



# MINUTES

## NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS

### SUBCOMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Friday, January 31, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. | 210 Senate Building

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#### Members Present:

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

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

#### Members Absent:

Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher

#### Staff Present:

Ivan D. Djambov, Finance Manager  
Lacey K. Moore, Financial Analyst  
Christopher Vizcardo, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

Chair Barlow called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

## 1 . Department of Natural Resources Administration

Ivan Djambov, Finance Manager, Office the Legislative Fiscal Analyst (LFA) presented an overview of the Department of Natural Resources Administration.

Sen. Hinkins commented on carbon taxes.

Brian Steed, Executive Director of Department of Natural Resources (DNR), responded with the support of Roger Lewis, Finance Director, DNR.

Rep. Chew commented on the Watershed Restoration Initiative.

## 2 . Approval of Minutes from January 29, 2020

**MOTION:** Rep. Stratton moved to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2020 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-15

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Barlow  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Handy  
Rep. S. Harrison  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Sen. J. Iwamoto  
Rep. K. Kwan  
Sen. R. Okerlund  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. C. Snider  
Rep. K. Stratton  
Rep. L. Wilde  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-4

Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. P. Lyman  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Sen. D. Thatcher

### **3 . Responses to the Audit Subcommittee**

Lacey Moore, Analyst, presented on the responses to the Audit Subcommittee.

[3a - Oil and Gas Audit - Letter to the NRAEQ Appropriations Subcommittee](#)

[3b - DNR Audit - Letter to the NRAEQ Appropriations Subcommittee](#)

[3c - DNR Audit Summary](#)

[3d - An In-Depth Budget Review of The Department of Natural Resources](#)

**MOTION:** Chair Hinkins moved to require the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining report on their progress, detailing how they've implemented each of the Legislative Auditor's recommendations to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst by October 1st, 2020. The motion passed with a vote of 16 - 0 - 3.

Yeas-16

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Barlow  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Handy  
Rep. S. Harrison  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Sen. J. Iwamoto  
Rep. K. Kwan  
Rep. P. Lyman  
Sen. R. Okerlund  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. C. Snider  
Rep. K. Stratton  
Rep. L. Wilde  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-3

Rep. S. Chew  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Sen. D. Thatcher

**MOTION:** Chair Hinkins moved to require the Department of Natural Resources report on their progress, detailing how they've implemented of each of the Legislative Auditor's recommendations to the to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst by October 1st, 2020. The motion passed with a vote of 16 - 0 - 3.

Yeas-16

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Barlow  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Handy  
Rep. S. Harrison  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Sen. J. Iwamoto  
Rep. K. Kwan  
Rep. P. Lyman  
Sen. R. Okerlund  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. C. Snider  
Rep. K. Stratton  
Rep. L. Wilde  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-3

Rep. S. Chew  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Sen. D. Thatcher

Rep. Stratton asked for a point of clarification on the motions presented by Sen. Hinkins. Sen. Hinkins responded. Discussion followed.

#### **4 . Watershed Restoration**

Ivan Djambov presented on the Watershed Restoration project.

[1 - NRAEQ Detailed Agenda 1-31-2020](#)

Sen. Okerlund asked a question regarding additional funding for the Watershed Restoration Project. Ivan Djambov responded.

Rep. Snider asked a question on metrics. Tyler Thompson, Watershed Director, DNR, responded.

Tyler Thompson, responded to the Water Shed Restoration Project presentation.

[4a - Watershed Restoration Presentation](#)

Sen. Hinkins asked a question regarding fire suppression. Brian Steed responded.

Rep. Harrison asked a question regarding the recommendations of the audit. Tyler Thompson responded with the support of Brian Steed.

Rep. Albrecht commented on work with the United States Forest Service. Tyler Thompson responded.

Rep. Kwan asked regarding putting the Watershed Restoration Initiative in statute. Brian Steed responded. Discussion followed.

Rep. Christofferson asked a question regarding post-fire performance measures. Tyler Thompson responded. Discussion followed.

Chair Barlow asked a question about the Aspen Regeneration Program. Brian Steed responded.

#### **5 . Species Protection**

Ivan Djambov presented on the Species Protection program.

Sen. Hinkins remarked on the Species Protection Program presentation.

Brian Steed responded to the Species Protection Program presentation with the support of Paul Thompson, Deputy Director for the Recovery Programs Office, DNR, responded.

Sen. Hinkins asked a question regarding the Mohabi Dessert Tortoise. Paul Thompson responded.

Chair Barlow asked about the Gila Monster. Paul Thompson responded.

Sen. Ipson commented on the Mojave Desert Tortoise.

Chair Barlow asked about the Deseret Milkvetch. Paul Thompson responded.

Sen. Iwamoto asked if the Central Utah Water Conservancy Project collaborated with the June Sucker Recovery program. Paul Thompson responded. Discussion followed.

Sen. Hinkins asked a question about inholdings. Paul Thompson responded.

Rep. Kwan asked a question regarding Carp in Utah Lake. Paul Thompson responded.

Rep. Snider asked a question regarding a transportation corridor in Washington County. Brian Steed responded.

Rep. Albrecht commented the keeping species off the endangered species list.

## **6 . Utah Geological Survey**

Ivan Djambov presented on the Utah Geological Survey.

Sen. Okerlund asked a few questions regarding the mineral lease fund. Sen. Hinkins responded with assistance from Ivan Djambov.

Rep. Christofferson asked a question regarding the Salt Flats funding. Sen. Hinkins responded.

Rep. Handy commented on the Salt Flats.

Sen. Hinkins commented on the Utah Geological Survey.

Bill Keach, Director of the Utah Geological Survey, DNR, responded to the presentation on Utah Geological Survey.

Sen. Hinkins asked a question regarding fault lines.

Sen. Okerlund asked about the uses of the new Geologic Hazards Web Application. Bill Keach responded.

Rep. Wilde asked a question about information contained in the Web Application.

Rep. Stratton noted the value of information provided by the Geological Hazards Web Application.

Bill Keach continued the presentation.

Chair Barlow commented on the Utah Geological Society's funds.

## **7 . RFA: Richfield Fire Cache and Storage Building (Sen. Okerlund)**

Sen. Okerlund presented on the Richfield Fire Cache and Storage Building.

## **8 . Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Wilde moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-15

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Barlow  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Sen. J. Iwamoto  
Rep. K. Kwan  
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

Rep. S. Handy  
Rep. S. Harrison  
Rep. P. Lyman  
Sen. D. Thatcher

Chair Barlow adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.