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. K. Kwan
Sen. R. Okerlund
Sen. D. Thatcher
Rep. L. Wilde

Chair Chew adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.