



DRAFT MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Monday, August 17, 2020 | 1:00 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. Kera Birkeland
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

Members Absent:

Sen. Don L. Ipson

Staff Present:

Greta G. Rodebush, Executive Assistant
Ivan D. Djambov, Finance Manager
Lacey K. Moore, Financial Analyst

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

Chair Hinkins called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

1 . WebEx Etiquette Review

Chair Hinkins reviewed the WebEx etiquette.

2 . Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Rep. Christofferson moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2020 and March 27, 2020. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 6.

Yeas-13

Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. K. Birkeland
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. K. Christofferson
Rep. S. Harrison
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. P. Lyman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. L. Perry
Sen. D. Thatcher
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-6

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Handy
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. K. Stratton

3 . Appropriations Overview as of the 2020 5th Special Session

[3\) Revenue and Economy Update](#)

Maddy Oritt, Economist, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, gave a brief overview of revenue and the economy.

Lacy Moore discussed funding changes to the subcommittee's budget from the 2020 General Session through the 5th Special Session.

[3\) NRAEQ Funding Changes 2020 General Session to Present](#)

Lacey Moore demonstrated how to use the appropriations dashboard.

[3\) Tableau Dashboard: Appropriations Crosswalk](#)

4 . Rebate Program for Water Reduction Devices

Todd Adams, Director, Division of Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), discussed the rebate program for water reduction devices.

[4\) DWRe Rebate Program for Water Reduction Devices Info Sheet](#)

[4\) DWRe Rebate Program for Water Reduction Devices Proposal](#)

Rep. Christofferson asked about the annual water savings for smart irrigation controllers. Todd Adams responded.

Chair Hinkins asked about the life expectancy of the smart irrigation controllers. Todd Adams responded.

Rep. Barlow inquired about high efficiency toilets. Todd Adams responded.

Chair Hinkins asked if the rebate program merits continued funding. Todd Adams responded.

5 . Issues with Lapsing Balances

Ivan Djambov discussed issues related to unused funding, statutory requirements for proportional spending with exceptions, and intent language.

[5\) NRAEQ Issue Brief on Unused Funding](#)

Brian Steed, Executive Director, DNR, responded favorably to the report.

Chair Hinkins asked how agencies determine their use of restricted funds or General Fund. Ivan Djambov responded.

Rep. Handy inquired about subcommittee action on the change in intent language. Ivan Djambov responded.

Rep. Barlow spoke in favor of process changes that help clarify the use of unused funds.

Rep. Christofferson noted that the intent language clarifies the exceptions, gives the Legislature more control, and helps the agencies know what they can do with their excess monies.

6 . Fire Suppression Update

Brian Cottam, Director, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, DNR, referred to the one-page document, "2020 Wildfire Season."

[6\) FFSL 2020 Fire Season Update Info Sheet](#)

Chair Hinkins moved onto the next agenda item due to a temporary interruption.

7 . Algal Bloom Update

Erica Gaddis, Director, Division of Water Quality, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), presented an update on the Harmful Algal Bloom Program.

[7\) DWQ Harmful Algal Bloom Program Presentation](#)

[7\) DWQ Harmful Algal Bloom Funding Info Sheet](#)

Rep. Albrecht asked questions about how the monitoring of water bodies is prioritized. Erica Gaddis responded.

Erica Gaddis continued her presentation.

Rep. Stratton expressed his support for the efforts being made by the DEQ to address algae bloom. He provided some historical information about the testing program and some concerns raised by stakeholders.

Chair Hinkins asked about the algae content in Utah Lake and Schofield Reservoir. Erica Gaddis responded.

Brian Cottam reported on algae test treatments being conducted on Utah Lake.

[7\) Utah Lake Commission Treatments Info Sheet](#)

[7\) Timpanogos Special Service District Utah Lake/HAB Info Sheet](#)

Brian Cottam resumed his presentation on Utah's 2020 wildfire season.

[6\) FFSL 2020 Fire Season Update Info Sheet](#)

Rep. Barlow asked about the increase in human-caused fires. Brian Cottam responded.

Chair Hinkins asked if fire suppression costs qualify for COVID-19 funding. Brian Cottam responded.

Rep. Chew commented on the number of people participating in outdoor recreational activities and asked about the criteria used in the reporting of fires. Brian Cottam responded.

Rep. Albrecht commented on the increased use of off-road vehicles and trailers. He also inquired about strategies to educate the public about fire prevention. Brian Cottam responded.

Rep. Snider commented on the lack of fire wardens in West Box Elder County and the possibility of increasing their salaries. Brian Cottam responded.

Rep. Stratton inquired about this year's fire suppression policy and impacts on sensitive watersheds and water quality. Brian Cottam responded.

Rep. Lyman asked how Utah's fire season compares with other states and what those states are doing to address the problem. Brian Cottam responded.

Brian Cottam provided information about a potential supplemental funding request for the current fire season.

Sen. Sandall inquired about federal reimbursements associated with the Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) fires. Brian Cottam responded.

Rep. Harrison asked about policy recommendations or best practices that could help reduce the number of human-caused wildfires. Brian Cottam responded.

Brian Cottam remarked that the division has been working with the Utah Department of Transportation to reduce roadside fires.

8 . Tracking COVID-19 Outbreaks with Sewage Water

Erica Gaddis discussed the monitoring of COVID-19 in wastewater.

[8\) Tracking COVID-19 Outbreaks in Sewage Water](#)

Rep. Stratton asked about testing the quality of storm water. Erica Gaddis responded.

Sen. Iwamoto asked questions about the decline in COVID-19 testing in relation to the decline in the COVID-case count. Erica Gaddis and Nathan LaCross, Environmental Epidemiology Program, Utah Department of Health, responded.

Erica Gaddis continued her presentation.

Lloyd Berentzen, Director, Bear River Health Department, commented on the practical application of wastewater monitoring at the local level.

9 . Pandemic Impacts to Air Quality

Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, DEQ, reported on the pandemic impacts to air quality.

Rep. Handy asked if the monitoring equipment is able to detect good air quality and about the number of monitors in the state. Bryce Bird responded.

Chair Hinkins inquired about the cause of poor air quality during the months of June and July. Bryce Bird responded.

10 . Update on Visitation to State Parks and Pandemic Impacts

Jeff Rasmussen, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation, discussed how the pandemic has affected Utah's state parks.

[10\) DPR State Parks Visitation & Revenue Update Info Sheet](#)

Sen. Okerlund asked if the division is able to keep track of and inspect boats for quagga mussels. Jeff Rasmussen responded.

Rep. Barlow commented on the dramatic effects on state parks that coincided with the shut down of the tourism sector. He asked about the impacts on cities located near national and state parks. Jeff Rasmussen responded.

Chair Hinkins asked if State Parks has been able to apply for COVID funding to backfill for revenue losses. Jeff Rasmussen responded.

Rep. Albrecht inquired about increasing state park entry fees for out-of-state visitors. Jeff Rasmussen responded.

Chair Hinkins asked if there was any other business the committee needed to address.

MOTION: Rep. Handy moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 18 - 0 - 1.



Yeas-18

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

Nays-0

Absent-1

Sen. D. Ipson

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