

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

Room 25 House Office Building

January 24, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chair
Rep. John A. Mathis, Co-Chair
Rep. Keith Grover, Vice-Chair
Sen. Casey Anderson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Brad J. Galvez
Rep. Micheal E. Noel
Rep. Lee Perry
Rep. Dixon M. Pitcher
Rep. Stephen E. Sandstrom
Rep. Christine Watkins

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Margaret Dayton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Gene Davis

STAFF: Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Angela Oh, Economist
Ms. Linda Service, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the subcommittee minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER/INSTRUCTIONS

Co-Chair Hinkins called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. He introduced and welcomed Sen. Casey Anderson, new member of the subcommittee.

2. SUBCOMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Within the Budget Analysis FY 2013 binder, Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, reviewed the Issue Briefs, "Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee Overview" and "Report on Implementation of Past Legislative Intent Language." He also commented on the "Requests for Funding, Summary" spreadsheet. The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee reviews and approves a budget for each of the five state agencies: Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Department of Environmental Quality, and the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office. The Analyst responded to questions and concerns of subcommittee members.

3. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

Analyst Presentation

From the binder, the Analyst presented an overview of the following Budget Briefs: "DNR

Administration," "DNR Internal Service Fund," "Natural Resources - Federal Funds," "Species Protection," "Watershed Restoration Program," and "DNR Building Operations." In connection with the Budget Brief, "Species Protection," Mr. Djambov stated that the Utah Prairie Dog has created a public safety problem at the Parowan Airport. The feasible solution according to experts is to construct a barrier/fence around the runways. The Analyst recommends the Legislature provide a one-time FY 2012 supplemental appropriation of \$50,000 from the Species Protection restricted account for this request.

Agency Presentation

Mr. Mike Styler, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), introduced Mr. Fred Hayes, Interim Director, State Parks and Recreation, and distributed a handout to subcommittee members. The mission of DNR is to connect life and landscape. The primary focus is to facilitate economic development and wise use of natural resources to enhance the quality of life in Utah. Mr. Styler commented on concerns from subcommittee members regarding FTEs, sovereign lands, park management, and sage grouse listing and strategy.

4. UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Analyst Presentation

The Utah Geological Survey (UGS) provides timely scientific information about Utah's geologic environment, resources, and hazards. The Analyst briefly commented on the Budget Brief, "Utah Geological Survey", and the Issue Brief, "Utah Geological Survey, Fees." He recommended the Legislature transfer all of the funding from the State Energy Program to the new Office of Energy Development as outlined in H.B. 475, State Energy Amendments, which was passed on the last day of the 2011 General Session.

Agency Presentation

Rick Allis, Director, UGS, distributed a handout providing information on the agency. UGS provides objective information to agencies, the public, and industry. Director Allis briefed the subcommittee on FTEs supported by General Funds, emergency responses, oil and gas potential of black shales, potash activity in Utah, and monitoring west desert groundwater levels. He then responded to questions and concerns from members of the subcommittee.

5. DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE, AND STATE LANDS

This agenda item was not heard in today's meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Rep. Watkins moved to adjourn the meeting. Co-Chair Hinkins adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

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