

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, November 9, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W015 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Gregory S. Bell, Senate Chair
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen, House Chair
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Beverly Evans
Sen. Darin G. Peterson
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Lorie D. Fowlke
Rep. Fred R. Hunsaker
Rep. Rosalind J. McGee
Rep. Michael E. Noel

Rep. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Aaron Tilton
Rep. David Ure
Rep. Richard W. Wheeler

Members Absent:

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard C. North, Policy Analyst
Mr. Christopher R. Parker, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Phalin L. Flowers, Legislative Secretary

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

1. Committee Business

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Allen moved to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Evans, Sen. Peterson, Rep. Ferry, Rep. Noel, Rep. Tilton, Rep. Ure, and Rep. Wheeler absent for the vote.

2. Energy Issues: Community and Economic Development Restructuring

Dr. Laura Nelson, State Energy Policy Advisor, explained the purpose of her office, and her role in recommending energy policy. She distributed and discussed "Energy Policy Overview." She explained that the energy policy advisor position was created directly within the Governor's Office and reports to the Governor. She said that the energy policy office is not overseen or administered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development. She also said that the energy policy office is currently physically located in the Department of Community and Culture, but that may or may not be permanent.

Ms. Sandy Naegle, Financial Director, Governor's Office, explained that the energy policy office's budget is appropriated in the Governor's line item, which is reviewed in the elected officials subcommittee. She distributed and discussed "Governor's Office - Fiscal Year 2005-2006."

Dr. Nelson explained who the employees are in the energy office and how the office is using the funds appropriated via the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

3. State Energy Policy Working Group Report

Rep. Ralph Becker, Rep. David Ure, and Rep. Roger Barrus distributed and discussed "Energy Policy Working Group Report" and "Alternatives for Adoption of Energy Policy Work Group Report."

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MOTION: Rep. Ure moved to create an informal working group with the chairs of the Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee and the chairs of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee to meet with the Governor. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Evans absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Allen moved to incorporate the guiding principles and recommendations sections of the "Energy Policy Working Group Report" into draft legislation establishing an ongoing process for creating an energy policy. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Evans absent for the vote.

4. State Motor Vehicle Fleet Report

Mr. Steve Saltzgiver, State Fleet, Department of Administrative Services, distributed and discussed "Information on Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) in the State Fleet." He explained the benefits of using alternative fuel vehicles.

5. Energy Emergency Preparedness Report

Ms. Pat Bersie, Office of Emergency Services, Division of Homeland Security, spoke to the Committee about planning for energy emergencies. She said the Division anticipates having a draft emergency plan by May 1, 2006. She explained what would be included in the energy emergency plan, including 24-hour contact information for any emergency.

Mr. Brian Garret, Director, Office of Emergency Services, Division of Homeland Security, said that it is vital for the state to have an energy emergency plan. He said that all plans are never final and need to be continuously maintained. He said that there needs to be an energy planner even after Ms. Bersie's position expires next year.

6. Government Records Access and Management Act Task Force Report

Rep. Doug Aagard and Sen. Dave Thomas distributed and discussed "Government Records Access and Management Task Force Final Report - 2005." They explained what GRAMA (Government Records Access and Management Act) is and gave a report on the legislation the Task Force is recommending.

7. Utility Improvement Districts Revisions -- Draft Legislation

Rep. Ure distributed and discussed 2006 General Session draft legislation "Utility Improvement Districts Revisions." He explained that time ran out for this bill last year, so he is introducing it again during the 2006 General Session.

MOTION: Sen. Evans moved to recommend 2006 General Session draft legislation "Utility Improvement Districts Revisions" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Wheeler absent for the vote.

8. Renewable Energy Tax Credit -- Draft Legislation

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Ms. Sarah Wright, Utah Clean Energy, distributed and discussed 2006 General Session draft legislation "Renewable Energy Tax Credit." She also distributed "Utah: Renewable Energy Tax Credit." She said this credit is intended to encourage individuals and businesses to install renewable energy systems.

MOTION: Rep. Allen moved to recommend 2006 General Session draft legislation "Renewable Energy Tax Credit" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Daw, Rep. Noel, and Rep. Wheeler absent for the vote.

9. Natural Gas Utilities - Management & Conservation Measures -- Draft Legislation

Ms. Sarah Wright, Utah Clean Energy, explained that several years ago Utah Power achieved large energy savings in the electricity sector and that she would like to see the same type of savings in the natural gas sector.

Mr. Ruland Gill, Questar, said that Questar would like to see energy savings in the natural gas sector.

Mr. Barry McKay, Questar, explained that Questar is attempting to solve the issue of energy savings through the regulatory process.

10. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Ferry moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Daw absent for the vote.

Chair Bell adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.